

## 3 Years Since Galwan Clash India Strengthens Combat Readiness Along LAC

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** India has significantly enhanced military infrastructure, surveillance and combat capabilities along the nearly 3,500 km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China since the deadly clashes in Galwan Valley in 2020, sources in the defence establishment said Wednesday on the eve of the third anniversary of the hostilities.

The Indian and Chinese militaries are engaged in talks to reduce tensions along the frontier as the two sides are still locked in a standoff in a few friction points though they managed to disengage from some others.

The Galwan Valley clashes on June 15, 2020 were the first deadly skirmish between the two militaries along the LAC in five decades and they significantly strained the bilateral ties.

India has managed to significantly reduce the "infrastructure differential" with China along the LAC in the last three years in view of consistent focus on building helipads, airfields, bridges, tunnels, troop habitats and other required facilities, the sources said when asked about measures that have been taken following the Galwan clashes.

"The infrastructure development along the entire LAC is

6

**THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT** along the entire LAC is taking place at a fast pace. The main focus has been to bring down the infrastructure differential."

taking place at a fast pace. The main focus has been to bring down the infrastructure differential," said a source.

Our troops and equipment are adequately deployed now to deal with any eventualities, the sources said.

We are maintaining a posture that is focused on defeating any evil design by the adversary, they said.

The sources identified strengthening of all forms of surveillance including electronic ones as another significant aspect of boosting overall military preparedness by the Indian armed forces.

"The overall efforts to enhance the infrastructure, surveillance and military capabilities are based on a whole-of-the-government approach," the source said.

It is learnt that senior commanders of **More on P10**

## At DPS Srinagar, LG Plays A Teacher; Asks Math Equations 'Learning Beyond Syllabus Sows Seeds Of Curiosity, Creativity And Individuality Among Children'



**Gifts His Luxury Watch To A Kid**

**O**n the move with his officers amidst hundreds of participating children at the mini Indoor Stadium of Delhi Public School, Srinagar, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, received a rousing reception and many curious questions.

Sinha was interacting with the students of Delhi Public School, Srinagar during a function held at the School campus here.

While bidding adieu to the students after attending a two-hour long event at the School campus, the LG gets a compliment from a kid for his luxury watch, he smiles, takes a step ahead, **More on P10**

**Nazir Ganaie**

**Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday interacted with children at Delhi Public School, Srinagar where he

played a teacher and asked a series of mathematical equations to participating students—while urging authorities to create the campus into a "centre of curiosity."

"We must not push our children just to face success.

Failure is a first step of the deep learning process," LG said, during a half an hour long speech at Delhi Public School, Srinagar campus.

"The learning environment that exists beyond syllabus sows **More on P10**

KO Photo / Abid Bhat

## Fish Kill Not Unusual But Toxicity Not Ruled Out: LCMA Says SKUAST Requested To Conduct Tests For Presence Of Toxicity In Dal-Nigeen Waters

M Ahmad

**Srinagar:** J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) has said that last month's fish kill in Dal Lake was a sign of "environmental stress" but not an "unusual" event. Nevertheless, LCMA has not ruled out the possibility of the fish kill due to the presence of pesticide and herbicide in the floating gardens and gardens around the area.

Hundreds of dead fish were seen floating over the water along fringes of Oberio Ghat, SKICC corners to Nishat Pipe Line Bund (Nishat Basin of Dal Lake) on May 22 this year, Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Vice Chairman LCMA informed J&K and Ladakh High Court in compliance to the



direction by the later. On May 25, he said, fish specimens and water samples were collected from the sites. The specimen collected was of small fish (fingerlings) of

Crossochellius diplochellus commonly known as Kashmir local name Thethur and some specimen of Carassius carassius commonly known as Crucian carp **More on P10**



Another Shocker From Srinagar

## Middle-Aged Man Held For Sexually Harassing Minor

Majid Nabi

**Srinagar:** In yet another shocking incident, a middle-aged man was arrested by the police under stringent provisions of Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act for allegedly molesting his 13-year-old female relative in Chanapora locality in the up-town Srinagar on Thursday.

The arrest comes a day after a school teacher was arrested under the same act for molesting and sexually assaulting two minor girl students at a private school in Rawalpora area.

Pertinent to mention here that four people accused of molesting and sexually harassing minors have been arrested by the police during this month so far.

Police said the

accused was arrested after the victim filed a complaint of sexual harassment at police station Chanapora in this regard. A formal case FIR No. 40 of 2023 under POSCO Act stands registered at the concerned police station and the accused has been arrested.

The accused has been identified as 48-years-old Mushtaq Ahmad Khan son of Ghulam Ahmad Khan of Housing Colony Chanapora.

"One Mushtaq Ahmad Khan (48 Yrs) S/o Gh Ahmad Khan R/o Housing Colony Chanapora arrested for sexually harassing **More on P10**



## Summer Break In HC From June 19

**T**he High Court of J&K and Ladakh will be observing summer vacations from June 19 to July 8, according to an order by Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem on Thursday. "It is hereby notified that the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh will observe Summer Vacations with effect from 19th of June, 2023 to 8 of July, 2023 (both days **More on P10**

## CEO Kupwara Issues Bizarre Order Parents To Submit 'No Drug Activities' Affidavit For Wards

Agencies

**Srinagar:** In a bizarre circular issued by the education department in North Kashmir's Kupwara district, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) has directed heads of high and higher secondary schools of the district to get affidavits from parents that their wards are not involved in drug related activities.

According to a circular, the CEO has warned that in case the student is found involved in any type of such activity his admission will be cancelled.

"Since the admission process has been started for Class



9th, 10, 11 & 12. Accordingly the HOs of HS and HSS are directed to get an affidavit from the parents to the effect that their ward is not involved in any drug related activities," reads the circular.

It added that in case the student is found in any type of such activities, **More on P10**

## Pck Refugees Get Domicile Certificates With 'Original Place Of Residence'

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** "We have been reconnected to our roots", says Anil Mahajan, who is among the over 21,000 displaced people from Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir (PcJK) given a new domicile certificate mentioning the place they originally belonged to.

The certificate carries the name of the "original place of residence" in PcJK from where their family members had migrated during the Partition in 1947, said officials in the Jammu and Kashmir administration that is issuing the document.

"We have been reconnected to our roots. It is very emotional," said Mahajan, whose domicile

certificate mentions the Mirpur area in PcJK as his original place of residence. "Everybody in my family has got one. They took our details and provided us with the domicile certificates. It is really very encouraging," he told PTI over phone from Chandigarh where he currently lives.

The certificate, the officials said, is exclusively for those who were displaced from areas of Jammu and Kashmir that are under the "illegal occupation of Pakistan". In 1947, they migrated to different parts of India, including Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"It is an emotional moment

for the people belonging to PcJK that they have got a domicile certificate issued by the Jammu and Kashmir administration with the place of origin in PcJK written as residential places," SoS International chairperson Rajiv Chhuni told PTI here.

Several displaced people belonging to PcJK have got these certificates with the place of domicile mentioned as their post-migration residential address, he said.

Mahajan, who owns an IT firm in Delhi and got the certificate recently, said it gives a "feeling of belongingness".

Jaipur-resident Ashwani Kumar's certificate mentions his original place **More on P10**



AMARNATH YATRA

## Pilgrims Banned From Carrying 40 Food Items

Press Trust Of India

**Jammu:** More than 40 food items have been banned at the upcoming Amarnath Yatra and the pilgrims have been advised to achieve physical fitness by walking at least 5 kilometres a day, the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board said in its health advisory issued on Thursday.

The banned food items include drinks, fried and fast food items.

The health advisory also called upon devotees undertaking the pilgrimage to the Himalayan shrine located in south Kashmir for achieving physical fitness and asked them to start a preparatory morning and evening walk, about 4 to 5 km per day.

The yatra to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave in south Kashmir Himalayas is scheduled to commence on July 1 from the twin tracks - the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14 km shorter but steep Baltal route in

Ganderbal district.

"Before you start the Amarnath Yatra, a 14-kilometer trek, check the list of banned food items and the items that you are allowed to carry on the pilgrimage," officials said.

As per the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) advisory, the foods that have been banned include heavy Pullav, fried rice, puri, bathura, pizza, burger, stuffed parantha, dosa and fried roti, **More on P10**

## Landslide Blocks Banihal Highway

**T**raffic was disrupted on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway Thursday following a landslide near Ramban town, traffic department officials said. The landslide struck the 270-km highway near Cafeteria Morh around 1 am, blocking the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, the officials said. They said the mouth of an under-construction **More on P10**

## LG Makes Surprise Visit To Shelter Home

**L**ieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid a surprise inspection to a shelter home for urban homeless at Boria Basti, Bahu Fort here on Thursday. During his visit, the LG reviewed facilities being provided to the dwellers, an official spokesperson said. Sinha, who was accompanied by the senior civil and police officials, also heard their grievances during the interaction. **More on P10**

## SIU Attaches Militant's 26 Kanal Land

**T**he Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of Kupwara police in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday attached properties belonging to a Pakistan-based militant involved in "numerous terror acts".

The militant, Almas Rizwan, is a member of The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Almas Rizwan Khan, **More on P10**

## Minor Girl Drowns To Death

**I**n a second such tragic accident in the Valley in the last 24 hours, a two-year-old girl drowned to death in Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district. Two-year-old Jannat Zehra, daughter of Javid Ahmed Dar of Odina village drowned in an irrigation canal in Ankhulu village in Sumbal area on Thursday afternoon, reports said. The family and neighbours, **More on P10**

## Woman Injured In Bear Attack

**I**n yet another incident of man-animal conflict, a woman was attacked and injured by a black bear on Thursday in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. Saja Begum, wife of Wali Mohammad Mir was working in her paddy fields in her native village of Audoora in Handwara on Thursday morning when a bear appeared there and attacked her, reports said. The cries of Saja Begum, reports **More on P10**

## Woman Slips To Death In Rajouri

**A** 48-year-old woman died after falling off a bridge in Rajouri on Thursday morning. Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that while crossing the bridge a woman slipped and fell into a rivulet in the Kandi area. Soon after, a rescue operation was launched at the site and the body of the woman recovered later on, they said. The officials identified **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S



Valley Uro-Con 2023

3 Day Premier Medical Conference Begins At GMC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Valley Uro-Con 2023, a premier medical conference being hosted by the Postdoctoral Department of Urology at the Super Specialty Hospital Srinagar began on Thursday.

Dr Syed Sajad Nazir, Head of the Department Urology and Chairman Valley Uro-Con 2023 said the conference aims to bring together esteemed healthcare professionals, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to explore the latest advancements in urology and renal transplant towards improving health outcomes in our community.

He said that one day one eight advanced urological procedures were performed by renowned urologists.

The process include Renal Stone Disease Surgeries, Retrograde Intra-renal Surgery(RIRS) One by Prof (Dr) Syed Sajad Nazir and another by Prof (Dr) Kandarp Parikh, Carcinoma Prostate (Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy) performed by Prof (Dr) C Malakarjuna, Two Pelvi-ureteric Junction obstructions (PUJO): Laparoscopic repair of PUJO (Pyeloplasty) One by Prof (D C Mallikarjuna and another by Dr. Syed Md Ghouse, Non Functioning kidney due to stones: Laparoscopic (Retroperitoneoscopic) nephrectomy by Prof(Dr) Muneer Khan, Thulium laser excision of very large (200 gm) prostate by Ashish Saini and Bipolar excision of enlarged Prostate (118 gm) by Dr Anshuman Kapoor.



A street vendor sells traditional Kashmir rice, maize flour flatbread in Srinagar on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Woman Injured While Removing 'Illegal' Power Connection In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A woman fell down and sustained injuries when she tried to allegedly remove an illegal power connection on seeing an inspection team of Power Department at Tankipora area in the old city on Wednesday.

The woman has been shifted to SMHS Hospital for treatment. She has suffered head injuries.

After the installation of smart meters in Kashmir, people, mostly those who can't afford to pay hefty power bills, allegedly resort to hooking.

One of the relatives of the injured woman said that she hurriedly tried to remove the wire from the window of her house when an inspection team arrived in the locality and unfortunately, she lost the balance and fell down.

Employees Salaries Withheld At HUDDs Headless Town Planning Section

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the absence of the Chief Town Planner, the general public have been deprived of getting building permissions, while more than a hundred employees of the Town Planning Section of the Housing and Urban Development Department are without salaries since March this year.

Iftikar Ahmed Hakim, the Chief Town Planner attained superannuation in March this year, and since then the post is lying vacant.

"This has probably happened for the first time that a vital Town Planning Organization which deals with physical planning and development of towns and cities is headless. Salaries of employees have been withheld since March this year," an employee of Town

This has probably happened for the first time that a vital Town Planning Organization which deals with physical planning and development of towns and cities is headless. Salaries of employees have been withheld since March this year

Planning said.

The main functions of Town Planning include Master Plans preparation, Planning Schemes, Development Plans, tourist des-

ination areas and rehabilitation schemes. It also conducts surveys and studies besides preparing technical reports and documentation of projects. However, everything has come to a grinding halt in the absence of the Chief Town Planner.

Insiders said that since March, the general public has been deprived of getting building permissions. "No BOCA meeting has taken place. Despite taking up the issue with the authorities, the post of CTP is lying vacant," they said.

An official in the Town Planning Department on condition of anonymity confirmed that after the retirement of the Chief Town Planner (CTP), the post is vacant and employees including him are without salaries. He said in the absence of any CTP, no meeting of the Building Operations Controlling Authority (BOCA) is possible. [KNT]

KU Seminar Highlights 'Elderly Abuse' In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Nilofar Khan Thursday chaired a seminar on 'Elderly Abuse', a first-of-its kind event organized by the Varsity to put a spotlight on the issue, which experts described as "alarming in Kashmir".

The seminar was jointly organized by the Department of Social Work (DoSW), KU, in collaboration with Gauri Kaul Foundation, a non-profit organization working for elderly care, to commemorate the World Elderly Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)-2023.

Addressing academics and students at the inaugural session, Prof Nilofar underlined the need to spread awareness on elderly care beyond the four walls of the University to create a society that values its elders and treats them with all respect, dignity, compassion and empathy.

Saying that the University of Kashmir is always open to such discussions having great societal significance, the VC congratulated the DoSW and Gauri Kaul Foundation for joining hands to hold the present seminar.

In his keynote address, Dr Zubair Saleem, Senior Geriatric Consultant

and Director, Gauri Kaul Foundation, highlighted his Kashmir-based study of nearly 27,000 elderly persons of which, he said, at least 50% reported to be facing elderly abuse in one or the other form.

"We saw these 26,237 patients in two different settings: those who were financially dependent and those who were financially independent. Besides various effects that we documented like cardiovascular diseases, preliminary disease etc., there was one drastic thing that we noticed which is the psychiatric and sleep disorders in these senior citizens," Dr Saleem said.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar - 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT No. 19 of 2023-24 (FRESH)

Dated:-14.06.2023

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single-cover system) for Civil Stage e-Tenders for the Year 2023-24 on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible Civil contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2024 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following station:-

S.No	Name of the work	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document
1	Stage- VIII: A) High Mountain Arid Agriculture Research Institute Stakna, Leh B) KVK Nyoma Changthang	Class C & D	1000/-

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14.06.2023
2.	Date of start of downloading	14.06.2023
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	14.06.2023
5.	Bid submission end date	27.06.2023 (06.00 PM)
6.	Date of opening of technical bid (online)	28.06.2023 (11.30 AM)
7.	Date of opening of Financial Bids of qualifying bidders (online)	29.06.2023

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(19)/220  
DIPK-NB-1295/23 Dated: 15.06.2023

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.-770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/70,71,72 &73-2023-24-ADEN-I&II-ASR Date: 14.06.2023

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date-06/07/2023 up to 15:00 Hrs Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft/Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
14.06.2023	22.06.2023	06.07.2023 / 15:00 Hrs.

SN, Tender Number	Details of Tender			
1	70-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair & maintenance in the section of SSE/W/ML/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR.	Advertised Value (Rs.) 1,74,99,709.03/-	Earnest Money 2,37,500/-
		Similar Nature of work:- "Any Civil work other than track work"	Validity of Offer 60 Days	Period of Completion 12 Months
2	71-2023-24-ADEN-I-ASR	Annual zone Work for ordinary repair & maintenance in the section of SSE/W/WS/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR.	Advertised Value (Rs.) 1,74,99,709.03/-	Earnest Money 2,37,500/-
		Similar Nature of work:- "Any Civil work other than track work"	Validity of Offer 60 Days	Period of Completion 12 Months
3	72-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair & maintenance in the section of SSE/W/BEAS under ADEN-II/ASR.	Advertised Value (Rs.) 99,99,975.79/-	Earnest Money 2,00,000/-
		Similar Nature of work:- "Any Civil work other than track work"	Validity of Offer 60 Days	Period of Completion 12 Months
4	73-2023-24-ADEN-II-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair & maintenance in the section of SSE/W/BL/ASR under ADEN-II/ASR.	Advertised Value (Rs.) 1,49,99,286.70/-	Earnest Money 2,25,000/-
		Similar Nature of work:- "Any Civil work other than track work"	Validity of Offer 60 Days	Period of Completion 12 Months

Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

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**EXTENSION NOTICE FOR ADMISSIONS 2023**

It is notified for information of all the concerned that the last date for submission of online Application Forms for admission to various Undergraduate/ Postgraduate/ Integrated and B. Tech Lateral Entry Programmes 2023 notified vide Admission Notification No. 01 of 2023 Dated: 29-05-2023 has been extended up to **03-07-2023**. The candidates can apply online for the aforesaid academic programmes on the University Website [www.iust.ac.in](http://www.iust.ac.in)

Furthermore, the applicants who have not applied/ appeared for CUET (UG) / CUET (PG) 2023, CMAT/ MAT 2023 or are awaiting results (qualifying/ competitive examinations) can also apply provisionally. The other terms and conditions shall remain same as notified vide Admission Notification No. IUST/DAA-Acad/23/1045 Dated: 29-05-2023.

Queries, if any, can be made on EPABX: 01933-247252 Phone: 9858306455  
Email ID: [admissions@iust.ac.in](mailto:admissions@iust.ac.in)

No: IUST/DAA-Acad/23/1201  
Dated: 14-06-2023

Sd/-  
Deputy Registrar Academics

DIPK-NB-1288/23 dated: 14-06-2023

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686  
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883  
PDD: 0194-2450213  
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2479488,2452222,2452155  
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Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

**RAILWAYS**

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- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

FAJR 3:34  
ZUHR 12:31  
ASR 5:31  
Magrib 7:46  
ISHA 9:28

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
26 Zil-Qadah  
1444

This Day In History

- 1487 - Battle of Stoke, Nottinghamshire: Henry VII beats John de la Pole & Lord Lovell
- 1745 British fleet occupies Cape Breton on St Lawrence River
- 1746- Battle at Piacenza: Austria & Sardinia beat Spanish and French army
- 1779 - Spain declares war on Great Britain in support of the US, and the siege of Gibraltar begins
- 1815 - Battle at Ligny: French army under Napoleon beats Prussia
- 1815 - Battle at Quatre-Bras: allies strike French
- 1832 - Battle of Kellogg's Grove, Illinois
- 1891 - John Abbott becomes Canada's third prime minister
- 1898 - China's emperor De Zong (Guang Xu) receives Kang Youwei
- 1903 - Roald Amundsen commences the first east-west navigation of the Northwest Passage by leaving Oslo, Norway
- 1903 - Reichstag elections with gains for the Social Democratic Party of Germany
- 1907 - Tsar Nicolas II of Russia dissolves the Second Duma (parliament) and issues an edict that will increase representation of propertied classes while reducing that of peasants, workers and national minorities
- 1930 - Sovnarkom establishes decree time in the USSR
- 1931 - Austrian government of Ender falls
- 1932 - Germany forbids SA/SS-gang fights
- 1940 - Communist government installed in Lithuania
- 1957 - French offensive in Algeria
- 1958- Government troops land on North-Celebes Indonesia
- 1961- Reconnaissance satellite Discoverer 25 launched from the US
- 1963- Soviet space mission Vostok 6 is launched with Valentina Tereshkova onboard, who becomes the 1st woman in space
- 1963- Levi Eshkol replaces David Ben-Gurion as Israeli Prime Minister
- 1972- The largest single-site hydro-electric power project in Canada starts at Churchill Falls, Labrador
- 1980- US Supreme Court rules that live, human-made micro-organisms created in labs could be patentable, in Diamond v. Chakrabarty
- 1982- Britain makes request to Argentina to arrange for return of prisoners
- 1983- European Space Agency launches European Comm Satellite 1, Oscar 10

**From KO Archives**

2 Women Deliver During Crackdown

Srinagar: Two women in the remote Rajwar area of the border district of Kupwara are reported to have delivered at the security camps where they have been reporting along with all other villagers over the recent days.

According to reports, several villages in the area have been sealed off by the security forces with the residents being made to report at the Wadar camp of the 21 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) daily. The villages are Shathigam, Nichama, Chanjmulia, Bonawadar and nearby places.

On June 10, reports said, a pregnant woman, Saja w/o Abdul Gaffar Mir of Nichama delivered a baby in the camp itself similarly, another woman, Shahmali w/o Muhammad Shafi of Wadar delivered a baby at the same camp yesterday. However, the latter child died soon after. Police are reported to have strongly protested the security forces excesses in the area.

(Kashmir Observer, 16 June, 2000)





KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Friday | 16-06-2023

## Endless Wait For Polls

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference Vice President, Omar Abdullah, has challenged the BJP to conduct Assembly elections alongside the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Talking to the media on Wednesday, Abdullah said the BJP didn't want Assembly polls in the union territory as it feared losing them. His statements reflect the growing frustration among the political parties of J&K with the Election Commission's refusal to hold polls in the near future. Omar said that in the absence of assembly elections, various individuals have been appointed to influential positions, effectively ruling the region without a democratic mandate. He questioned that while the BJP has shown enthusiasm in conducting other elections, such as panchayat polls, Urban Local Bodies elections, and even the parliamentary elections, it remained puzzling why they evaded the assembly elections.

Other parties have the same refrain. The Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Congress, Ravinder Sharma, has accused the central government of deliberately delaying the Assembly elections in the region because it anticipates defeat for the BJP. Sharma argued that if the BJP were to lose the elections, it would undermine their narrative that the abrogation of Article 370 was supported by the people of J&K. Similarly, R S Chib, the General Secretary of the Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) and a former minister, also echoed similar sentiments, attributing the delay in Assembly elections to the declining popularity of the BJP among the people. Chib questioned why the BJP could conduct local body polls but not hold Assembly elections, suggesting that they were aware they could not form a government independently.

J&K has been without an Assembly since November 2018 when the legislative assembly was dissolved by the then-governor Satyapal Malik. The imposition of the governor's rule in June 2018 followed the BJP's withdrawal from the PDP-BJP coalition government led by Mehbooba Mufti. The last Assembly elections in J&K took place in 2014. The current Assembly term was originally set to end in 2020 but was extended by the central government in 2019. Despite this extension, the central government has not yet announced a date for the next Assembly elections in the union territory. Following the fresh delimitation last year, the new J&K Assembly has 114 seats, of which 24 are in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Of the rest 90 where elections could be held, 47 are in the Kashmir Valley and the rest 43 in the Jammu region.

But the delay in the electoral process has been a source of deep unease in J&K. The Election Commission of India must promptly address these concerns and ensure that the democratic process is upheld in the union territory.

### OTHER OPINION

## The Universal Basic Income debate

Whether or not to provide a universal basic income (UBI)—a sum of money provided by the State to all citizens to take care of the bare necessities of life—is an idea that does not appear to go away. If an earlier chief economic advisor proposed it as a “conceptually appealing idea” in the Economic Survey for 2016-17, the current CEA, V Anantha Nageswaran, has disposed of it, stating it was not necessary for the country. Not so long ago, a UBI was also recommended in a report on inequality commissioned by the Economic Advisory Council to the prime minister. A member of Niti Aayog also backed the provision of a quasi-universal basic rural income. A UBI or quasi-UBI scheme has considerable appeal among economic reformers who prefer a minimalist State, as it represents a possible alternative to various social welfare programmes that are not effective in bringing down poverty levels. It is far better instead to scrap these programmes and subsidies and provide a direct cash transfer to the beneficiaries.

The current CEA feels that a UBI is not needed, as India needs to focus more on economic growth to take care of the aspirations of its people, adding that it should not be on the agenda over the near-term. The larger question as to whether the benefits of growth trickle down to take care of poverty and other aspirations of the people certainly deserve greater public discussion. More debate, however, is warranted on the CEA's specific objections to a UBI as it creates “perverse incentives” in dissuading people from making their own efforts to seek income-generating opportunities. In other words, a UBI contributes to a backward-bending supply curve for labour as people substitute time previously for paid work for greater leisure. However, a couple of pilot studies done in Madhya Pradesh in 2011, funded by UNICEF and coordinated by the Self-Employed Women's Association, do not support his reservations. In the first pilot, eight villages were chosen, wherein every man, woman and child was provided with a monthly payment of initially Rs 200 for each adult and Rs 100 for each child.

Subsequently, these payments were raised to Rs 300 and Rs 150, respectively. The second pilot was held in a tribal village, where every adult and child was paid Rs 300 and Rs 150, respectively, every month for 12 months. Another tribal village was used as a comparison. The results indicated that people who received unconditional cash transfers did not use it to increase leisure and reduce work. More such studies are needed across India to examine whether a UBI incentivises working less.

Financial Express

# Third-Party Funding in Arbitration

## Issues and Developments

MUNEEB RASHID MALIK  
CHETNA ALAGH

Arbitration, a binding voluntary alternative dispute resolution process by a private forum chosen by the parties, is now one of the principal methods of resolving disputes across the world. This is one of the consequences of the increased globalization of world trade and investment. Developments in the field of arbitration are on the rise and one of these developments is third-party funding (TPF). TPF refers to the financial support provided by an external party to a party involved in legal proceedings, typically in exchange for a share of the proceeds or a contingent fee. In international arbitration, the concept of TPF has been recognized as an important practice and its prevalence in the commonwealth countries, as well as in the United States, has sparked debates around the globe regarding its potential impact on the administration of justice. Third-party funding, a practice that has gained significant attention in recent years, has become an important and controversial subject of European Union (EU) Law. Numerous judicial pronouncements on the subject have made it an interesting topic to debate upon. In USA, lawyers are permitted to fund the entire litigation and take their fee as a percentage of the proceeds if they win the case. Third-Party Litigation Funding / Legal Financing agreements are also not prohibited. In UK, Courts and Legal Services Act, 1990 permits litigation funding agreements between legal service providers and litigants or clients, and also permits Third-Party Litigation Funding or Legal Financing agreements, whereby the third party can get a share of the damages.

The third-party funding in arbitration provided by external entities to parties can also be termed as financed arbitration. It has gained momentum in the last decade and has expanded its purview to different aspects of arbitration. Most frequently, it is being utilized to solve issues related to Mergers and Acquisitions. TPF is common in all types of commercial arbitrations, however, it poses some challenges when it comes to investment treaty arbitration. Many countries across the world have already adopted the idea of TPF. England and Wales are widely using TPF for resolving issues and are also referring to the doctrine of maintenance which means the support from a person in litigation without having any legitimate interest in the same. Singapore has also come up with the adoption of TPF with the abolition of the tort of main-

tenance and champerty. This has also given rise to the legalization of TPF in international arbitrations taking place in the country. A similar step has been taken by Hong Kong; however, many countries have not supported the idea of TPF due to transparency issues.

In solving the issue of transparency, many Institutions such as the International Centre for

Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), International Court of Arbitration (ICC) and other arbitration institutions have made an amendment to their rules which requires disclosure of TPF, if any. The ICC Arbitration Rules, 2021 state that each party must promptly inform the Secretariat, the arbitral tribunal and the other parties, of the existence and identity of any non-party which has entered into an arrangement for the funding of claims of defences and under which it has an economic interest in the outcome of the arbitration.



The interpretation of TPF in the European Union (EU) has faced a lot of criticism. It was in the year 2021 when Axel Voss, Member of the European Parliament, came up with a report that was submitted to the EU Legal Affairs Committee, related to the adoption of the Directive of the European Parliament and the third-party funding in litigation and arbitration. In the same year, a draft was published by European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee which was examined by the Economic Affairs Committee. During the analysis, it was found that TPF has been growing rapidly due to its collective actions. Also, the reference to the United Kingdom was made where TPF has been growing rapidly and is now a vital area for commercial disputes. Later, the German Federal Bank also made comments on the draft and suggested that TPF can facilitate the early delivery of justice instead of delays. In the initial report published in June, 2021, from which the resolution stemmed, the EU Parliament criticized the TPF industry as being a “profit-making enterprise, in which justice for the claimant may or may not be a by-product,” resulting in the potential “financial exploitation” of European citizens. While the resolution is only

a preliminary step toward the enactment of an EU Directive on TPF, it has possible wide-ranging ramifications for the disputing parties in funded international arbitration.

The year 2022 has been the year of remarkable changes in the laws of the European Union. A resolution was adopted in September, 2022, aimed at protecting

third parties (non-lawyers) funding the litigation and getting repaid after the outcome of the litigation. The concept of TPF has been given statutory recognition by various States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, etc., in civil suits under the Civil Code of Procedure, 1908, through state amendments but TPF is still a novel concept in India which will surely gain popularity as well as recognition with the efflux of time.

While TPF comes with a plethora of benefits to the parties, lacking the essential resources to pursue a legal claim, it also poses various challenges such as the issue of confidentiality and privilege. The TPF process requires access to sensitive information to access its viability. This may lead to concerns in terms of confidentiality and privilege of attorney-client communications. Due to differences in history and legal procedures, the TPF market is still in the process of development and shows variations between countries. Lately, many investors have entered the TPF market and there is also a lack of information about its size and structure. These investors often operate as private entities or are affiliated with hedge funds or financial institutions. As a result, information regarding their operations and the state of the market as a whole are scarce. Another major concern is the possibility that litigation funders may influence claim organizations taking part in legal processes only to further their financial interests. This can make people wonder about the claim organization's decision-making process and its independence as well as transparency. Therefore, it may necessitate careful analysis and a precise definition of what constitutes extraordinary circumstances to reinforce the notion of maintaining a sizeable amount of the award for the aggrieved parties. Keeping in view the legislations in various countries, evolution of third-party funding cannot be disregarded as it is now a recognized as well as an emerging practice across the world. Regularization and legal recognition of TPF in countries where it has not received legal certainty, will help in bringing the best practices to the table and it will also become a game-changer for dispute resolution practice in the world.

The pathway of TPF can be well determined through judicial pronouncements also. As, in the case of Akhmedova v. Akhmedov, it has been held by the English Court that TPF facilitates the process of delivering justice. However, the view was not the same in the Court of Ireland. In the case of Persona Digital v. The Minister for Public Enterprise, the concept of TPF was determined to be unethical. It was held that the inclusion of any third party having no separate interest is in contradiction with the tort of champerty. Later in the year 2021, in Merricks v Mastercard, the risks associated with TPF were predicted by the Competition Appeal Tribunal and it came out with potential ways in which the risks can be managed. The Tribunal stressed upon the sufficiency of funding and appropriate safeguards that would take care of the conflicts. In the general purview of international arbitration, several issues have already been addressed that will fuel up the protection strategy in the EU too.

India has no specific law related to TPF but the Indian law does not forbid TPF either. In Bar Council of India v. A.K. Bajaj, (2018) 5 SCC 379, the Supreme Court observed that in India, Advocates cannot fund litigation on behalf of their clients but there appears to be no restriction on

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## Change Your Life and Personality

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

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

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

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

You have to first accept it deep

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

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

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

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

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

Mohsin Nazir

Mindful Fridays

# The Power of Hard Copy Books Enhancing Children's Attention and Making Them More Imaginative Through Traditional Reading

WASIM KAKROO

In an era dominated by technology and digital advancements, the debate between hard copy books and digital books continues to unfold. While the convenience and accessibility of digital books are undeniable, the traditional medium of hard copy books holds a significant place, especially when it comes to children's reading habits. In this article, I have tried to shed light on the importance of reading hard copy books over digital books among children, focusing specifically on how this preference can enhance attention and cognitive skills in young minds.

**The Multisensory Experience:**

The multisensory experience offered by hard copy books is a key advantage that sets them apart from their digital counterparts. Through touch, sight, and even smell, hard copy books engage multiple senses, creating a rich and immersive reading experience. Children can experience the joy of physically flipping through pages, feeling the texture of paper, and interacting with vibrant illustrations. These sensory interactions not only stimulate the senses but also foster a deeper connection with the content, resulting in enhanced attention and concentration. The tactile nature of hard copy books adds a valuable dimension to reading, making it a truly multisensory journey for young readers.

**Reducing Screen Time:**

In today's digital age, children are frequently exposed to screens for long periods of time. However, embracing hard copy books presents a valuable chance to decrease screen time and mitigate the potential negative consequences of excessive device usage. Encouraging children to read physical books allows parents and educators to strike a healthy balance between technology and traditional reading, resulting in improved attention spans and overall well-being. By prioritizing the use of hard copy books, we can provide children with a much-needed break



from screens and promote their holistic development.

**Enhancing Focus and Concentration:**

Reading hard copy books is instrumental in helping children develop and sustain focused attention. Unlike digital books, physical copies eliminate the distractions of notifications, ads, and hyperlinks that can easily divert a child's focus. The act of physically turning pages and following the linear structure of a book encourages concentration, enabling children to immerse themselves fully in the story or subject matter without interruptions. This sustained focus not only enhances their reading experience but also nurtures vital cognitive skills that can extend beyond the realm of reading and into other areas of learning. By engaging with hard copy books,

children cultivate the ability to concentrate deeply, fostering their overall cognitive development and academic success.

**Promoting Comprehension and Retention:**

Multiple studies have consistently demonstrated that reading from hard copy books significantly improves comprehension and information retention in comparison to digital reading. The tactile aspect of holding a physical book and the physical act of turning pages contribute to the formation of mental maps of the material being read. These sensory experiences create a stronger connection between the reader and the text, enhancing understanding and memory recall. Moreover, hard copy books provide an environment free from the distractions com-

monly found in digital reading, enabling children to actively engage with the content by underlining, highlighting, and taking notes. This active reading approach further reinforces comprehension and retention by encouraging deeper interaction and reflection. The combination of the tactile experience and reduced distractions in hard copy books establishes them as a powerful tool for enhancing the learning process and maximizing children's cognitive abilities.

**Fostering Imagination and Creativity:**

Hard copy books have a distinct ability to ignite children's imagination and creativity. Through the tactile experience of holding a physical book, children are prompted to create vivid mental images, bringing characters, settings, and events to life in their minds.

This imaginative exercise not only fosters a sense of wonder but also enhances cognitive skills linked to creativity and abstract thinking. Furthermore, the absence of backlit screens in hard copy books helps reduce eye strain, enabling children to immerse themselves in the story for longer periods. This uninterrupted engagement allows for a deeper connection with the narrative, as children can fully immerse themselves in the story's world. By encouraging children to read hard copy books, we provide them with an invaluable opportunity to explore their imagination, nurture their creativity, and develop a profound appreciation for the power of storytelling.

**Cultivating a Love for Reading:**

The physical presence of a book and the act of turning pages evoke a sense of anticipation and excitement that can profoundly impact a child's relationship with reading. When children hold a book in their hands and embark on the journey of turning its pages, they enter a world of possibilities and imagination. This tactile experience creates a unique connection to the story, heightening their engagement and fostering a lifelong love for reading. Furthermore, the joy of browsing through libraries or bookstores exposes children to a vast array of literary treasures. They have the opportunity to explore diverse genres, discover new authors, and dive into captivating stories. This exposure broadens their horizons and nurtures a curiosity that extends well into adulthood. By immersing themselves in different literary worlds, children develop an appreciation for the written word and a hunger for knowledge. The physicality of books, combined with the thrill of exploration, paves the way for a lifelong journey of learning, growth, and a deep connection with the written word.

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PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

## 5 Subtle Signs You're Smarter Than You Think

Alice Boyes

Some forms of smartness are highly recognized and rewarded, like the speed of thinking and social charisma. However, other types of smartness (skills, self-knowledge, wisdom) are just as important, but people overlook them. If you have these forms of smarts, you may not have even noticed them.

Are you smart in these critical ways?

**1. You know what your self-sabotaging patterns are.**

We don't tend to self-sabotage in new ways, we self-sabotage in the same ways over and over again.

Example: You avoid decisions or tasks that make you feel anxious or overwhelmed, even though this has cost you.

People often criticize themselves for self-sabotaging, but if you're aware of what your patterns are, you're a step ahead of the general populace. This is especially true if you can recognize a similar pattern occurring across different contexts (such as at work and in your personal life) and times (in the recent and distant past).

Recognizing your patterns is the first step in improving them, but huge swaths of people never get this far. If you can see your patterns, that's a strength.

To level up your capacity to recognize abstract patterns of self-sabotage, check out this post with 30 examples of self-sabotage.

**2. You're able to maintain and repair relationships.**

Humans succeed through relationships. Our bonds with other people help us



achieve and support our well-being. This is true at the species level (we do better as a species through working together) and at the individual level (people who are adept at relationships succeed more).

However, a lot of focus is on people's ability to form relationships. Maintaining and repairing relationships is an underrated skill, but it's at least as important.

article continues after advertisement

Example: A friend had ignored my last two texts. Out of the blue she messaged me and texted: "Sorry, I didn't reply. I've been going through some health issues. We're going to... (an event we usually go to together). Hope to see you there. Hope all is good with you!" This was a simple action that repaired our relationship.

What relationship could you repair or maintain through a simple action? Even

people who have this strength (they know what to do) sometimes underuse it.

**3. You can quickly utilize feedback.**

When I was training as a clinical psychologist, my classmates and I were understandably nervous about failing our exams. A supervisor told me something immensely reassuring that has still stuck with me over 15 years later. She said: "We don't worry about students who can take feedback." They wanted to make sure that, when a student was advised to make an adjustment to their therapeutic style, they:

would understand it and wouldn't be defensive

could quickly adjust their behavior

These are two slightly different skills. One is understanding the rationale, and one is seeing opportunities to use the advice and execute.

Instead of focusing on being perfect, think about how you can nimbly incorporate feedback. I mean feedback broadly, both formal feedback and your observations of what works for you in your personal and work life, and what doesn't. Your results are a form of feedback, too.

**4. You're observant.**

This doesn't sound like a hugely exciting strength but it's massively important.

Scientific discoveries start with observation. You might have heard famous stories of this—how penicillin was discovered by accident. More broadly, all science starts with observation. Scientists observe something they decide they want to test through research.

In day-to-day life, observation is an im-

portant skill for all sorts of reasons, including seeing opportunities, gathering self-knowledge, and maintaining relationships.

Examples: You observe a strategy that's working for someone else and you put your own spin on it to use it yourself. Or, you notice what types of compliments someone responds to. Or, you notice patterns in what makes a problem you're having better and worse.

**5. You can see how general advice applies to you.**

Knowledge transfer is a skill I've already touched on, but I'll call it out specifically.

When you read advice (like the posts here at PT), does it ever feel like that advice has come at exactly the right time for you, or was written specifically for you? If you ever have these experiences then you probably have a strength in knowledge transfer. You can read general examples and see how they apply to you.

It should be obvious how this skill is important for learning and improving. However, if you naturally have this capacity and or you've honed it over the years, you might not even recognize that it's a strength that not everyone shares.

Which of the five strengths I've outlined have you been overlooking? Now that you see how important that strength is, how can you use it more? How can you flex the strength you already have, in more ways that will benefit you? Consider how you can enhance your happiness and well-being, as well as getting ahead in your life and career, and managing your relationships.

*The article was originally published by Psychology Today*











### Collective Effort In Jeopardy, Drop Our Names From Textbooks: Academicians To NCERT

Agenceis

Days after political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar wrote to the NCERT, asking their names to be dropped from textbooks, 33 academicians, who were part of the Textbook Development Committee (TDC), have written to the council, saying their collective creative effort is in jeopardy.

The academicians have also demanded that their names be dropped from the textbooks.

The signatories to a letter sent to NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani include Kanti Prasad Bajpai, a former JNU professor who currently serves as the vice dean at the National University, Singapore, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, a former vice-chancellor of the Ashoka University, Rajeev Bhargava, a former director of CSDS, Niraja Gopal Jayal, a former JNU professor, Nivedita Menon, a JNU professor, Vipul Mudgal, the head of civil society watchdog Common Cause, K C Suri, a former professor at the University of Hyderabad who is now associated with the Gitam University, and Peter Ronald deSouza, a former director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies.

"Since there are several substantive revisions of the original texts, making them thereby different books, we find it difficult to claim that these are the books we produced and to associate our names with them.... We are now given to believe that this creative collective effort is in jeopardy," the letter read.

"The textbooks were the result of extensive deliberations and collaborations among political scientists from various perspectives and ideological backgrounds and originally intended to impart knowledge about India's freedom struggle, the constitutional framework, the functioning of democracy and key aspects of Indian politics, while also integrating global developments and theoretical principles of political science," it said.



In a letter to the NCERT last week, Yadav and Phalsikar had said a rationalisation exercise has "mutilated" the books beyond recognition and rendered those "academically dysfunctional", and the textbooks that were a source of pride for them earlier have now become a source of embarrassment.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), however, had said the withdrawal of anyone's association is out of question as textbooks at the school level are developed on the basis of knowledge and understanding on a given subject and at no stage, individual authorship is claimed.

The dropping of several topics and portions from NCERT textbooks last month triggered a controversy, with the Opposition blaming the BJP-led Centre for "whitewashing with vengeance".

At the heart of the controversy was the fact that while the changes made as part of the rationalisation exercise were notified, some of the controversial deletions were not mentioned. This led to allegations about a bid to delete these portions surreptitiously.

The NCERT had described the omissions as a possible oversight but refused to undo the deletions, saying they were based on the recommendations of experts. It had also said the textbooks were anyway headed for a revision in 2024, when the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) kicks in. However, it subsequently changed its stand and said "minor changes need not be notified".

### At Least 79 Migrants Dead And Dozens Feared Missing After Fishing Vessel Sinks Off Greece



Agenceis

KALAMATA: A fishing boat carrying migrants trying to reach Europe capsized and sank off Greece on Wednesday, authorities said, leaving at least 79 dead and many more missing in one of the worst disasters of its kind this year.

Coast guard, navy and merchant vessels and aircraft fanned out for a vast search-and-rescue operation set to continue overnight.

It was unclear how many passengers might still be in the water or trapped in the vessel, but some initial reports suggested hundreds of people may have been on board.

Authorities said 104 people have been rescued so far after the boat sank overnight in international waters some 75 kilometres (45 miles) southwest of Greece's southern Peloponnese peninsula.

The spot is close to the deepest area of the Mediterranean Sea and such depths could hamper any effort to locate a sunken metal vessel.

Twenty-five survivors were hospitalised with symptoms of hypothermia.

At the southern port of Kalamata, around 70 exhausted sur-

vivors bedded down in sleeping bags and blankets provided by rescuers in a large warehouse, while outside paramedics set up tents for anyone who needed first aid.

Katerina Tsata, head of a Red Cross volunteer group in Kalamata, said the migrants were also given psychological support.

"They suffered a very heavy blow, both physical and mental," she said.

The Greek coast guard said 79 bodies have been recovered so far. It said the survivors included 30 people from Egypt, 10 from Pakistan, 35 from Syria and 2 Palestinians. The Italy-bound boat is believed to have sailed from the Tobruk area in eastern Libya.

That country plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Human traffickers have benefited from the ensuing instability and made Libya one of the main departure points for people attempting to reach Europe on smuggler's boats.

The migration route from North Africa to Italy through the central Mediterranean is the deadliest in the world, according to the United Nations

migration agency, known as IOM, which has recorded more than 17,000 deaths and disappearances there since 2014.

Smugglers use unseaworthy boats with as many migrants as possible crammed in sometimes inside locked holds for journeys that can take days.

They head for Italy, which is directly across the Mediterranean from Libya and Tunisia, and much closer than Greece to the Western European countries that most migrants hope to eventually reach.

In February, at least 94 people died when a wooden boat from Turkey sank off Cutro, in southern Italy, in the worst Mediterranean sinking so far this year.

The Italian coast guard first alerted Greek authorities and the European Union border protection agency, Frontex, about an approaching vessel on Tuesday.

The IOM said initial reports suggested up to 400 people were on board.

A network of activists said it received a distress call from a boat in the same area whose passengers said it carried 750 people but it was not clear if that was the vessel that sank.

### Five Indian Schools On Shortlist For World's Best School Prizes 2023

Agenceis

London: Five inspirational Indian schools in Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra were on Thursday named in the top 10 shortlists across different categories for the second annual USD 250,000 World's Best School Prizes, organised in the UK to celebrate schools worldwide for their enormous contribution to society's progress.

The five World's Best School Prizes - for Community Collaboration, Environmental Action, Innovation, Overcoming Adversity, and Supporting Healthy Lives - celebrate schools for the pivotal role they play in developing the next generation of learners and for their enormous contribution to society's progress, especially in the wake of COVID.

This year's Indian shortlist has schools from Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra in the running for the prize - founded last year by UK-headquartered T4 Education and organised in collaboration with Accenture, American Express, Yashwanth Hasanah, and the Lemann Foundation.

"Schools across the globe will learn from the story of these trailblazing Indian institutions and the culture they have cultivated," said Vikas Pota, Founder of T4 Education and the World's Best School Prizes.

"The schools shortlisted for the World's Best School Prizes, no matter where they can be found or what they teach, all have one thing in common - they all have a strong school culture; their leaders know how to attract and motivate exceptional educators, inspire change, and build excellent teaching and learning environments," he said.

Among the Indian schools to make the cut includes Nagar Nigam Pratibha Baalika Vidyalaya (NPBV) F-Block, Dilshad Colony-1st, a government school in Delhi in the Community Collaboration category for breaking through the traditional mould to provide community-based interventions and

support to bridge the gap between teachers, students, and parents.

Shortlisted in the same category is Oberoi International School, an independent international school in Mumbai for bringing hope, empathy, and shared possibility to its students and surrounding communities.

The Riverside School, an independent international school in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, which has gained worldwide recognition for its groundbreaking, student-centric approach to education, particularly through its "I CAN" pedagogical model, has been named the shortlist for the World's Best School Prize for Innovation.

Snehalaya English Medium School, a charity school in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, which has transformed the lives of children living with HIV/AIDS and those from sex worker families and ended second-generation prostitution in its district, has been shortlisted for the World's Best School Prize for Overcoming Adversity.

Finally, Shindewadi Mumbai Public School (The Akanksha Foundation), a charter school in Mumbai, is in the running in the Supporting Healthy Lives category for attempting to reverse the impact of low immunity and poor nutrition among its student body and wider community after the lockdown.

The Prizes were established in 2022 by the digital media platform T4 Education to share the best practices of schools that are transforming the lives of their students and making a real difference in their communities. The top three finalists for each of the five World's Best School Prizes will be announced in September, followed by the winners in October.

T4 Education said the winner of each prize will be chosen based on rigorous criteria by a "Judging Academy" comprising distinguished leaders across the globe, including academics, educators, NGOs, social entrepreneurs, government, civil society, and the private sector.

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