

After Its Recent Revival, Hokersar Is Now Swamped With Solid Waste

Parvaiz Bhat

Months after the wildlife department had managed to restore Hokersar Wetland to its earlier status following its degradation during the implementation of flood management project for the Srinagar city, the wetland is now swamped with heavy solid waste pollution.

The solid waste pollution problem in the wetland started after the trash guard (a wire mesh gate), which was installed at the spot where



water from flood spill channel flows into Hokersar for stopping trash entering into the

wetland, was destroyed by flooding as a result of incessant rains a few weeks back.

6 WISE USE OF WETLANDS IS THE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development."

Solid waste, which includes household trash, wrapping materials, plastic containers and fast-food wrappers, can be seen floating everywhere in the wetland which not only bodes ill for ecological health of the wetland, but also presents an ugly scene. Even carcasses of

animals have also found their way into the wetland.

Locals said that they had noted the restoration of the wetland with great satisfaction following its almost complete degradation until last year as its ecosystem integrity and functioning had got hugely

compromised.

"In recent months, Hokersar has got a new lease of life. We were happy to see a lot of birds and their chicks in Hokersar in recent months, something which we had missed for many years. But, the waste which is now floating in it, poses a threat to the wetland," said Arif Ahmad, a milkman.

He said that the trash gate which was installed for stopping solid waste entering into the wetland, was not allowing any trash into the wetland. "Until the | More on PIO

New GOC Reviews Yatra Security



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The newly appointed General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's strategic Chinar Corps, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Friday reviewed the security and operational preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra beginning next month.

The 60-day annual pilgrimage 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 (southern route) and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district (northern route).

"#ChinarCorpsCdr Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai reviewed the security & operational preparedness along both the northern & southern routes for #Amarnathyatra2023 today," Chinar Corps said on Twitter.

The Army said the corps commander was accompanied by commanders of the counter-insurgency Kilo and Victor forces.

Lt Gen Ghai was briefed on the multi-tier security set-up, medical arrangements, emergency response mechanism and other infrastructure development for the successful conduct of the yatra, the Army said.

Biggest infiltration bid on LOC this year 5 Infiltrators Killed Along LoC In Kupwara

Press Trust Of India

Kupwara: Army on Friday claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by killing five heavily armed foreign militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in this North Kashmir district.

The operation in the Jumagund area in the Keran sector was launched Thursday night based on intelligence input gathered by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Srinagar-based Defence PRO Col Emron Musavi said the militant groups in Pakistan are using



the "facade of ceasefire to perpetrate terror" in the Union territory. Briefing the | More on PIO

Youth To Play Crucial Role In Combating Climate Change: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that youth will play a crucial role in combating climate change and building a sustainable future, besides leading the communities to reduce the plastic pollution and to strengthen economic, commercial and social activities in our cities.

"Nature unites us and Jan-Bhagidari is the key to build a harmonious and prosperous society while effectively managing the challenges of climate change. People should actively contribute in such endeavours to build clean, smart and green city



and a better future for coming generations," Sinha said.

He made these remarks after jointly launching the Defence Research and Development

Organisation (DRDO) developed bioplastic carry bag with Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and

Natural Gas. | More on PIO

India Growing At An Exponential Pace: LG Under PM's leadership, This Era Is Best Time For Youth: Jitendra Singh

Asserting that India is emerging as a new knowledge economy on the world horizon and is growing at an exponential pace, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that transformational work in every sector is driving the nation on the path to become a powerhouse.

"Today's youth represents the Indian generation | More on PIO

Terror Module Busted: Police 5 Arrested For Circus Workers Killing

Five Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militants have been arrested from Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir in connection with the killing of a circus worker, Deepak Kumar, last month, police said on Friday. | More on PIO

6 THE OPERATION CLEARLY ESTABLISHES THE EVIL DESIGN OF TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH ARE determined to disrupt peace in Kashmir. It also exposes the facade of false commitment to the ceasefire understanding by Pakistan which has repeatedly been exploited to perpetrate terror in Jammu and Kashmir."

Appointing 'Ineligible' Person as Professor Chargesheet Filed Against Ex-Director SKIMS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Crime Branch of police on Friday filed chargesheet against former SKIMS Director Dr. A.G. Ahangar and Administrative Officer (Policy) Mohammad Shafi Malla in a case filed in 2019 under sections 418, 420, 466, 511 RPC r/w Section 5(2) PC Act of Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

Giving details of the case, he said that Crime Branch Kashmir received a written

complaint that Director SKIMS Saura had illegally and fraudulently made an ineligible person eligible for the post of Professor, Surgical Oncology at SKIMS Saura.

"It was further alleged that the post for which the selection process had already been stayed by the High Court of J&K was fraudulently re-advertised by Director SKIMS Saura to facilitate the selection of an ineligible | More on PIO

complaint that Director SKIMS Saura had illegally and fraudulently made an ineligible person eligible for the post of Professor, Surgical Oncology at SKIMS Saura.

J&K To Soon Appoint State Election Chief

Agencies

Srinagar: Amid indications that Panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir would be held in October- November this year, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory would soon appoint the State Election Commissioner (SEC), sources disclosed.

A local news agency KNO quoted sources as saying that Jammu & Kashmir's former

Chief Secretary BR Sharma could be appointed as State Election Commissioner. The post of SEC fell vacant on February 01, 2023 when K.K. Sharma completed his term.

BR Sharma, who served as Chief Secretary of J&K from 2015 to 2017, has also expertise in election-related matters as he served the erstwhile state's chief electoral officer (CEO) during 2008 Assembly elections which | More on PIO

UNDERTRIAL'S KILLING

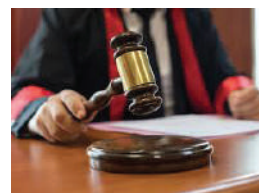
HC Awards Rs 5L Compensation To Family

Says Prisoner Cannot Be Deprived Of His Constitutional Rights Except In Accordance With Law

M AHMAD

Srinagar: Observing that a prisoner cannot be deprived of his constitutional rights except in accordance with law, the J&K and High Court on Friday awarded Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the family of an undertrial who was killed by co-prisoner inside central jail here in 2013.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar rejected State's contention that it cannot be held to be negligent given the fact that death was



caused by stone which the co-prisoner had pulled from the wall of the jail being an "old-structure".

"The respondents (State authorities) have themselves admitted that jail building is very old and the co-prisoner managed to take out a stone from the

wall of the jail which he used as a weapon of attack upon the deceased," the court said, adding, "The fact that the respondent State has failed to properly manage the jail barracks and allowed condition of the same to deteriorate to such a level that a co-prisoner was able to take out a stone/brick from the wall, shows clear negligence and callousness on the part of the respondents".

This negligence and callousness on the part of authorities, | More on PIO

SHORT TAKES

Soldier Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

A Border Security Forces' Constable died of a suspected cardiac arrest here on Friday afternoon, officials said. They said that one Constable identified as Patil of 91 Battalion stationed at Naugam was found dead, leading to speculation that he had died due to cardiac arrest. "To allay any doubts, the body has been sent for post-mortem | More on PIO

Bear Mauls Man To Death

A man in his forties was attacked and killed on Friday by a black bear in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Zameer Ahmad Beigh was attacked and critically injured by a black bear in a surprise attack in Cheerward village of Kokernag on Friday, reports said. Beigh, who sustained critical injuries in the attack, | More on PIO

Missing Sopore Student Traced: Police

A 15-year-old boy from Sopore area of North Kashmir, who was missing since yesterday, has been traced, said an official on Friday afternoon. The youth, identified as Hashim Shabir Gojiri, son of Shabir Ahmed Gojiri of Batapora, was missing since yesterday afternoon. Confirming the development, | More on PIO

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Bandipora Family Protest Mysterious Death Of Kin

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Family members and relatives of Ban-yari village in Bandipora on Friday staged protest in Srinagar's Press Enclave demanding impartial inquiry into the mysterious death of their kin.

A 15-year-old Shakir, who was a student at an orphanage on the outskirts of Srinagar, was found dead in mysterious conditions in Kunzer Baramulla Thursday morning.

Talking to reporters, the deceased's sister said they received a distressing call from Shakir's teacher on Thursday at 8pm informing her that their ward was missing for several hours.

"We made several attempts to contact him, but

to no avail. Around 11:30 PM, we received another call informing us that Shakir might be in some area of Kunzer Baramulla. On Friday morning, his body was found in Kunzar Pattan under mysterious circumstances," she said.

"We had admitted him to a Trust two years ago so that he gets education as we were unable to afford tuition fees. Our dreams were shattered and we have lost our beloved little brother. Our brother has been murdered and we demand an investigation into it," she added.

The protesters appealed to Police and LG Manoj Sinha to personally intervene in the matter.

Police officials said that the investigation is underway in the case.



Motorists use e-bike tracks at Maulana Azad Road in Srinagar amid heavy traffic jam on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Dy Mayor Visits Khankah-e-Maula Shrine In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Mayor Srinagar, Parvaiz Ahmad Qadri today visited Astan Sharif Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) at Khankah-e-Molla Srinagar on Urs-e-Shah-e-Hamdani (RA). Qadri greeted people on the occasion and prayed for peace and prosperity of J&K.

He also interacted

with the management members of the shrine and asked them about the facilities being provided by the civil administration.

Earlier on the directions of the Deputy Mayor, an intensive cleanliness drive was held at Astan Sharif Hazrat Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA) at Khankah-e-Molla Srinagar for Urs-e-Shah-e-Hamdani.

The Dy. Mayor was accompanied by senior officers of the Corporation.

KTA Decries Unscheduled Power Cuts In Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Traders Alliance (KTA) has expressed concern over unscheduled and pesky power cuts resorted by Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited.

In a statement, Aijaz

Shahdhar President KTA said long power cuts during summer was unheard of in the past but now it has become a norm in Srinagar this season as for hours there is no sign of electricity which has negative impact on business as well as general populace.

Valley Uro-Con 2023:

Kidney Transplantation Relayed Live From Max Saket To GMC Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: For the very first time in the history of J&K, Kidney transplantation was relayed live from Max Saket to GMC Srinagar auditorium where hundreds of students and other delegates watched it live.

Dr Syed Sajad Nazir, Head of the Department Urology and Chairman Valley Uro-con 2023 told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that The second day of live operated workshop, started with live related kidney transplantation which was done by Prof Anant Kumar from Max saket along with his team including Dr Samit Chattervadi, R maheshwari and others.

"It is the first time in the history of J&K that Kidney transplantation was relayed live and about 150 delegates and students watched in the auditorium of GMC." He said.

Also laparoscopic partial 3D nephrectomy was done by Prof Anup Kumar from Safdarjung hospital New Delhi while Prof Shailesh Raina Director Urology and Robotics from Jaslok Hospital and research centre Mumbai demonstrated Sacral neuromodulation

for neurogenic bladder know as bladder pacemaker," he said.

"Dr Tanveer Iqbal performed Supine PCNL for renal stone followed by TUR BT and Last case of the day was done by Dr Rishi Nayyar from AIIMS New Delhi wherein he demonstrated Mini PCNL for renal stone and all operated patients are doing well." He added.

"For the first time in the valley Sacral Neuromodulation "BLADDER PACEMAKER" a ground breaking revolutionary technology for treatment of bladder problems was demonstrated," Dr Sajad said.

In the evening, there was the inauguration of the conference wherein the chief guest was Bhupinder Kumar, Administrative Secretary H &ME department.

He said that 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 on day one eight advanced urological procedures

were performed by renowned urologists.

The process include Renal Stone Disease Surgeries, Retrograde Intrarenal 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 Malakarjuna and another by Dr. Syed Md Ghous, 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.

Dr Tanveer Iqbal (Associate professor and Organizing Secretary) said that "with a diverse range of topics and expert speakers, attendees will gain valuable insights into cutting-edge research and developments shaping the future of urology"

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75**
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/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 with closing date **11.07.2023** 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 only payment modes available on 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 logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
15.06.2023 15:56	27.06.2023	11.07.2023 / 15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender								
1.	77-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Upgradation of 10 nos Level Crossings B-12, A-18, B1-19, C-23, S-25, C-29, C-51, S-54, S-62, S-63 in the section on PTK-JAT section under ADEN/JAT.								
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of offer</th> <th>Period of completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>97,06,823.49/-</td> <td>1,94,100/-</td> <td>60 Days</td> <td>09 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of completion	97,06,823.49/-	1,94,100/-	60 Days	09 Months
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97,06,823.49/-	1,94,100/-	60 Days	09 Months							
		Similar Nature of work: "Any civil work other than track work".								

Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No. 770-W/169/WA/FZR/77-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR Date: 15.06.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1856/23

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75**
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Notice Inviting Tender

Dy. CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date **12.07.2023** at **15:00 Hrs.** only Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App Cost (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
27-TRD-GSU-T-101-2023-24	TRD work in c/w work of Direct reception and dispatch facility on Goods handling Line No.5 at Maikhu on JUC-FZR section under SSE/P-way/ LNK over Firozpur division	72,37,501.07p	NIL	Up to 12.07.2023 15:00 Hrs	1,44,800/-	09 Months	12.07.2023 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer(s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.

No. 27-TRD-GSU-T-101-2023-24 Dated: 16.06.2023 1862/2023

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Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
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E-AUCTION NOTICE

(For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrower, mortgagor(s) and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Charisharief**, the physical possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank under section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "No complaint" basis on **21.07.2023** for recovery of dues to the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Charisharief. The description of property, reserve price and the earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below:

Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale)	Land measuring 14 kanals and 9 marlas situated in estate Charisharief, Budgam standing in the name of Mr. Abdul Rashid Shah S/o Abdul Salam Shah R/o Charisharief, Budgam falling under:																									
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S.No.</th> <th>Land Measuring</th> <th>Khasra No.</th> <th>Khata No.</th> <th>Khwat No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>5 kanal</td> <td>2808 min</td> <td>1278</td> <td>409</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>8 kanal & 5 marlas</td> <td>3281 min</td> <td>1776</td> <td>675</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>10 marlas</td> <td>2797 min</td> <td>1277</td> <td>409</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>14 marlas</td> <td>2798 min</td> <td>1277</td> <td>409</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S.No.	Land Measuring	Khasra No.	Khata No.	Khwat No.	1.	5 kanal	2808 min	1278	409	2.	8 kanal & 5 marlas	3281 min	1776	675	3.	10 marlas	2797 min	1277	409	4.	14 marlas	2798 min	1277	409
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	Land measuring 3 kanals and 10 marlas situated in estate Charisharief, Budgam standing in the name of Mr. Gulam Hassan Shah S/o Abdul Salam Shah R/o Charisharief, Budgam falling under Khasra No. 2807 Khata No. 1350 and Khawat No. 453.																									
Reserve Price	Rs. 1,51,60,000 (Rupees one Crore Fifty One Lac and Sixty Thousand Only).																									
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.15,16,000/-																									

The bid document/format containing full details of the mortgaged property and all the terms & conditions can be had from and submitted on the website "<https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net>" (Contact Persons: Mr.Ram Sharma (M) 9978591888, 9265562821 (O) 079 - 6813 6844.). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before **15.07.2023 upto 4.00 PM.** The e-auction will be held on **21.07.2023 from 11.30 AM-4.00 PM.** The contact details of the bank officials are: Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Khan (Authorized Officer) Mobile No. 9149443300 & Mr. Aijaz Ur Rehman (Branch Head Charisharief) Mobile No. 9469430238 / 7006921787.

This publication is also a 30 days' notice in terms of sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of The security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 to the borrower, mortgagor and the guarantors to pay the total outstanding of loan along with interest and other expenses before the date of e-auction, failing which the property will be auctioned and balance if any, remaining outstanding along with interest and expenses will be recovered from them.

Sd/-
Zahoor Ahmad Khan
Authorized Officer, J&K Bank Ltd.

Dated: 14.06.2023
Place: Srinagar

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK1938SC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1316/23 DATED:16-06-2023

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488,245222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Zil-Qadah
1444

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

This Day In History

- 656 Ali ibn Abu Talib (RA) elected the 4th Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate
- 1631 - Mumtaz Mahal dies during childbirth. Her husband, Mughal emperor Shah Jahan I, then spends more than 20 years building her tomb, the Taj Mahal
- 1861 - Battle of Boonville, MI-Brigadier General Lyon defeats Confederate forces
- 1863 - Battle at Middleburg, Virginia
- 1863 - Battle of Aldie, Confederates fail to drive back Union in Virginia
- 1877 - Indian Wars: Battle of White Bird Canyon - the Nez Perce defeat the US Cavalry at White Bird Canyon in the Idaho Territory
- 1885 - Statue of Liberty arrives in NYC aboard French ship 'Isere'
- 1896 - Polar explorers Fridtjof Nansen and Frederick Jackson meet by chance in Franz Josef Land, the Arctic
- 1916 - US troops under General Pershing march into Mexico
- 1938 - Japan declares war on China.
- 1940 - USSR occupies Estonia
- 1940 - World War II: sinking of the RMS Lancastria by the Luftwaffe near Saint-Nazaire, France
- 1947 - 1st round-the-world civil air service leaves NYC
- 1950 - Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia & Syria sign security pact
- 1953 - Riots in East Germany for reunification
- 1970 - Edwin Land patents the Polaroid camera
- 1976 - Indonesia annexes Portuguese East-Timor
- 1982 - President Galtieri resigns after leading Argentina to defeat in the Falkland Islands

From KO Archives

Kargil War Could Have Led To Nuke Attack: Book

Washington - During the Kargil war, the Pakistan military had prepared their nuclear-tipped missile to fight back a possible Indian attack, and former US president Bill Clinton had informed about the military's move to the then Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif. Bruce Riedel, a close aide of Clinton, has been quoted as saying this in a forthcoming book "Pakistan between Mosque and Mili-tary" written by a Pakistani writer Husain Haqqani.

On learning about the military's plans, Sharif was taken aback and said that India was probably doing the same, writes Haqqani, a former Pakistani diplomat, journalist and senior adviser to Pakistan's government. Presently, he is a scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

According to the Dawn, Riedel further says: "Clinton asked Sharif if he knew how advanced the threat of nuclear war really was? Did Sharif know his military was preparing their nuclear-tipped missiles? Was that what Sharif panted. Clinton asked? Did Sharif order Pakistani nuclear missile force to prepare for action? Did he realize how crazy that was? You have put me in the huddle today, set the US to fail and I won't let it happen. Pakistan is messing with nuclear war."

Riedel, a special assistant to Clinton and a senior director of Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council in the Clinton era, says that he was present in the July 4, 1999, meeting between Clinton and Nawaz.

During the meeting, Clinton also raised the issue of Pakistan's reluctance to help the US catch Osama bin Laden and other al Qaeda leaders. "The president was getting angry. He told Sharif that he had asked repeatedly for Pakistani help to bring Osama bin Laden to justice from Afghanistan. Sharif had promised often to do so but had done nothing. Instead the ISI worked with bin Laden and the Taliban to foment terrorism," Riedel adds.

The former US official re-calls that Clinton's draft statement on the Kargil crisis also mentioned Pakistan's role in supporting terrorists in Afghanistan and India.

Apparently hinting that Sharif had withdrawn troops under US pressure, Riedel says that at the end of that meeting, Sharif agreed to announce Pakistani withdrawal from Kargil and restoration of the sanctity of the Line of Control in return for Clinton taking a personal interest in resumption of the India-Pakistan dialogue

(Kashmir Observer, 17 June, 2005)

African Leaders Begin Peace Mission In Ukraine Amid Sirens And Explosions

Agencies

At least two explosions rocked Kyiv on Friday and air raid sirens blared as African leaders began a peace mission, hoping to mediate between Ukraine and Russia.

The African delegation, which includes leaders from South Africa, Senegal, the Comoros and Egypt, was expected to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and then hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg on Saturday.

A Reuters witness in central Kyiv said he heard two explosions. Mayor Vitali Klitschko also reported explosions in

shelter.

The leaders had begun their visit with a trip to Bucha, near Kyiv, which is one of several places where Ukraine says Russian troops committed large-scale atrocities following their full-scale invasion in February 2022. Russia denies the allegations.

The African peace mission, which includes South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Senegal President Macky Sall, could propose a series of "confidence building measures" during initial efforts at mediation, according to a draft framework document seen by Reuters.

The document states that



the central Podil district, and warned that more missiles were headed towards the capital.

Another Reuters correspondent in the capital saw the smoke trail of two missiles in the air. It was not clear if those missiles were fired by Russia or by Ukrainian air defences.

A Reuters television crew saw the African leaders arriving in Kyiv in a convoy of cars and entering a hotel to use its air-raid

the objective of the mission is "to promote the importance of peace and to encourage the parties to agree to a diplomatic process of negotiations".

Those measures could include a Russian troop pull-back, removal of tactical nuclear weapons from Belarus, suspension of implementation of an International Criminal Court arrest warrant targeting Putin, and sanctions relief, it indicated.

Russia To Give Bonus Payments To Troops For Destroying Western Tanks



Agencies

KLIETZ, GERMANY: Russian troops who have destroyed German-made Leopard tanks and US-supplied armoured vehicles being used by Ukraine will receive bonus payments, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

The ministry said this was part of a wider reward scheme under which more than 10,000 Russian servicemen had received individual bonuses since the start of the war nearly 16 months ago.

On the basis of reports from Russian field commanders, "payments are currently being made to servicemen of the Russian Federation Armed Forces who in the course of military operations destroyed Leopard tanks, as well as armoured fighting vehicles made in the USA and other NATO countries", the ministry said.

Defence Minister Sergei

Shoigu on Sunday awarded the "Hero of Russia gold star" medal to soldiers who Moscow said had destroyed Leopard tanks and US-made Bradley fighting vehicles being used by Ukraine, which has launched a long-anticipated counteroffensive.

The ministry said that up to May 31, a total of 10,257 servicemen had been rewarded for destroying 16,001 items of Ukrainian and Western military equipment.

An enemy armoured vehicle was worth 50,000 roubles (\$596) and a tank 100,000 roubles, it said.

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Military pilots and air defence operators received 300,000 roubles for every destroyed Ukrainian plane or helicopter. Hits on Tochka-U and US-supplied HIMARS rocket launch systems were rewarded by the same amount.



MANIPUR VIOLENCE:

Union Ministers Imphal Home Vandalised

Press Trust of India

IMPHAL/KOCHI: Manipur saw a spurt in violence as riotous mobs combatted Rapid Action Force, set up flaming road-blocks and torched properties in the heart of Imphal town on Friday, officials said.

Among others, a house belonging to Union Minister RK Ranjan Singh was attacked and attempts were made to burn it down. A warehouse near the royal palace belonging to a retired tribal IAS officer was burnt down completely.

Security guards and firefighters managed to control arson attempts by the mob and save the house of the minister of state for external affairs here from being gutted on Thursday night.

A mob clashed with RAF personnel on Friday evening after it had set the warehouse afire. The group also burnt tyres, logs and waste in the middle of streets in Wangkhei, Porompat and Thangapat areas affecting the flow of traffic in Manipur's capital town, officials said.

The RAF fired tear gas shells to disperse the crowd late in

the evening. No casualties have been reported as yet.

Sound of firing could be heard in Imphal East district till the early hours of Friday as security forces fired numerous rounds of tear gas shells and mock bombs to disperse angry locals protesting the killing of nine civilians on Wednesday.

The development comes after the burning of two houses, and clashes between RAF and a mob in the heart of Imphal town on Thursday afternoon.

Reacting to the developments, Union minister RK Ranjan Singh told PTI Video: "I am trying to bring peace and stop violence since May 3 (when ethnic clashes began in the state) ... this is all a misunderstanding between two communities. The government has set up a peace committee, the process is on. Civil society leaders are sitting together." The minister, who is currently in Kochi to attend a party event cancelled all programmes in Kerala to return home.

"That (the house) is (from) my own hard-earned money. I am not corrupt. No one is corrupt in this regime. If this

was something religious, then I am a Hindu. The attackers were Hindus. So, this is not religious. This is a mob," he said.

Singh said the government will talk to all communities and find a way out.

Condemning the killing of nine people in the Khamenlok area of Manipur, Chief Minister N Biren Singh has said search and combing operations are on by security forces to nab the culprits.

Singh also asserted that his government will safeguard the unity and integrity of the state and will not do anything which is against the interest of the people of Manipur.

"Search and combing operations have been conducted at different places including Kurangpat and Yaingangpokpi by a team consisting of paramilitary forces and Manipur Police to nab the culprits and stringent actions would be taken against those involved in such heinous crime," he said in a statement on Thursday.

The CM said search operations had been conducted in 41 villages of hill areas and 39 villages in adjoining valley areas.

INDIA TO UN: Abolish Security Council Veto Powers Or Give Them To New Permanent Members

IANS

Pressing its case for reforming the UN Security Council, India has said that either the veto rights should be abolished or be given also to new permanent members in a reformed Council.

"Either all nations are treated equally in the context of voting rights or else the new permanent members must also be given the veto," Pratik Mathur, a counsellor at India's UN Mission said on Wednesday at the General Assembly.

"Extension of veto to new members, in our view, will have no adverse impact on the effectiveness of an enlarged Council," he said, countering arguments

made by some countries against expanding permanent membership.

He said that the question of veto should be addressed as part of a comprehensive reform of the Council through clearly defined timelines in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) for reforms.

The IGN has virtually stalled because a small group of countries have manipulated the process to prevent progress, observers believe.

Mathur was speaking at an Assembly debate held on the first anniversary of the landmark resolution requiring a discussion by the Assembly within 10 days of a veto being cast in the Council.

While the Assembly cannot override a veto in the Council, by having a discus-

sion, it hopes to bring moral pressure to bear on the vetoing countries or hold them accountable to the rest of the world.

Mathur said that the veto resolution adopted by consensus "unfortunately, reflected a piecemeal approach to UNSC reform, thereby highlighting one aspect, ignoring [the] root cause of the problem".

The root cause—in the view of India and many countries—is the architecture of the Council that reflects the post-World War II scenario and gives veto-wielding permanent seats to the five victorious Allies (Britain, China, France, the US and now Russia, which holds the seat originally given to the Soviet Union).

Revising Age of Consent: Law Commission Seeks Govt Views

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The 22nd Law Commission, which is looking into the issue of age of consent, held a meeting with officials of the Women and Child Development Ministry recently and sought details on the subject, sources said today.

Over the years, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, which defines a child as a person aged below 18, has often come in conflict with the role of consent in determining the nature of relationships between adolescents.

Sources told Press Trust of India that the Law Commission held a meeting with the government and sought some information on the matter of age of consent.

"We are dealing with the subject...we had a meeting with them to provide some information," a government functionary told news agency PTI.



Last year, the Delhi High Court had said that the intention behind the POCSO Act was to protect children from sexual exploitation and that it was never meant to criminalise consensual romantic relationships between young adults.

The court made the observation while granting bail to a boy who married a 17-year-old girl and was apprehended under the Act enacted in 2012.

The Law Commission, which is constituted every three years, advises government on complex legal issues.

The present Law Commission is headed by Justice (retired) Ritu Raj Awasthi.

Japan Redefines Rape & Raises Age of Consent

Japan has passed a law that changed the definition of rape to non-consensual sexual intercourse" from "forcible sexual intercourse", aligning its definition with those of other countries. The nation also raised the age for legal consent from 13 to 16. The previous laws dissuaded people from reporting cases where victims were coerced into having sex.

This led to inconsistent court rulings, fuelling calls for change. The new laws, which were passed by the upper house of the National Diet - Japan's parliament - on Friday outline eight scenarios where it is difficult for a victim to "form, express, or fulfil an intention not to consent" to sex.

A few of the scenarios include where the victim is intoxicated, or subject to violence or threats; or is "frightened or astonished". It also includes the situation where it might be an abuse of power, where the victim is "worried" about the consequences of refusal.

Darul Uloom Deoband Gets Notice For 'Ban' On Courses Outside Seminary

Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Taking suo-motu cognisance of the Darul Uloom Deoband banning its students from taking courses in subjects like English at other institutions while they are enrolled at this well-known Islamic seminary, the Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities has issued a notice to an official of the madrassa.

In a statement issued here, the commission's Secretary Shakeel Ahmed Siddiqui said, "Through social media, it has come to the notice of the Uttar Pradesh Commission for Minorities chairman that the students, while taking education, cannot take education in any other medium (English)."

Taking suo-motu cognisance of the matter, the manager of the education department (naazim majlis taaleem) of the Darul Uloom Deoband to be present before the commission at 12 noon on June 21, along with your report," the statement added.

In the statement issued on Thursday, the commission also said the violation of any order or directive of the commission



is a punishable offence under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Meanwhile, the Darul Uloom Deoband has said it has imposed the ban because imparting education at the seminary gets affected when students pursue courses at coaching centres outside. It has also clarified that it has an English department of its own.

A recent order from the Darul Uloom Deoband's education department mentioned English in particular, indicating that it is perhaps among the favourite courses that students opt for outside.

"Students are informed that no other course (English etc.) will be allowed while pursuing education at the Darul Uloom Deoband," the order in Urdu read. It said if such conduct is proved through "reliable sources", the students will be expelled.

Writer Arundhati Roy Gets Lifetime Achievement Award

Press Trust of India

Writer Arundhati Roy has been awarded the 45th European Essay Prize for lifetime achievement, the Charles Veillon Foundation has announced.

Roy has been awarded the prize for the French translation of her compilation of essays titled 'Azadi' (2021).

"The jury of the Prix Europeen de l'Essai wishes to highlight an enriching work in terms of reflection on the construction of the world and the relationship with language. Arundhati Roy uses the essay as a form of combat, analysing fascism and the way it is being structured. This is an issue that is increasingly occupying our lives. Her essays offer shelter to a multitude of people," the Foundation said in a statement. The jury also acknowledged Roy's "commitment to political action".

In 'Azadi', Roy has reflected on the meaning of freedom in a world of "growing authoritarianism". The essays include meditations on language, public as well as private, and on the role of fiction and alternative

imaginations in current times.

The Delhi-based author's works, including Booker Prize winning 'The God of Small Things', 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness', and 'My Seditious Heart' have garnered her national and international acclaim.

Roy will receive the award, along with the prize money of CHF 20,000 (approx Rs 18 lakh), at a ceremony on September 12 in the Swiss city of Lausanne.

Since its inception in 1975, the award by the Charles Veillon Foundation has honoured a book or the work of an author "who, through their writings, contributes to nourishing and spreading the evolution of thought".

"It draws attention to authors whose work bear witness to and offer a fertile commentary on current societies, their practices, and ideologies," the foundation said.

Earlier, authors including Alexandre Zino-viev, Edgar Morin, Tzvetan Todorov, Amin Maalouf, Siri Hustvedt, Alessandro Baricco, Jean Starobinski, Iso Camartin, and Peter von Matt have been awarded the European Essay Prize.



Putin Applauds 'Dear Friend' Xi On His 70th Birthday

AFP

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday lauded his "dear friend" Xi Jinping in a message for the Chinese leader's 70th birthday.

Putin told Xi "it is difficult to overestimate the efforts you have been making to foster the comprehensive partnership" between Russia and China, which have ramped up cooperation in recent years.

The two leaders have grown even closer as Moscow, isolated in the West since launching the offensive in Ukraine, has increasingly looked toward Beijing. Analysts say that China holds the upper hand in the relationship, and that its sway is growing as Moscow's international isolation deepens.

Putin said he expected the "constructive dialogue... to continue for the sake of the Russian and Chinese people". Xi was handed an unprecedented third term as president by China's rubber-stamp parliament in March.

The beginning of his term however comes as the world's second-largest economy faces major headwinds, from slowing growth and a troubled real estate sector to a declining birth rate. The re-election "confirmed your high political authority, and the wide support for the path you have chosen", Putin said.

"Under your leadership, the People's Republic of China achieved impressive successes: the economy is showing steady growth, the well-being of citizens is increasing, and Beijing's position in the world is strengthening," Putin said.

Centre Renames Nehru Memorial Museum, Congress Slams 'Pettness'

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Centre recently decided to rename Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) as Prime Ministers' Museum and Society.

Following this, the Congress on Friday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Centre's decision to rename Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

Slamming the Centre, senior leader and Congress spokesperson Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Pettness & Vengeance, thy name is Modi. For over 59 years Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) has been a global intellectual landmark and treasure house of books & archives. It will henceforth be called Prime Ministers' Museum & Society. What won't Mr. Modi do to distort, disparage and destroy the name & legacy of the architect of the Indian nation-state. A small, small man overburdened by his insecurities is the self-styled Vishwaguru."

This came after a special meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society, resolved to change its name to the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society. The Special Meet-

ing was presided by Defence minister Rajnath Singh who is also the Vice-President of the Society.

Speaking to ANI, Vice Chairman, Executive Council, NMMLA, Surya Prakash said, "The passage of the resolution by the General Body of this Society is not a small step. It is rather a very big step to reiterate our commitment to democracy and to acknowledge our national political leadership."

"Hon'ble Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, Vice-President of the Society in his address welcomed the proposal for change in name, since in its new form the institution exhibits the contributions of all prime ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi and their responses to various challenges faced by them. Describing Prime Minister as an institution and comparing the journey of various prime ministers to the varied colours of a rainbow, Shri Rajnath Singh emphasized that all the colours of a rainbow have to be proportionately represented in order to make it beautiful. Thus the resolution has given a new name, respect to all our previous prime ministers and is democratic in content," the official release has stated.

Delegation Of CCI Jammu Calls On LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: A delegation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Jammu led by its President Arun Gupta, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan, on Friday. The members of the delegation apprised the Lt Governor

on various concerning issues of the business community, besides beautification of Jammu City and promotion of Tourism in Jammu region. The Lt Governor assured the members of the delegation that the issues projected by them will be looked into earnestly for early redressal.

Jammu Stands Out As Top Performer In DGGI 3.0

Framework Assesses Districts On 58 Indicators Across 10 Different Sectors

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday released the 3rd edition of District Good Governance Index (DGGI 3.0) here along with performance of Districts in achieving a set of 385 Deliverables given to them during 22-23.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary praised the whole team of Planning Development & Monitoring Department headed by Administrative Secretary, Raghav Langar for carrying out this massive exercise and compiling rankings right from Panchayats up to District level.

Dr Mehta called this exercise path breaking for adopting an evidence based planning tool enabling targeted interventions. He said that it would assist the administration in evolving a more focused approach towards each sector. He observed that these rankings have helped pinpoint the lacunae in each area of development thereby making the impact of interventions measurable which would lead to better outcomes.

The Chief Secretary termed it a tool towards ensuring good governance in the UT. He urged all the Deputy Commissioners to thoroughly go through these rankings and formulate plans accordingly to fill the developmental voids pointed out in this ranking system.

The DGGI parameters to measure the performances of Districts consists of 58 indicators under 10 sectors. These includes Agriculture & Allied sector having 11 indicators, Commerce & Industry (5), Human Resource Development (9), Public Health Sectors (9), Public Infrastructure & Utilities (6), Social Welfare & Development (6), Financial Inclusion (3), Legal & Public Safety (4), Environment (2), Citizen-Centric Governance (3).

This year the table is topped by Jammu District with an overall score of 6.3771 out of 10 followed by Samba at 2nd place

with a score of 6.1799, Srinagar (6.0045) at 3rd, Rajouri (5.8696) at 4th, Bandipora (5.7651) at 5th, Anantnag (5.7110) at 6th, Budgam (5.4924) 7th, Pulwama (5.2814) 8th, Doda (5.2622) 9th, Ganderbal (5.2588) 10th, Baramulla (5.0285) 11th followed by Shopian (4.9446), Udhampur (4.9332), Kupwara (4.8881), Kathua (4.8179), Kishtwar (4.7800), Kulgam (4.6391), Ramban (4.6354), Poonch (4.4623), and Reasi (4.4608) at the bottom among the 20 Districts of J&K.

Similarly it gives insights about previous rankings and scores earned by each District during DGGI 2.0 as well. Anantnag District has made a quantum leap increasing its rank from previous 17th to 6th this year while as Kulgam has slipped 11 spots to reach 17th this year. Shopian has lost 8 spots to manage 12th rank this year from 4th last time. Pulwama which was at first rank previously has attained 8th rank this time. Rajouri and Bandipora are the other Districts that have done better by increasing their ranks this year from 10th to 4th and 13th to 5th respectively.

The data also shows sector wise performance of each district ranking them on each parameter belonging to a specific sector. Among different sectors Pulwama has made it to top in Agriculture and Financial Inclusion sectors, Srinagar in Industries & Allied sector, Samba in Human Resource Development and Social Welfare sectors, Rajouri in Public Health and Citizen-Centric Governance sectors, Jammu in Public Infrastructure & Utilities, Anantnag in Judiciary & Public Safety and Bandipora had ranked first in safeguarding the Environment.

These rankings were released by the Chief Secretary in presence of all the Administrative Secretaries, District Development Commissioners, HoDs of Planning, Finance and other concerned departments.

MeT Predicts Isolated Light Rains In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for isolated light rains, night temperature recorded a drop at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

A meteorological department official here said that Srinagar recorded a low of 15.6°C against 17.3°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 0.8°C for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 14.0°C against 16.0°C on the previous night while the tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded a low of 7.8°C against 10.1°C on the previous night.

In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 11.4°C against 14.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a low of



13.4°C against 14.3°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 7.6°C against 9.5°C on previous night and it was below normal by 0.7°C for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Jammu recorded a low of 24.5°C against 21.7°C on the

previous night and it was 1.0°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 16.2°C (2.1°C above normal), Batote 16.1°C (0.1°C above normal), Katra 21.6°C (0.5°C below normal) and Baderwah 15.0°C (above normal by 1.3°C).

The MeT department forecast isolated light rains in Jammu and Kashmir till June 17. (GNS)

AMARNATH YATRA

3,000 Pony, Pitthu Wallas Register For Extension Of Services

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: More than 2,900 people, who transport pilgrims on ponies, pitthas and palkis during the Amarnath Yatra, have registered for extension of services ahead of the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine, officials said.

The pilgrimage to the shrine located at a height of 3,880 metre in the south Kashmir Himalayas begins on July 1.

The Yatra has two routes -- the traditional 48-km route through Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Balal route in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

Reasi Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) said the registration process was on from last week after the department invited the service providers who are residents of Reasi.

"As many as 125 pony wall-

las, 1,046 pitthu wallas and 1,733 palki wallas have been registered till date. A total of 2,904 people have been registered," the ALC said.

The registration counter for online registration has been set up in the ALC office, the official informed.

"Interested persons are requested to visit the ALC office for registration on all working days between 10 am to 4:30 pm along with the relevant documents," the ALC said.

CEO Shrine Board Conducts Extensive Tour Of Baltal Axis

GANDERBAL: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), Dr. Mandeep Bandari, accompanied by senior officers of the UT Administration and Border Roads Organization (BRO), conducted a comprehensive tour of the Baltal axis, spanning from the Baltal Base Camp to the Holy Cave.

The purpose of the tour was to assess the on-ground arrangements being made for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2023.

During the tour, CEO personally inspected and evaluated the preparations being undertaken by the concerned departments to ensure a smooth and successful pilgrimage for the devotees.



Accompanied by the Additional CEO, SASB, DC Anantnag, SSP Anantnag, Director Information J&K, Director Tourism Kashmir, SP HQ Anantnag, Director Health Kashmir, BRO representatives and several senior officers from the Jammu and Kashmir administration, Mandeep Bhandari closely reviewed the infrastructure, status of the track, setting up of tentage facilities, toilet complexes, sanitation activities, restoration of water and electricity connections, telecom facilities,

other logistical facilities along the Baltal axis.

The CEO issued directives to all concerned departments and stakeholders to expedite the finalization of all the necessary arrangements within the set timelines. Emphasizing the significance of effective coordination and seamless cooperation, CEO urged the officials to work diligently to ensure the highest standards of safety, convenience, and spiritual experience for the pilgrims undertaking the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

NC Forms Panel To Devise Strategy To Fight Substance Abuse

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) on Friday constituted an 11-member committee to address the "pressing issue" of substance abuse in Jammu and Kashmir, party spokesperson said.

The committee will be headed by senior NC leader and former finance minister Abdul Rahim Rather, he said.

"As approved by the competent authority, a committee has been established to address the pressing issue of drug abuse among the youth of Jammu and

Kashmir," the spokesman said. The committee is mandated to engage in discussions and deliberations to devise effective recommendations for the party's sustained campaign against the rampant drug addiction problem across Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said.

The members include party's Lok Sabha MP from south Kashmir Justice (retd.) Hasnain Masoodi along with Mubarak Gul, Javed Dar, Bashir Veeri, Syed Tauqeer Ahmed Shah, Imran Nabi Dar, Muhammad Shaif, Shafiqat Watali, Harsh Vardhan Singh, and Tejinder Singh.

CS For Making All Villages ODF+ Till Month End



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday emphasised upon the concerned to intensify their efforts to declare all the habitations of J&K as ODF+ within this month only.

He observed that the requisite funds demanded has already been put at disposal of the department so there should be no delay in meeting the deadline.

Dr Mehta made these remarks while speaking in a meeting to review the performance of this Swachhta Mission here in the UT.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Director, Rural Sanitation besides other concerned officers of the Department.

Jammu based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

Dr Mehta enquired from the officers about the status of door to door collection of waste in each village of the UT. He impressed upon the officers to make sure that the legacy waste is also lifted from the villages and dumped at the sites identified for this purpose in each panchayat.

He also maintained that the segregation of waste should be done in each panchayat as per the requirements so that the disposal of same becomes smooth. He told them to sensitize the people about the cleanliness of their surroundings and also penalize those found littering around undeniably at the peril of the environment.

The Chief Secretary maintained that there is no substitute to cleanliness and all have to be serious about it. He observed that the job is for everybody to perform beginning from the self to his/her surroundings. He made

out that the task of cleanliness of our villages is not a difficult task to accomplish if we all do our bit.

He acknowledged that much headway has been made in making our villages clean than earlier. He simultaneously remarked that since the performance on ground has been encouraging the bar of expectations has also raised high. He complimented the Department for its achievements made in making our villages clean and asked them not to lessen their efforts till the last of our villages is declared clean and hygienic in every respect.

He took appraisal from the officers about the status of construction of segregation sheds, provision of Composit/Soak pits, drainage facilities, and disposal of waste in the villages. He also enquired from them about the implementation of Plastic Waste Management plans for he remarked that such a waste creates unhygienic conditions mostly in our surroundings.

The Commissioner Secretary, RDD told the meeting that out of 7163 villages 6384 villages have achieved the ODF+ status in the UT of J&K with a coverage of 87% villages here. She stressed on making every village a model category village in coming months for the same is within target after the given infrastructure is created in each Panchayat.

On the occasion the Director, Rural Sanitation gave presentation on the current status of all the initiatives taken under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen in the UT. He gave out that the door-to-door collection of waste is going on in every village. He further revealed that Solid Waste Management (SWM) plan has been formulated for every Panchayat besides bye-laws for advisory committees enforcement and monitoring purpose.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433760, 2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>
Email: jakbopee@gmail.com / helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- Admission to the Bachelor of Engineering & Technology Courses, 2023 in the Government /Private Colleges/Institutions of UTs of J&K.

Reference: i) Notification No. 022-BOPEE of 2023 dated 02-04-2023.
ii) Notice No. 005-BOPEE of 2023 dated 22-04-2023.
iii) Notice No. 008-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20-05-2023.

**NOTICE NO.012-BOPEE OF 2023
DATED: 16-06-2023**

Pursuant to Notification No. 022-BOPEE of 2023 dated 02-04-2023 and Notice No. 005-BOPEE of 2023 dated 22-04-2023 followed by Notice No. 008-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20-05-2023, it is hereby notified for information of all the applicants who have applied for admission to the Bachelor of Engineering and Technology Courses-2023 in the Government/Private Institutions of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, that the Board shall conduct the Counseling for admission to such Courses on the basis of merit secured by the candidates in the Qualifying Examination i.e. 10+2. However, the schedule for conduct of counseling (physical) shall be notified separately.

Further, the applicants who have failed to upload their Marks Card due to non declaration of their results of Qualifying Examination (10+2) or for any other reason during the submission of the online applications are advised to visit the BOPEE website regularly for submission/uploading of their Marks Cards.

The other terms and conditions/eligibility shall, however, remain the same as notified vide Notification No.022-BOPEE of 2023 dated 02-04-2023 and the e-Information Brochure available on website of the Board. (www.jkbopee.gov.in)

E & O E

No. BOPEE/Exam-12/2023
Dated: 16-06-2023

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations
J&K, BOPEE

**DIPK-NB-1329-23
DT: 16/06/2023**

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY PANCHAYAT HALQA KANISPOORA-A

Subject: Publication of Eligible/Ineligible PMAY (G) Beneficiaries List as per Non-SECC PWL: Inviting of Objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to general public, stake holders through the medium of this notice that proposed PMAY(G) beneficiaries mentioned below for the year 2023-24 identified and finalized from the Non-SECC Permanent Wait List (PWL) by the Halqa Panchayat and Block level verification committee, for objections (if any) are hereby invited and shall be submitted in the office or Halqa Panchayat Kanispora/BDO Office Baramulla in devised format (copy enclosed) under proper receipt within seven days from the issuance of this notification; thereafter no objections whatsoever shall be entertained.

S.No	Block	Panchayat Halqa	Name of Beneficiary	Parentage	Recommendation
1	Baramulla	Kanispora-B	Nisar Ahmad Sheikh	Mohammad Akbar Sheikh	Eligible as per PMAY(G) Guidelines
2	Baramulla	Kanispora-B	Tariq Ahmad Ganai	Ghulam Ahmad Ganai	
3	Baramulla	Kanispora-B	Shahid-ul-Islam	Bashir Ahmad Lone	
4	Baramulla	Kanispora-B	Tanveer Ahmad Gojree	Ghulam Mohammad Gojree	

Further, the below mentioned households from PMAY(G) Non-SECC PWL were found ineligible/non-deserving by the Halqa Panchayat and Block level verification committee and objections (if any) from general public in general and stake holders in particular shall also be submitted in the office of Halqa Panchayat Kanispora/BDO Office Baramulla in devised format (copy enclosed) under proper receipt within seven days from the issuance of this notification; thereafter no objections whatsoever shall be entertained.

S.No	Block	Panchayat Halqa	Name of Beneficiary	Parentage	Recommendation	Reason of Ineligibility
1	Baramulla	Kanispora-B	Shabir Ahmad Dar	Ghulam Qadir Dar	Ineligible as per PMAY(G) Guidelines	Already Having Pucca House
2	Baramulla	Kanispora-B	Nazir Ahmad Ganai	Abdul Gaffar Ganai		Already Having Pucca House
3	Baramulla	Kanispora-A	Riyaz Ahmad Khan	Abdul Samad Khan		Benefitted Earlier under IAY (2012-13) as Upgr.
4	Baramulla	Kanispora-A	Hilal Ahmad Sheikh	Abdul Razak Sheikh		Already Having Pucca House
5	Baramulla	Kanispora-A	Abdul Aziz Chopan	Abdul Gaffar Chopan		Already Having Pucca House

No. - HP/KA/2023-24/47-54
Dated: - 06-2023

**DIPK-3598-23
DT: 16/06/2023**

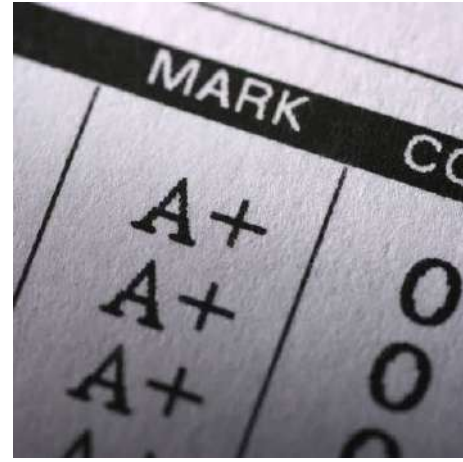
Panchayat Secretary
Kanispora

All About 'Good' Grades

Every hour one student commits suicide in India, an average of Twenty-eight students commit suicide every 24 hours during 2022. India saw 1.3 Lac suicides in 2022, of which students made up 8%, while 10% of them were unemployed people.

Imagine a situation where you are fed with the ill-notion that your grades and percentage scored will determine the kind of person you will become in life. Imagine that your academic score will determine the courses which you can opt for and the ones you can't, the colleges or educational institutions you will be admitted to or dropped out from. When the stakes are so high and when the entire course of your life seems to be determined by the examination you are sitting for, the reasons for getting stressed, anxious and even depressed are more than justified. It is not only about these facets of life that hinge on the pivot of grades, but to aggravate the matter, parental and peer pressure cumulates the existing stress and pushes students to the boundary, where, according to reports, "two-thirds (66%) of students reported that their parents pressurize them for better academic performance" and "every day, 6.23 students commit suicide due to peer pressure". These are no empty numbers to be brushed under the carpet, they are instead the most vital indicators of social health and have relevance in pointing out the direction we are headed towards – and unfortunately the direction is one of self-annihilation and the creation of suicide regime. These figures clearly reveal that education, instead of bringing intellectual liberation and social emancipation, is positing our kids against anxiety, depression and a host of psycho-social problems. A study on the question of high grades reports that "rates of anxiety, depression and even suicidal ideation have spiked dramatically, and academic stress tied to grades is a leading cause of this escalation". If human life has some worth and if it is agreed upon that life precedes and exceeds all grades, marks sheets and percentages, then the issues arising out of poor academic performance deserve a thorough revisit and in order to save our kids from the brunt of undue performance related stress, a deeper understanding of the students' issues has to be gained and an ambience is to be created which addresses the issue at its roots.

The incidents of students committing suicide after scoring low grades are scattered all across the search engines, so are the studies investigating the correlation between psycho-social disorders of various orders among the students and their academic performance. A reference to these has been made above, but what concerns us here are mainly the remedial measures and a change of mindset which engenders these negative episodes among students. The concern for grades and percentage consciousness starts very early in our lives when we witness the classmates scoring high re-



ceiving special treatment, being accorded a special place, presented as an example to the entire class and his/her ability to score good grades presented as a feat of extraordinary importance. On the other hand those, who score low are infamously bracketed as back-benchers and are deprived from dignity, self-esteem and a sense of purpose. Here, at the very beginning, a tune is set which programs the minds to think in terms of grades and percentiles, to associate the meaning of life with the quantum of marks, to evaluate individual worth and merit based on the grades and percentages scored. It is but obvious that a scenario like this can only foster a mindset which stakes everything on good grades and where even a minimal fluctuation in grades amounts to spike in stress and other disorders already discussed. Are our teachers aware of this brute fact and do they understand the precedent and the consequences thereof they set by their words and deeds? If our teachers, the ideals and the most cherished figures in our academic hierarchy promulgate such a mindset and behavioural patterns, how is it to be expected that students won't give undue importance to grades; that they won't develop the physical and mental health issues on scoring low, that they won't think of low grades as the end of life and the end of the world? What crops up in classrooms is only fostered and irrigated at homes, as parents are after kids to score high, so as to add to their social prestige and image, to enable them to boast of the success of their ward to their colleagues, neighbours and relatives. In the midst of all this, parents do not even bother to look at the stress levels of their children and the wreckage their expectations are causing to the health of the children. Figures to this end have already been given, but on the qualitative side, it turns kids into economic entities or the objects of order execution. It erases the traces of human empathy, love and fellow feeling and thwarts them into a system of competition, where the way forward is secured only by bringing others down and an academic version of the Darwinian "Survival of the fittest" is enacted in classrooms.

What is happening in Kota – the pre-

mier coaching hubs of India makes a regular round on news channels and the suicidal cases shakes everyone of us to the spine. Such incidents have now cut across the age barriers and students as young as 14 years are turning to suicides in order to escape the consequences of poor grades. We aren't hereby pleading a case for poor performance or low grades, which if given ascent can undermine the performance and potential of students, and mediocrity will become the order of the day. But what our parents, teachers, students and society need to understand is that poor academic performance is not litmus test determining the rest of the students' life. An academically poor student may have commendable entrepreneurial or other skills which may place him far ahead of his peers. A failure in mathematics may be genius at Urdu, somebody who failed to qualify NEET may one day be teaching and guiding thousands of NEET/JEE aspirants – these are all real life possibilities and openness to these possibilities is the beauty of life and the secret of keep going successfully. There are other aspects, much serious and fundamental on which stands the entire edifice of grading and this system has been for long now surrounded by controversies and criticism. Though we don't intend to venture into the mechanics of this system, but it must be noted that the system is infested with inherent flaws and fallacies, which the experts have been decrying for long now. What follows is that the grades, despite their importance aren't the moot axes of our lives and there are possibilities, beyond grade profiling, where people can excel and achieve the best in their lives. Education has come up as a full scale industry and has emerged as multi-crore business, but the fact is not lost to the readers that we have acute shortage of career counsellors, who could have trained students and parents as to how should one cope up with the ghost of poor percentage and what options are there, within the academia and beyond it, even for those who score low otherwise. Parents have to stop gambling on their kids and need to understand their propensities, predispositions and preferences in order to help them in making right career choices instead of thwarting on them their expectations and aspirations. Students themselves need to be resilient in putting across their life preferences before parents, so that much time, effort and guilt can be saved.

If the readers still think that the numbers on the marks-sheet will determine our prosperity, success and fortune, it is time to look around and see for yourself that the successful and rich don't have much in their marks-sheets.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a Srinagar based columnist

Amir Suhail Wani

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It turns kids into economic entities or the objects of order execution. It erases the traces of human empathy, love and fellow feeling and thwarts them into a system of competition, where the way forward is secured only by bringing others down and an academic version of the Darwinian "Survival of the fittest" is enacted in classrooms

Concentration, Not Dilution

There is no reason why higher education shouldn't have clusters and the positive externalities associated with such concentration, as is the case in other spheres of economic activity

Bibek Debroy

There are 44,000 colleges in India. Often, there used to be arguments about the best. Other than perceptions, the only means of answering that was the rankings undertaken by assorted magazines. Thanks to the education ministry's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), since 2016, we have a better methodology.

Ranking anything is difficult and subjective. What variables? How do we get data? What weights? Are there different heads, or only one aggregate ranking? NIRF uses five broad heads of teaching, learning and resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusivity; and perception. There are variables under each head. That methodology has evolved after consulting several experts. It is possible to quibble about variables, heads and weights. However, that quibbling is pedantic. In the scores, if there is a significant difference between higher education institution (HEI) A and HEI B, tinkering with methodology won't change relative ranking. But yes, if the difference is slight, a change in methodology can jolt relative ranking.

Whenever any such ranking exercise starts, since one knows the exercise isn't perfect, there is a temptation to incrementally improve, as one should. However, any such change makes comparison over time difficult.

The 2023 NIRF rankings have recently been announced. To quote, "The ranking exercise for the year 2023 continues with the practice of pro-

viding a common "Overall" rank in addition to a separate rank for Universities, Research Institutions, Degree Colleges, and discipline-specific ranks in Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Law, Medical, Dental and Architecture & Planning, Agriculture & Allied Sectors and Innovation are two verticals added to the ranking exercise from 2023 onward."

That sounds complicated. But since there are different types of HEI, some complication is inevitable. In list of best-100 colleges, Miranda tops the list, followed by Hindu. Both are old colleges. Miranda was established in 1948, Hindu in 1899. The three constituent colleges that came together to establish Delhi University in 1922 were St. Stephen's, Hindu and Ramjas. Decades ago, say in 1970-s, when there was no NIRF ranking, Miranda and Hindu would still have been counted amongst the best, though not necessarily first and second.

But take something like PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, in Coimbatore. In the 2023 ranking of colleges, it is fourth. It was established in 1963 and certainly, in the 1970s, no one would have mentioned it in the same breath as Miranda and Hindu. The point is simple. A hoary tradition is no guarantee of success. As in every sphere of economic activity, new entrants challenge the old order.

What's the worst college? We don't know. The All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) tells us 24.5% colleges have enrolment less than 100 and 48.5% have enrolment between 100 to 500. To be part of NIRF, there must be enrolment of at least 1000 (there is an exception

for Union-government-funded HEIs). Hence, a huge chunk of colleges wasn't part of ranking. To state it impolitely, they aren't worthy of being ranked. If I have understood it right, 1,288 colleges were worthy of being ranked and NIRF has reported the top 100. Therefore, we don't know the worst among all colleges. We don't know the worst among 1,288. We only know the worst among the 100. The worst of this lot is Scottish Church College, Kolkata. It has around 2,000 students in under-graduate programmes and around 200 in post-graduate programmes. For under-graduate, annual intake is 765. But in the last year for which we have data, 56% graduated. The rest dropped out.

Among those who graduated, 7.3% were placed. (The ratio is almost the same for post-graduate and median salaries are lower for post-graduate than under-graduate.) Those unfamiliar with Kolkata and its history may not know that Scottish Church College's antecedents, as General Assembly's Institution, go back to 1830. The alumni (and faculty) list is impressive and includes Swami Vivekananda, Paramahansa Yogananda, AC Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala, Manna Dey and Nirad C Chaudhuri (not to speak of the fictional Professor Shonku and Feluda). There are many more illustrious names in that list.

All this establishes is that Scottish Church College has a proud legacy. That's no guarantee of a proud present.

In that list of top-100 colleges, there is a clear concentration in Delhi and Tamil Nadu (Chen-

nai, Coimbatore). In other spheres of economic activity, people talk of clusters and there are positive externalities associated with such concentration. There is no reason why higher education shouldn't exhibit similar traits.

There is a famous shloka in Sanskrit. A disciple (shishya) learns one-fourth from the teacher (acharya), one-fourth through his/her own efforts, one-fourth from fellow students (brahmacharis) and one-fourth in course of time. This is mistakenly attributed to Udyoga Parva of Mahabharata. It is not quite from Mahabharata, but from Nilakantha's Commentary on Mahabharata. Especially with urbanisation picking up, why should inclusion be interpreted as establishing colleges in rural areas? Shouldn't inclusion be interpreted as ensuring access for students in centres of higher education that have positive externalities, with geographical centre not interpreted as an individual HEI alone, but as a cluster of those? That's probably what's happening in, and around, Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

As things stand, 61.4% of colleges are in rural areas, not integrated into the education mainstream; 78.09% of students are in under-graduate courses, with one-third in arts. They are not integrated into the economic mainstream and we complain about both unemployment and lack of skills, despite the increase in enrolment in higher education.

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

ADVOCATE-ing for First Generation Lawyers

Ms. Madiya Mushtaq

Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.

- Harriet Tubman

I affirm I am the best one to speak about this. I am a first-generation lawyer, I am based in Kashmir, I am a girl. Given the odds stacked up against me, the journey of becoming a lawyer has been anything but easy. In this deeply personal account, I invite you into my world, where dreams are tested, resilience is forged, and the weight of societal expectations becomes an unwelcome companion. This is the story of a first-generation lawyer in Kashmir, fighting against the tide to find her place in the legal profession.

Harriet Tubman's words resonate deeply within the chambers of my heart. As a dreamer and a lawyer, I have faced countless challenges on this arduous path. Being a first-generation lawyer means charting unfamiliar territories, devoid of the guidance and connections that come with a legal lineage. It means relying solely on personal determination and sheer willpower to break through the barriers that lie ahead. It means not getting paid for weeks on end and working relentlessly without any guidance or accountability. As a girl growing up in this region, societal expectations sought to confine me within predefined roles, limiting the scope of my aspirations. The path to becoming a lawyer is paved with skepticism, disapproval, and countless raised eyebrows. Yet, persistence fuelled by an unyielding desire to challenge the status quo and make a difference is the chemical required to bring change and make a difference.

The challenges faced by a first-generation lawyer are not limited to societal expectations. Financial constraints loom large, threatening to derail dreams at every turn. Senior lawyers do not pay junior lawyers for weeks on end. Not even a minimum basic



wage is given to budding lawyers. In a profession that often values connections and recommendations, the absence of a legal background leaves one feeling like an outsider. The legal fraternity, with its unwritten rules and invisible barriers, sometimes seem impenetrable. Graduating from a prestigious law school like NLU bears no significance. It is disheartening to witness how easily doors open for those with family legacies, while credentials and achievements seem to fade into the background.

As a first-generation lawyer, I quickly realized that the journey would be lonely. The scarcity of mentors and role models make the path ahead seem even more daunting. However, there is some solace in the knowledge that I am not alone. There are others like me, facing similar struggles and fighting their

own battles in pursuit of a minimum wage. Despite the challenges, the sad truth is that the struggles faced by first-generation lawyers, especially women, are often overlooked or dismissed. The legal landscape remains a bastion of privilege, where access to opportunities and upward mobility is not distributed equally. Women face a double-edged sword, battling gender biases and societal expectations while striving for professional success. The weight of these expectations is a burden we carry, silently but with great fortitude.

Yet, within the shadows of adversity, there is resilience. The struggles that come with being a first-generation lawyer, the limitations and biases we face, have the power to ignite a fire within us. We are driven not only by personal aspirations but

also by a deep-rooted desire to change the narrative and create a more inclusive legal profession. Our struggles become the fuel that propels us forward, propelling us to challenge the norms, break the glass ceilings, and carve out a space for ourselves and those who will follow.

The path may be difficult, the challenges may be numerous, but we are not deterred. We persevere, fueled by the belief that our voices, experiences, and perspectives are valuable contributions to the pursuit of justice. With each step we take, we pave the way for a future where the legal profession embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion, where first-generation lawyers are not seen as anomalies but as trailblazers.

As I reflect on my journey as a first-generation lawyer in Kashmir, I am reminded of

the countless others who walk similar paths, facing their own set of trials and tribulations. Our collective struggles bind us together, transcending geographical boundaries and cultural differences. We are a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and the indomitable human spirit.

The struggles are real and profound. The weight of societal expectations, financial constraints, and the absence of a legal lineage create a challenging landscape to navigate. However, within these struggles lies an unwavering resolve, a determination to overcome obstacles and leave an indelible mark on the legal profession. We are the torchbearers of change, breaking barriers, and challenging the norms. The path may be bittersweet, but it is one we walk with our heads held high, knowing that we are shaping a future where the legal profession truly reflects the diverse tapestry of society.

My ode to all first generation lawyers, know that you are not alone

*It is a road less travelled,
A path unmarked, unknown.
Where dreams unfold and battles fought,
By those who dare to roam.
In shadows cast by doubt and fear,
Where footsteps leave no trace,
The brave hearts venture forth with hope,
Defying odds they face.
With every step, a story unfolds,
Of courage and of strife,
The road less travelled beckons them,
To embrace the unknown in life.
No footsteps guide their weary souls,
No mentors to be found,
They navigate the uncharted realm,
With strength, they stand their ground.
From the corners of forgotten towns,
They rise against the tide,
Their voices, heard through silent storms,
With passion burning inside*

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Did You Know That English Language Offers So Many Different Ways Of Saying 'Nonsense'?

Shashi Tharoor

Considering that "nonsense" literally means something that makes no sense, it seems paradoxical that English offers so many ways of saying "nonsense". Some of them have amusing origins as well, including in other languages. One of the words commonly used in England for foolish ideas, talk or activities was "bosh", as in "that entire theory is utter bosh". Bosh, it turns out, comes from bo, a Turkish word meaning "empty; useless". In similar vein, I would have expected British colonialists in India to create "buckwash" out of the Hindustani "bakwaas", but they never got beyond "eyewash". Or you could tell someone to "stop talking rot", and it amounted to the same thing; something that was rotten could not be consumed, just as an idea that was "bosh" could not be ingested.

An even more dismissive term for nonsense was "codswallop" – which remains one of the most colourful words for describing nonsense. When words or language were dismissed as meaningless or conveying no comprehensible or intelligible ideas, they were called "codswallop". So "his explanations for not turning in his work on time were codswallop" could mean they were unbelievable, foolish or nonsensical. The etymology of the term is shrouded in controversy. The most interesting explanation is that "wallop" once meant a kind of beer and a 19th-century manufacturer of soft drinks, Hiram Codd, made such undrinkable beer that "codswallop" became a derogatory term for a drink you couldn't swallow – hence, by extension, for an explanation or argument you couldn't swallow either. A more prosaic theory suggests that hearing codswallop was the equivalent of being whacked (or "walloped") with a dead fish (a "cod"), and codswallop was nonsense so insulting that it was like being assaulted with a fish. Take your pick – either theory might turn out to be codswallop too!

If Hiram Codd's beer was undrinkable, so too was "balderdash", which also referred to an odd and usually disagreeable mixture of unsuitable drinks (such as a cocktail of beer and milk or beer and wine). No one is able to pinpoint the incompetent bartender who came up with such "balderdash", though. A more straightforward etymology can be found for "folderol", since the French term fol-de-rol referred to a nonsense refrain in songs, usually in the theatre. And the even more evocative "poppycock" comes



from a Dutch dialect word "pappelik" or "soft dung." American equivalents of codswallop – words to describe foolish, empty, specious or nonsensical talk, ideas, or opinions – range from "bunkum" to "claptrap" by way of "flapdoodle" and "hogwash", taking in "garbage", "bull", and its unprintable longer form, as well as "bellywash" and "mumbo jumbo". The British could counter with "twaddle", "gibberish", "tommyrot", "phooey", "piffle", "tripe", "tosh", and "double Dutch". If a Brit considers something to be "cobblers", an American is more likely to call it "baloney". A Brit might say something is "blah" while a Yank might suggest it's "waffle". (And thanks to infusions of Yiddish from Jewish immigrants, a New Yorker might prefer "meshuggas").

All in all, there are many ways to describe something that old-fashioned people used to dismiss as "stuff and nonsense". Some of these terms were born in very specific circumstances. "Bunkum" came from American politics in 1820, when Representative Felix Walker delivered a particularly lengthy and tiresome peroration of limited substance, claiming he

was speaking for the people of Buncombe County, North Carolina. "Buncombe" was pronounced "bunkum", and the hapless county soon found itself, thanks to its political representative, a synonym for pointless speech – mercifully spelled differently. "Blatherskite", on the other hand, is of Scottish origin, and meant a blustering and often contemptible person given to voluble and inconsequential talk. But it was popularised in America by the immortal Walt Disney, whose character Scrooge McDuck liked to exclaim, "blathering blatherskite!"

Of course, if all these terms are too exotic for you, there is a simple synonym for "nonsense" that is perfectly respectable English: "drivel". If you want to be rude, you could dismiss something as "rubbish", or metaphorically urge someone not to release "hot air". But if you wished to react to nonsense in more memorable language, the terms in this article should be more than enough to settle multiple scores!

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

PSALMS OF PEACE

Shabir Sarwar Malik

Sahir is the iconic romantic literary poet known for his sensitivity towards human suffering and his unceasing optimism for a better tomorrow. His intense anti-war poem, parchhayiyaan, visualised apparently by two ordinary lovers, bringing reminiscences of the prime period of the poet & his beloved's ('where journey of our love commenced'); probably conceived by Sahir around 1944-45AD, connects the reader's heart, rhythmically, and concludes on a covenant for peaceful resolution. Since it is a very long poem, and space in newspapers cannot afford rendition in entirety, a carefully selected portion is attempted herein for giving readers an overall feel of this great Urdu poem but please read the original poem of Abul Hai Sahir Ludhyanvi.

*To say and to listen Something
With silent lips,
And fast throbbing hearts
To say the little prayers in stolen moments
Once again two youthful lovers have come beneath the trees
But suddenly the heavy sound of boots
Raps from that end of the field
And the breeze brings the smell of gunpowder
Soft whirl of the spinning wheel gets drowned under the sounds of military bands
Village after village grew sad when young -conscripts left homes
Many sons and brothers will never return
Soaring prices, famishing famines, distressed homes
Sale of fields, flesh trade, naked bodies, tousled hair and deserted pathways
That is what the political oppressors offered
My bleeding heart reddened the horizon
Beneath which the capitalist system put
Two innocent souls up for sale
Forcing them to dream of each other
While seated in aliens lap
Helplessly paying the price of living
-that is either disgrace or gallows,
Living on pyres, their garbs and even dreams are burning
Today once again when clouds of war are visible
Two images have once again come under the shadow of trees
And I am wondering whether
their glowing dreams will
Come to have the same fate.
We were made to die endlessly
But we wish these lovers melodious life
Let our wounds speak, let us rise and tell these political players
That we hate these war-games
Let us rise and tell these war mongers
Our blood is the sacred trust for the new generation
If we fail to speak our land our sky will not be safe*

The madness of the atom will not only burn our forms and figures but our shadows too.//



The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management Department
Zonal Office Anantnag
Bakshiabad, Anantnag-192101
email: amid.zoksou@jkbmail.com

E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF PROPERTY MORTGAGED TO THE BANK UNDER SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST (SARFAESI) ACT 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas, Mr Iftikhar Abdullah Sofi, being one of the Authorized Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd (hereinafter referred to as the Bank), in exercise of powers conferred under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (the Act) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the Rules), issued a Demand Notice dated 25/02/2021 thereby calling upon Arshid Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Gani Bhat Resident of Machewa Yaripora District Kulgam Sole Prop. M/s Sharafat Fruit Co. etal for payment of its dues aggregating to Rs. 59,28,596.00 (Rupees Fifty Nine Lac Twenty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Six Only) outstanding as on 31/01/2020 together with future interest and other cost and charges within a period of 60 days.

Whereas, Consequent upon failure inter alia by the borrower to repay the Bank's dues within stipulated time, Mr Iftikhar Abdullah Sofi as Authorized Officer of the Bank in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the Rules took over the physical possession of the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinafter under section 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002 on 23/12/2021.

Whereas the undersigned as Authorized Officer of the Bank and in exercise of the powers conferred under the Act and the Rules hereby notifies the sale of the Secured Asset detailed herein for realization of the dues on "as is where is, as is what is, whatever there is and without recourse" condition.

Name of the Borrowers/ Mortgagee(s)/ Guarantor(s)	(i) Arshid Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Gani Bhat Resident of Machewa Yaripora District Kulgam (Borrower) Prop. M/s Sharafat Fruit Co. (ii) Nazir Ahmad Bhat son of Gh Mohd Bhat Resident of Machewa Yaripora District Kulgam (Guarantor) (iii) Mohd Altaf Malik son of Mohd Ismail Malik Resident of Machewa Yaripora District Kulgam (Guarantor) (iv) Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat son of Mohd Yousuf Bhat Resident of Machewa Yaripora District Kulgam (Guarantor) (v) Ab. Gani Bhat alis Gani S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat alis Rasool R/O Machewa Yaripora (Mortgagor)
Amount in Demand Notice (excluding interest and other expenses from 01-02-2021)	Rs.66,12,728.35 (Rupees Sixty Six Lacs Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight and paise thirty five Only)
Amount Due on 31-05-2023 (Excluding interest from 01-06-2023 up to date.	Rs. 85,30,399.35 (Rupees Eighty Five Lac Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Nine and Paise Thirty Five Only)
Legal and other Charges Due as on 31-05-2023 Excluding Charges from 01-06-2023 up to date.	Rs. 1,26,200.00 (Rs. One Lac Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Only)
Description of the mortgaged property (Put on sale)	Land measuring 12 Kanal and 15 Marlas, falling under Khasra no. 49 min (08 K 15M), Khata 42 and Khawat no. 09, Khasra no. 172 min (04K), Khata no. 42 and Khawat no 9 situated at Moza Machewa, Tehsil Yaripora District Kulgam,
Reserve Price	Rs.11,15,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eleven Lacs Fifteen Thousand Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.11,15,500/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Only)
Bid Increase Amount	Rs 25000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)
Name of the Branch	Branch Office Yaripora
Authorized Officer/Designation	Juneed Ahmad Wani Designation Chief Manager Authorised officer Contact No.0193222440/ 7006277328
Last Date & Time of submission of EMD and Documents	20.07.2023 up to 04.00 PM
Date and Time of e-Auction	21.07.2023 between 02.00 PM to 04.00 PM
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance/s detail/s by RTGS to Account Number	Account No. 04370700000003 Account Name : E Auction Account (Sundry Pointing) IFSC CODE: JAKAOYARPUR

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) The Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties, except specifically disclosed herein. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The bidders shall satisfy themselves as to the description, condition or accuracy of the details regarding the property/ies given hereinabove.

2) It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The physical inspection of supra property/ies put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders on Bank's working days between 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM up to 20.07.2023 with prior permission of the Authorized officer. Inspection of the documents relating to the properties will be permitted to the interested bidders or their authorized representatives at Branch Yaripora between 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM upto 20.07.2023. The bid price shall be absolute in terms and should not be linked to any reference. Conditional bids shall be rejected.

3) The interested bidders shall submit their offer through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> (the user ID and password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with "https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net") through their login ID and Password. The EMD 10% of RESERVE PRICE shall be payable through NEFT/RTGS/DD (EMD remittance details given above) on or before 04:00 PM on 20.07.2023. Please note that Cheque shall not be accepted as EMD amount.

4) After Registration by the bidders in the web-site, the intending purchaser/ bidder is required to get the copies of following documents uploaded in the web-portal before last date of submission of the bid(s) viz. i) Copy of the NEFT/RTGS/challan, ii) Copy of PAN card/Aadhar Card iii) Proof of identification (KYC) viz. copy of Voter ID Card/Driving License/ Passport etc. iv) Copy of proof of address, v) Duty Filled up & Signed Copy of Annexure II & III attached to the Tender form, without which the bid is liable to be rejected.

5) The interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID and password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may avail online training on E-Auction from M/s E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (Auction Tiger), Ahmadabad: Contact Person; Mr. Ram Sharma, Mobile No. 9978591888/ 9265562818/9265562821/9374519754, Contact No. 079-68136837/68136880. E-Mail ID: ramprasad@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net during office hours on working days.

6) Only buyers holding valid User ID/Password and confirmed payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible for participating in the online auction.

7) The interested bidder who may have submitted their EMD not below the 10% of reserve price through online mode/DD before 04:00 PM on 20.07.2023 shall be eligible for participating in the e-auction. The e-auction of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled date and time as mentioned above by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount" against the Property. In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes (subject to unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each). The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the reserve price) on closure of online auction shall be declared as successful bidder and a communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorized Officer and Secured Creditor.

8) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, adjusting the EMD already paid, within next working day of the acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer and the balance 75% of the sale price on or before 15th day of the sale or within such extended period as agreed upon in writing by and solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer which may not exceed 90 days from the date of auction. In case of default in payment by the successful bidder, the amount already deposited by the Bidder shall be liable to be forfeited and the property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidder shall have no claim/right in respect of property/amount.

9) The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-auction from M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. prior to the date of e-auction. Neither the Authorized Officer/Bank nor M/s. e-procurement technologies Ltd shall be liable for any network problem and the interested bidders to ensure that they are technically well equipped for participating in the e-auction event.

10) The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/additional stamp duty/transfer charges, fees etc. and also all the statutory/non statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc. owing to anybody. The successful bidder shall have to bear taxes on account of the sale over and above the bid amount. The successful bidder shall be solely responsible for transfer of supra Secured Asset in his/her/their/its name.

11) The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest offer and the Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/postpone/cancel the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof. NOC or any requisite document from any concerned authority for registration of Conveyance Deed has to be obtained by the purchaser only.

12) The bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and conditions of e-auction available on the website of M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> before submitting their bids and taking part in e-auction.

13) The publication is subject to the force majeure clause.

14) The sale certificate shall be issued after receipt of entire sale consideration and confirmation of sale by secured creditor. The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the successful bidder. No request for change of name in the sale certificate other than the person who submitted the bid / participated in the e-Auction will be entertained.

(15) The bid once submitted by the bidder, cannot be cancelled/ withdrawn and the bidder shall be bound to buy the property at the final bid price. The failure on the part of bidder to comply with any of the terms and conditions of e-auction, mentioned therein will result in forfeiture of the amount paid by the defaulting bidder.

(16) Decision of the Authorized Officer regarding declaration of successful bidder shall be final and binding on all the bidders. The Authorized Officer shall be at liberty to cancel the e-Auction process / tender at any time, before declaring the successful bidder, without assigning any reason. The conditional bids may be treated as invalid. Please note that after submission of the bid/s, no correspondence regarding any change in the bid shall be entertained. The payment of all statutory / non- statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessments, charges, fees etc., owing to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of successful bidder only. In case of any dispute arises as to the validity of the bid (s), amount of bid, EMD once to the eligibility of the bidder, authority of the person representing the bidder, interpretation and the decision of the Authorized Officer shall be final in such an eventuality, the Bank shall in its sole discretion be entitled to call off the sale and put the property to sale once again on any date and at such time as may be decided by the Bank. For any kind of dispute, bidders are required to contact the concerned authorized officer of the concerned bank branch only.

(17) Special Instructions Bidding in the last moment should be avoided in the bidders own interest. Neither The Jammu & Kashmir Ltd. nor Service provider will be responsible for any lapse/failure (Internet failure/power failure etc.). In order to ward-off such contingent situations bidders are requested to make all necessary arrangements / alternatives such as power supply back-up etc, so that they are able to circumvent such situation & are able to participate in the auction successfully.

(For detailed terms & conditions please refer to website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> of M/S E-Procurement Technologies Ltd.).

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) READ WITH RULE 9 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The borrower/ mortgagor and guarantor(s) is/are hereby notified to pay the outstanding sum as mentioned above along with up 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.

Date: 14.06.2023
Place: Anantnag
Juneed Ahmad Wani
AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK19385GCC00048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkb.com

ADVT

Food Choices Key To Tackling Global Warming, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Food consumption in the five highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting countries, including India, was responsible for more than 40 per cent of global food supply chain emission in 2019, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Nature Food, found that action to protect the planet against the impact of climate change will fall short unless emissions are reduced from the global food system, which now makes up a third of man-made GHG emissions.

The largest emission increase within food supply chains is triggered by beef and dairy consumption in rapidly developing countries, such as China and India, while emissions per head in developed countries with a high percentage of animal-based food declined, the researchers said.

The team noted that the growth of the global population and rising demand for emission-intensive food are likely to boost emissions further.

"A global shift in diets, including reducing excessive intake of red meat and improving shares of plant-based protein—will not only reduce emissions but avoid health risks such as obesity and cardiovascular disease," said study corresponding author, Professor Klaus Hubacek from the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. Yuli Shan, from the University



of Birmingham, UK noted that the agrifood system drives global land use and agricultural activities—contributing to around one-third of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas.

"Population growth, expansion of food production, and an increase in animal-based diets are likely to further increase emissions and squeeze the global carbon budget," said Shan, corresponding author of the study.

The study first author, Yanxian Li, a Ph.D. student at the University of Groningen said mitigating emissions at every stage of food supply chains from production to consumption is critical if we are to limit global warming.

"However, widespread and lasting diet shifts are very difficult to achieve quickly, so incentives that encourage consumers to reduce red meat or buy products with higher environmental dividends could help to reduce food emissions," Li said.

Researchers analysed data linking emissions to consumers between 2000 and 2019, revealing that in 2019, food consumption in the five highest emitting countries, China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and the US, was responsible for more than 40 per cent of global food supply chain emission.

Annual global GHG emissions associated with food increased by 14 per cent over the

20-year period. The substantial increase in consuming animal-based products contributed to some 95 per cent of the global emissions rise, accounting for almost half of total food emissions, the researchers said.

Beef and dairy contributed 32 per cent and 46 per cent of the increase in global animal-based emissions, they said.

Consumption of grains and oil crops is responsible for 43 and 23 per cent of global plant-based emissions respectively, while rice contributes to over half of the global grain-related emissions, with Indonesia, China, and India being the top three contributors, the researchers added.

Office Of The Executive Engineer School Education Division-II-Kashmir

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Notice Inviting E-tenders

E-NIT No:-28/ET/SAMAGRA/Kmr of 06/2023

Dated:13/06/2023.

(Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments Departments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	District	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) Includ. C/O Stores	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion (in days)	Date & time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract	MH of Account
01	Repair /Renovation of HS Murrar	Pulwama	1.06	200.00	2120.00	120	23/06/2023	D	District Capex 2023-24
02	Repair/Renovation of HSS Hawal	Pulwama	2.12	200.00	4240.00	120	23/06/2023	D	District Capex 2023-24
03	Repair/Renovation/Dev. Of Path at HSS Koil	Pulwama	3.67	200.00	7340.00	120	23/06/2023	D	District Capex 2023-24
04	Construction of Boundary Wall and renovation of School Building at MS Mandliana, Pahalgam.	Anantnag	2.74	200.00	5480.00	120	23/06/2023	D	District Capex 2023-24
05	Construction of Boundary Wall at PS Gojwarbasti Narsar	Anantnag	9.46	600.00	18800.00	120	23/06/2023	C/D	District Capex 2023-24
06	Repair/Renovation of UPS Khudpora dogripora	Pulwama	2.80	200.00	5720.00	120	23/06/2023	D	District Capex 2023-24

Position of funds : Committed
Note:-As per Circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Sectorial Finance Department vide No.OM No.A/24(2017)-651 dtd.07-06-2018 which reads as under:-

A) Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e tenders is dispensed with the same and should be obtained from the bidder who is declared first lowest (L1) after opening of financial bids.

B) (i) All bidders have to pay 2% of Advertised Cost of the Work as earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDRPledged to Executive Engineer Education Division-II- Srinagar at the time of uploading of tender.

(ii) The successful Bidder has to produce Performance Security Deposit @5% of contract value in the shape of CDR/FDR of the Advertised cost Pledged to Executive Engineer Education Division-II Srinagar within 07 days after opening of Bids which shall be released after successful completion of work with DLP. This will replace the EMD@ 2% of the Advertised cost uploaded by the Bidder.

D) The earnest money may 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 the specified time limit.

c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

The Bidding documents 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/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

NOTE:-The EMD of 2% uploaded should be as per the date of NIT, before date of NIT Bid shall be rejected.

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	09/06/2023
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents.	From 09/06/2023 to 22/06/2023 up to 4PM
3. Bid submission Start Date	09/06/2023.
4. Bid submission End Date	22/06/2023 upto 4PM
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids(Online)	23/06/2023 at 11 AM Office of the Executive Engineer School Education Division 2nd Kashmir

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document to be deposited in the official Bank Account No.-0148040530000004Gole Market karanagar Sgr. and the bank receipt as per the amount deposited and mentioned against the relevant work should be uploaded along with the other required documents. In shape of bank receipt in favour of Bill deposit/PMPD/Document Fees Samagra Shiksha/ Executive Engineer School Education Deptt. Div2nd. It is important to mention name of Bidder, Name of work and NIT No/S.No on the bank receipt counter file which has to be attached with the bid.

2. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web-site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer School Education Division – 2nd Kashmir (tender receiving authority)/other competent authority to do so.

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 60/120/30 days from the date of opening of financial bids.

4. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a) Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any Modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 15 days after fixation of contract.

5. 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 website www.jktenders.gov.in to 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 vendors.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Besides, original/Photocopies of documents related to the bid are submitted physically by (L1) first lowest bidder before the date specified in para-1. Note - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

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

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of bank receipt in favour of Executive Engineer School Education Deptt. Div 2nd and must be uploaded with the document of the bid. The original bank receipt (cost of tender document) CDR (earnest money) and relevant bid documents to be submitted to the tender opening authority by Registered post/ Courier/by hand before the date of submission of tender/as per time schedule specified by (L1).

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 item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

10. Price escalation and all taxes: - The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work Deduction on account of taxes and other services as levied by the government time to time shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
a) Scanned Copies of original documents defining constitution/legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with registered E-mail address and Mobile No. of the bidder / Firm/SHG.

b) Valid PAN No.
c) GST No. / GST acknowledgement receipt along with latest GST (3B) and GST (RI) shall be furnished in soft copies of ending previous month & quarterly respectively.

BID Securing Declaration On e-Stamp Paper Duly notarized.
"The bidder has to sign a bid securing declaration that if the bidder withdraw / modify during the period validity i.e. not less than 120 (One hundred Twenty) days from the bid due date or if the bidder awarded contract and fail to sign the contract or to submit the performance security before deadline defined in the request for the bid documents, the bidder will be suspended for the participation in the tendering process for the works, for a period of one year from the bid due date of this work. The bid securing declaration shall be submitted as per the Format appendix-I (Format for bid securing declaration)".

Note for Bidders Upload the Documents. S.No.01 to 06 in one pdf file.
Note for Bidders Upload the Documents:-

1.Scanned copy of EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) EMD Uploaded should be dated between the 1st day and last day of bid submission. & Tender document fee.

2.Scanned copy of Registration card with up to date renewal with Verification Certificate

3.Scanned copy of Pan Card & GST Acknowledgement /GST Return (3B) and GST (R) i.e latest clearance certificate from GST-3B & R1 both the latest quarter/preceding month to the issue of NIT

4. Upload the e-stamp paper duly notarized Bid Securing Declaration Form.

5. Contractor to upload the Annexure.A.
6. Bill of quantities (BOQ)

Note:- All the Scanned Documents upload in serial wise (1 to 6).
The lowest Tender will have to submit hard copies of all documents uploaded on e-tendering portal before issuance of LOI or Allotment.

Note for Bidders:- 1 Submission of registered Address/e-mail/GST/PAN/Cell No contact No is must, otherwise bid of the contractor shall be rejected if contact No, correspondence address and E-Mail is not uploaded.

12.2 The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.

12.3 All the documents relating to pre-bid meeting will not be the cause of disqualification of the bid if needed in NIT

12.4 All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
12.5 It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in e-tendering website.

Sd/= Executive Engineer, School Education Div. 2nd Kashmir

No: EDU/SPD/ SSA-RMSA/CW/28-356/23
DIPK-3609/23 Dated: 16/06/2023

Mcap Of BSE-Listed Firms Hit All-Time High Of Rs 292.78 Lakh Crore As Stocks Rally



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of Rs 292.78 lakh crore on Friday amid a firm trend in equities where the benchmark Sensex settled at a record closing high of 63,384.58.

Markets analysts attributed the rally in the markets to the fact that the Federal Reserve did not raise interest rates, while positive global cues and foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turning net buyers of local equities also supported the uptrend.

The 30-share BSE benchmark zoomed 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 63,384.58. During the day, it rallied 602.73 points or 0.95 per cent to 63,520.36.

The Sensex is just 198.49 points away from its lifetime intra-day peak of 63,583.07 on December 1, 2022.

Thanks to the rebound in equities, the market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms reached a record high of Rs 2,92,78,245.41 crore.

The rally in equities also made investors richer by Rs 2 lakh crore on Friday.

The previous record high of the market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms was Rs 2,91,25,007.45 crore, registered on December 14, 2022.

"Bulls at Dalal Street were in a celebratory mood as investors

were happy, with the fact that the Federal Reserve did not raise interest rates, while positive global cues also supported the uptick. FIIs turning net buyers of local shares and the S&P 500 index and Nasdaq Composite flirting near their fresh 14-month highs also contributed to the overall mood," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Bajaj Finserv was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 2.21 per cent, followed by Titan, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, ITC, HDFC, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, HUL, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra.

"Indian equity markets continued to rise along with a rally in the global markets. Sensex and Nifty gained over 1 per cent this week," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equities Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 758.95 points or 1.21 per cent.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.76 per cent, and the midcap index jumped 0.71 per cent.

Among the indices, financial services climbed 1.21 per cent, bankex jumped 1.03 per cent, capital goods (1.02 per cent), industrials (0.91 per cent), FMCG (0.80 per cent), consumer durables (0.78 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.74 per cent).

Sensex, Nifty Hit All-Time Highs On Firm Global Equities, Foreign Fund Inflows

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty closed at fresh lifetime highs on Friday following gains in banking, financial and capital goods stocks amid a firm trend in the global market.

A strengthening rupee and foreign capital inflows further bolstered sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE index zoomed 466.95 points or 0.74 per cent to settle at a record closing high of 63,384.58. During the day, it rallied 602.73 points or 0.95 per cent to 63,520.36.

The index scaled its earlier lifetime high of 63,284.19 on December 1 last year.

The NSE Nifty climbed 137.90 points or 0.74 per cent to end at its lifetime peak of 18,826. Its previous record peak was 18,812.50.

On a weekly basis, the BSE benchmark jumped 758.95 points or 1.21 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 262.6 points or 1.41 per cent.

"Markets surged strongly on Friday and inched closer to the record high, tracking firm global cues. After the firm start, the Nifty index hovered in a narrow band in the first half. How-

ever, a sharp surge in the latter half helped the index to test 18,864.70 but it finally settled at 18,826 levels.

"Recovery in banking and financials combined with buying in FMCG, pharma and energy majors largely aided the rebound. Besides, the continued buying in midcap and smallcap space further added to the positivity," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The buoyancy in the global markets, especially the US, is helping the index to maintain a bullish tone amid mixed domestic cues, Mishra added.

Buying in index major Reliance Industries and HDFC twins also helped the markets to rebound.

Bajaj Finserv was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.21 per cent, followed by Titan, ITC, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, HUL, Reliance Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra.

Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Power Grid and Tech Mahindra were the laggards.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.76 per cent and the midcap index jumped 0.71 per cent.

Apple Leaf Blotch Miner: 'All Types Of Measures Being Taken To Curb Infestation'

Orchardists requested not to panic & follow the ad hoc advisory framed by SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With the diversification of crops as well as the climate driven changes in pest dynamics, some areas of Kashmir valley especially the districts of south Kashmir, have witnessed the emergence of a new insect pest namely Apple Leaf Blotch Miner.

The pest was reported during the year 2021 from Zainapora and other adjoining areas of district Shopian and can be identified by circular necrotic blotches on apple leaf like Alternaria Leaf spot. During high pest incidence the leaf shows multi spots especially in heavily infested pockets, and trees show a burnt appearance from a distance.

The surveys conducted by SKUAST-K and Department of Horticulture revealed that the pest infestation is prevalent in the orchards of some villages of district Shopian, Kulgam, Anantnag and Pulwama. The economic threshold level of blotch leaf miner is 0.5 to 1 blotch/leaf. Dispersal of blotch leafminer to new areas takes place through infested fruits, Bud/graft wood and plant material.

In order to ensure the containment of any further resurgence and to reduce the intensity of the pest, Financial Commissioner/ Additional Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo has already instructed SKUAST-K and Department of Horticulture, Kashmir for working out the strategy of its management and to delineate



the areas into various infestation zones, such as red, yellow and green depending upon the severity of the infestation, so that the pest can be efficiently managed.

Following the instructions, the Department of Horticulture, Kashmir and SKUAST-K proactively initiated a programme and strategy of damage assessment and management of the pest. The strategy involves not only identification of pest hot spots, but also its possible spread channels, its containment and eradication measures and to prevent an imminent outbreak.

In this respect all the viable means and methods both physical and IT enabled will be put in place. SKUAST-K has already developed google form for receiving the responses from various stakeholders, particularly orchardists regarding the presence and severity of the pest. So far 10,764 responses were received through the google form.

The department of Horticulture and SKUAST-K are pre-emptively following the situation and are leaving no stone unturned to eradicate the pest. The teams of officers from Department of Horticulture, Kashmir and SKUAST-K

scientists are regularly visiting the infested areas.

This time also teams of experts are in the orchards of district Kulgam, Shopian and Budgam to provide on the spot advisory and awareness regarding management of the pest to the orchardists. One of the teams visiting District Shopian and Kulgam is being led by Joint Director Horticulture, Kashmir Zahoor Ahmad Bhat.

All types of measures are being taken to curb the infestation. There is no shortage of pesticides that are required for the management of pests as confirmed from Director Agriculture, Kashmir Controller Pesticides. The department of Horticulture, Kashmir, SKUAST-K and Director Agriculture, Controller pesticides are working in cohesion and coordination to control the pest.

This is not the first time that the Orchardists of the valley are confronting the infestation. Some decades back scab had also attained the alarming situation, but through cooperation and coordination of all the stakeholders viz, the department of Horticulture, Kashmir, SKUAST-K and the orchardists, we were able to manage the situation.

Horti Deptt Budgam Creates Awareness On Apple Leaf Blotch Miner, Pests & Diseases



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: A team of Horticulture department Budgam Friday visited Nasrullahpora area in the district to create awareness and management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and other Pests and Diseases in Orchards.

The team headed by Chief Horticulture Officer Budgam comprised of Senior Scientist of Sheri Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) and other

Officers of the Department.

The Chief Horticulture Officer stressed upon participating farmers to follow the Advisory issued by the Department of Horticulture in letter and spirit so that the infestation of the pest is managed in its initial phase.

He also advised the field functionaries of the Department to remain alert and keep monitoring about the status of the management/SOPs followed by the farmers.

Later, the Chief Horticulture

Officer Budgam listened to the problems of the Farmers. He assured them that the department will leave no stone unturned to resolve their issues and the availability of the pesticides will be kept available hassle free to the farmers.

Chief Horticulture Officer on spot distributed advisories amongst the farmers who were present there in the Awareness camp and also directed the field functionaries to upload the advisories in "Farmers WhatsApp Groups".

Man Who Lost ₹ 36 Lakh To Cryptocurrency Fraud Gets It Back After 1 Year

Press Trust Of India

THANE: A mobile shop owner residing in Maharashtra's Thane district, who lost ₹36 lakh in a cryptocurrency fraud more than a year ago, has got his entire amount back after the police cracked the case and found that a Chinese national was involved in the offence, an official said on Friday.

The probe into the case was conducted by the cyber cell of the Mira Bhayandar-Vasai Virar (MBVV) police commissionerate, he said.

Sujitkumar Gunjkar, a senior inspector of the MBVV cyber cell, said the victim was lured into cryptocurrency trading in February 2022 after he joined a WhatsApp group involving cryptocurrency traders. The group administrator, a woman, got in touch with him and sought investments in cryptocurrency promising goods returns. "Falling prey to the tactics, the victim invested the money through a mobile app and bought cryptocurrency worth USD 39,596," he said.

However, in May last year, the WhatsApp group was stopped and despite several attempts, he failed to contact the group administrator, the official said.

"The victim then realised that he has been cheated. After that, he approached the



cyber police and lodged a complaint. A probe was launched and worked on various leads. During the process, the police came across OKX, a Seychelles-registered cryptocurrency exchange," Mr Gunjkar said.

During the probe, the police came across a suspicious cryptocurrency wallet. The police contacted OKX and came to know that the wallet belonged to a Chinese national, he added.

A cryptocurrency wallet is a software or hardware that comes in many shapes and sizes, enabling users to store and use cryptocurrency. Based on the complaint and the inquiry, an offence under section 420 (cheating), 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was registered at the Kashmiria police station, the official said. The cyber cell then approached the local court with the details of the offence and their findings. They informed the court that the victim's money was in the wallet of the Chinese national and the numbers from which the victim was contacted were from Hong Kong, he said.

Govt, Wholesalers Benefitting From Falling Prices Of Essential Commodities, Not Consumers: Cong



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Close on the heels of fresh inflation data, the Congress alleged on Friday that wholesalers and the government are "benefitting" from the falling prices of essential commodities, whereas the consumers are not getting any benefit.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said the government should not remain a mute spectator and wondered why the prices of commodities and petroleum products are not coming down in the retail market.

"Why suit-boot ki sarkar is just acting as a mere spectator and keeping silent when wholesalers and the government are benefitting from the falling prices of the majority of essential commodities and the final consumers are not getting any benefit?" Vallabh asked at a press conference here.

"When there is a reduction (in prices) in the crude petroleum wholesale market by 27 per cent from May 2022 to May 2023, why even a one paisa benefit is not being given to the consumers of petrol and diesel?"

"When the prices of most essential commodities are falling in the wholesale market, why are the benefits not transferred to the final consumers?" he asked.

The Congress leader said when the wholesale price in-

dex (WPI) numbers for May 2023 for vegetables, potato and oilseeds were at minus 20.12 per cent, minus 18.71 per cent and minus 15.65 per cent respectively, the consumer price index on food and beverages was 3.29 per cent.

"Farmers are selling their products at lower prices and buying the same products for self-consumption at higher prices. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modiji, is this the method for doubling the farmers' income?" Vallabh asked.

"This is not the scheme for doubling the farmers' income. By this method, the farmers' income is going to be halved," he said.

The Congress leader also asked why the prices of LPG, petrol and diesel were not reduced in the retail market when, on May 23, the WPI numbers for crude petroleum and LPG had a contraction of 27.01 per cent and 24.35 per cent respectively, and said the government enjoyed all the benefits of this contraction.

Citing official figures, he said India's wholesale inflation in May 2023 fell to minus 3.48 per cent year-on-year from minus 0.92 per cent in April 2023 and according to the government, this was primarily because of a "fall in the prices of mineral oils, basic metals, food products, textiles, non-food articles, crude petroleum and natural gas and chemical and chemical products".

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KHANABAL

Email: xenrbkhanabal@gmail.com

Phone and Fax: 01932-222221

CANCELLATION

Subject: Cancellation of NIT No 30.

Ref: This Office NIT NO 30 OF R&B/Khanabal/2023-24 /E-TENDERING/4626-35 DATED 08-06-2023.

Due to administrative reasons, the below mentioned works which were put to tenders vide this office above referred NIT are hereby Cancelled.

Item No.	Name of Work
1.	Construction of Accommodation for PRI's at Bijbehara Anantnag.
2.	Construction of Treasury Building at Mattan Anantnag.
3.	Construction of 1st and 2nd floor over existing ground floor of additional accommodation of office building near town hall at MC Mattan.

No. 5187-95
Dated: 14-06-2023

DIPK-3608-23
DT: 16/06/2023

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal

UNION TERRITORY JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER

POSHAN PROJECT, PAHLOO, E.MAIL-cdpopahloo@gmail.com

PRIME MINISTER'S OVERARCHING SCHEME FOR HOLISTIC NUTRITION

Subject: Selection process of one anganwadi centre/location kept pending till clearance, Advertised vide Notification No: 01-of 2023 dated:13-05-2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is general information to all those candidates/applicants who have applied for the post of anganwadi worker (sanginis) for anganwadi centre Khaloora-B (Bonpora khaloora) under this office advertisement notification No:01-of 2023 dated:13-05-2023 issued under endorsement No:CDPO/Poshan/PlO/2023/202-2tt dated:13-05-2023, is kept pending/ in abeyance and no selection process shall be initiated till clearance of location/ward number of exact area where anganwadi worker was retired.

No: CDPO/ICDS/PLO/ESTT/2023/585-92
Dated: 15-06-2023

DIPK-3556-23
DT: 16/06/2023

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Pahloo

Enthralling Pre-Events Unleash Spirit Of 'Vitasta Cultural Festival' Across Valley

Cultural Celebrations Attract Crowds At Verinag, Srinagar, Mansbal, Watlab

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The pre-events of 'Vitasta Cultural Festival', commenced here today across multiple locations in the Valley, captivating the visitors filled with high cultural fervor and enthusiasm.

These mesmerizing programmes took place at scenic locations throughout the Valley, especially at South Kashmir's Verinag, the originating place of river Jhelum, historically known as 'Vitasta'.

A series of pre-events were held at numerous heritage destinations across the valley, particularly along the route tracing the River Jhelum (Vitasta). The primary objective of these events is to enhance public engagement and foster a deeper connection with the upcoming three-day

'Vitasta' cultural festival.

Apart from general public and folk artists, the event was graced by the presence of dignitaries including officials from the Verinag Development Authority, Additional District Commissioner Verinag, President Municipal Committee and several other prominent citizens.

Also, the vibrant pre-events were unfolded at Watlab Ghat in Baramulla district of north Kashmir and Mansbal, a scenic destination situated in Ganderbal district, and Srinagar's Sher-i-Kashmir park.

The exceptional events and artistic performances presented during the event included mesmerising art forms such as Bhand Pather, Gujri, Dhambali, Bach Nagma, Rauf and other captivating

expressions of cultural heritage.

It is worth mentioning that the highly anticipated third and final edition of Vitasta Cultural Festival will be held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), on picturesque banks of Dal Lake, from June 23 to 25.

This grand festival is aimed at to carry forward Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's, vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (One India, Great India) under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative. It is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, through North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala. The earlier two parts of the festival were organised in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Pune (Maharashtra).

Meanwhile, the organisers

have announced a set of pre-event programmes scheduled to take place tomorrow (on Saturday) at various locations, including Srinagar's Amar Singh College, Women's College Nawakadal, SK Park, and Budgam Girls Higher Secondary School.

The pre-event programmes will continue till June 21 at around two dozen locations in Srinagar and the surrounding districts, with the aim of serving as a platform for artists representing diverse art forms of Kashmiri folk culture. These programmes would help to showcase and promote the talents of these artists, providing them with an opportunity to exhibit their skills and preserve the rich artistic heritage of Kashmiri folk culture.

King Charles Confers Highest Scottish Honour On Wife Camilla

AGENCIES

London: King Charles III has conferred Scotland's highest royal honour on his wife Queen Camilla, the Buckingham Palace said on Friday.

The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, which was revived by King James VII in 1687, are entirely in the personal gift of the British monarch.

It currently recognises 16 knights as well as men and women who have held public office or who have given a particular contribution to national life.

"The King has been graciously pleased to appoint the Queen to the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle," the palace statement read.

The King's son and heir, Prince William, and sister Princess Anne are also members of the

Order of the Thistle, besides various members of the aristocracy and House of Lords.

Charles turned 74 on November 14 last year but this weekend marks his first official birthday as monarch, celebrations for which fall in early or mid-June as part of the royal Trooping the Colour display of regal pageantry.

The King's Birthday Parade, to take place on Saturday, will involve over 1,400 military officers together with 200 horses, over 400 musicians from 10 bands and corps of drums.

The parade route extends from Buckingham Palace along the Mall to Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall and back again in the heart of London. During the ceremony, the King is greeted by a royal salute and carries out an inspection of the troops.

The parade concludes with

the King joining senior members of the royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace for a fly-past by the Royal Air Force (RAF). The RAF display this weekend is expected to be particularly spectacular as the display planned for the Coronation on May 6 was rescheduled due to rainy weather.

"We have planned a fitting and appropriate tribute for our monarch, that should be a true spectacle for the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth," said Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, the UK's Chief of Air Staff.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) said aircraft from across the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force will take part in a spectacular flypast for the King's Birthday Parade, marking the first Birthday Flypast for King Charles III.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

After Its Recent

a solution to flooding in Srinagar city.



gate was functioning, the wetland was clean. But, the wetland has got much polluted now," Ahmad said adding that those responsible for fixing this problem should act swiftly so that the wetland is not damaged again. According to Ahmad, villagers around Hokersar are worried about the new threat facing the wetland. Villagers, especially dairy farmers who entirely depend on the wetland for the fodder for their cattle, said that the wetland is not only a bird sanctuary, but an important resource supporting their livelihoods.

People's Environment Council (PEC), a Srinagar based environmental watchdog has taken a serious note of the situation and has written a letter to the concerned department urging it to get the new trash gate installed as quickly as possible.

"Last week our local partners informed us that the trash gate for stopping solid waste inflow into the wetland that was installed at the spot where water inflows into Hokersar has been damaged and (has) become totally dysfunctional. Attached photographs show the extent of damage, and seem to reflect a tell-tale precursor of, God forbid, another ecological disaster in the making," the letter reads.

"I am sure you share our concern and the need for early action given that Hokersar is of great local, national, and global ecological, cultural and historical importance. As well known to you, this wetland is not only a significant node of the Central Asian Flyway (CAF), but has been declared as a Wildlife Conservation Reserve by the Government of India (GoI) and Ramsar Bureau. GoI has also shown a renewed commitment to wetland protection in its recent official pronouncements," the letter further reads.

Urging the department to act promptly, the department head has been requested for initiating remedial measures urgently, especially the restoration of the trash gate so that solid waste doesn't find its way into the wetland.

Zaffar Mustafa, executive engineer of Flood and Irrigation department told Kashmir Observer that he and his colleagues in the department are trying their best to install the new trash gate as soon as possible. "Hopefully, we will be able to install the gate within the next three days. We couldn't do it so far because the water level is still high," Mustafa said.

Hokersar is a winter migratory route for 68 waterfowl species like large egret, great crested grebe, little cormorant, common shelduck, tufted duck and the endangered white-eyed pochard visiting from Siberia, China, Central Asia, and Northern Europe.

Pertinently, the wetland has only started recovering since November last month after suffering extensive degradation. Started in 2018, a government project to deepen a flood channel through Hokersar had drained out its moisture and had turned almost the entire wetland into a land mass. The dredging was aimed at providing

An important precondition for the dredging was setting up a sluice gate so that the wetland could retain 3-4 feet water throughout the year. But this important precondition was overlooked for four years and the work for sluice gates was started only late last year. Locals say the wetland had dried up so much that they were able to drive mini trucks on it to collect cattle fodder.

The Ramsar convention cautions against the mismanagement of delicate wetland ecosystems, stating that the "wise use of wetlands is the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development."

5 Infiltrators

media here, the general officer commanding of the army's 28 Division, Major General Girish Kalia, said that based on the input, multiple ambushes were set up along the expected routes of infiltration.

"Simultaneously, the entire area, the LoC fence or the anti-infiltration obstacle system (AIOS), was kept under surveillance," he said.

Around midnight, the movement of militants was picked up by the alert troops who braved challenging terrain and weather conditions.

"The infiltrating terrorists were engaged with precise and accurate fire, and in the ensuing firefight, five unidentified terrorists were neutralised," Maj Gen Kalia said, adding there was no collateral damage.

He said the militants were heavily armed and appeared to be very well trained.

During a search of the site Friday morning, a large amount of arms and ammunition, including five AK series rifles, 15 magazines and grenades, and equipment such as night vision devices and binoculars were recovered, he said.

Maj Gen Kalia said while there is a ceasefire understanding between India and Pakistan, the security forces have been getting a large number of intelligence inputs of likely infiltration from across the LoC in the recent past.

The army commander said the operation is a reflection of the high level of synergy between the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police who have been working tirelessly to ensure that "our beloved J-K remains peaceful and continues to progress on the path of development and prosperity".

He complimented the officers and jawans who took part in the operation, and assured everyone that the security forces shall remain steadfast in our resolve to defeat the evil designs of inimical elements".

Meanwhile, Col Musavi, in a statement, said the terror groups in Pakistan are using the "facade of ceasefire to perpetrate terror" in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The operation clearly establishes the evil design of terrorist groups which are determined to disrupt peace in Kashmir. It also exposes the facade

of false commitment to the ceasefire understanding by Pakistan which has repeatedly been exploited to perpetrate terror in Jammu and Kashmir," the PRO said.

5 Arrested For

Kumar (27), a resident of Udampur district, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne militants from a close range when he had gone to the market to buy milk on the night of May 29. He worked at a circus in the Janglat Mandi area in the south Kashmir district.

Addressing a press conference in Anantnag, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), South Kashmir Range, Rayees Mohammad Bhat said five JeM terrorists have been arrested in connection with Kumar's killing.

"Investigations and searches were launched after the incident. During the investigations, we got some technical leads and some clues. In the meantime, we zeroed in on some suspects and they were interrogated," Bhat said.

He said the investigations pointed at two people, Sehran Bashir Nadaf and Ubaid Nazir Laigroo, both residents of Anantnag town who had gone missing.

"We launched a massive search operation to nab them. Based on technical and human intelligence, we were ultimately able to arrest these two accused after which the whole conspiracy was revealed," he said.

Apart from Nadaf and Laigroo, three other militants -- Umer Amin Thoker, Huzaif Shabir Bhat and Nasir Farooq Shah -- have been arrested, the DIG said.

So far, one AK-47 rifle, one AK-47 magazine, 40 AK-47 rounds, two pistols, two pistol magazines, seven pistol rounds and empty cartridges each, three hand grenades, seven mobile phones and a scooter have been recovered. Further leads are being followed, he said.

Bhat said this group of militants had been working in south Kashmir for some time.

"We expect more arrests and further revelations. This is a classic example of a hybrid terrorist module," he said.

Youth To Play

Housing and Urban Affairs, here on Friday.

The LG called upon the people from every section of the society, all the stakeholders to discharge their duties towards nature and rededicate themselves to realize the goals of sustainable growth.

"Youth will play a crucial role in combating climate change and building a sustainable future. Youth will also lead the communities to reduce the plastic pollution and to strengthen economic, commercial and social activities in our cities," he said.

"Today the earth and the ocean both are facing threat from single use plastic. Efforts of the people and the implementation of the 7R campaign will have to be intensified. We need both technology innovations and calibrated action to reduce plastic pollution, enable sustainable alternatives to ensure success of our sustainable development programmes," he added.

Sinha also appreciated the Jammu Municipal Corporation, individuals, school children and various organizations for their efforts, like Polythene-free Jammu campaign, walkathons, documentaries, to spread awareness against plastic pollution.

Praising guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha said, constant efforts are being made for rejuvenation of cities. Along with the creation of facilities, he said, strict measures have been taken to conserve and protect the environment while citizens are also being made aware of their responsibilities, the Lt Governor said.

"Sale of polythene and single use plastic has been completely banned in J&K. But plastic pollution cannot be overcome only by government orders. Our resolve to make Jammu Polythene-free requires the active participation of every citizen of Jammu city," he said.

The LG also lauded the DRDO for developing the bioplastic carry bag as an alternative to the polythene bags. The innovation, he said, was a significant step towards transforming urban landscape, faster sustainable development and ease of living of citizens.

"This edible and water soluble bag is the best alternative to curb growing menace of plastic pollution. Strategy to Re-orient besides 6R-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Remove, Refuse and Report will provide sustainable option to people and promote alternatives for packaging and designing," Sinha added.

Earlier, Union Minister Suri said that today, Swachhata has become the priority of the government. He said it has become the very principle for effective implementation of all other government schemes, he added.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has converted the challenges of urbanization into opportunities. The Swachhata Andolan, under the guidance of Prime Minister, is leading the country, especially the urban centers on the path of sustainable growth and development," the Minister added.

India Growing

that has Vedas in one hand and Artificial Intelligence in the other. The perfect balance of both is what sets them apart. Excellent collaboration of modern technology tools and human leadership will contribute to the nation building," Sinha said.

He made these remarks while addressing the 6th Convocation Ceremony of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) here on Friday.

Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State also addressed the convocation ceremony.

Sinha congratulated the graduating students, their parents and the faculty members of IIM Jammu for their guidance and mentoring.

"The graduating students are making a new beginning of their life at a juncture when this glorious phase of our country's development and growth have opened up new opportunities, new possibilities for all," he said.

"Building a dream in someone's heart is bigger than building any physical structure in this world. It is the best time for young minds to turn their ideas into reality and create a better future deeply rooted in our glorious past," he added.

The LG advised the students to be creative, focus on self-learning and remain rooted in the ancient values. He opined that artificial intelligence and other digital tools will help new ideas, curiosity and creativity to provide new momentum to nation building, he added.

"Today's youth represents the Indian generation that has Vedas in one hand and Artificial Intelligence in the other. The perfect balance of both is what sets them apart. Excellent collaboration of modern technology tools and human leadership will contribute to the nation building," the LG said.

Termining curiosity, knowledge and action as the three elements that create our destiny, Sinha said that the evolution of India's knowledge society is based on the foundation of these three elements which have been guiding inclusive development and empowering the society.

"These three elements will also lead your way in adding value to existing opportunities, develop new tools and make transformational, economic and social impact in the society," Sinha said.

"Today, future-oriented inventions and AI's potential are making India's tech ecosystem stronger and broader. Business leaders with new business models and latest available digital tools will redefine socio-economic development in the future," he added.

At the convocation ceremony, the LG also highlighted the reforms National

Education Policy and modern IT tools have brought in the education sector.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that young generation is empowered through NEP2020 and a powerful ecosystem of Digital India so that with unique combination of Human Capabilities and Artificial Intelligence, our youth fulfill their aspirations and make the country proud," Sinha said.

He said that human values powered by technological capabilities will transform businesses in future.

"Technology alone will not make the change but modern technology combined with human leadership will be the most powerful tool for prosperity and progress in human history," he added.

The LG also lauded the efforts of IIM Jammu as a mentoring institution and making immense contribution to the socio-economic development of the nation.

"India was known as the golden bird not only because we were hundreds of years ahead of other countries in civilization, culture and prosperity but also because we had the best academic institutions and the entire society was touching the pinnacle of consciousness," he said.

Union Ministry of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship extended his heartiest greetings and best wishes to the students who are graduating from the IIM Jammu.

He said it was a matter of great pride for all the graduating students that they have completed education from a young institution and centre of excellence like IIM Jammu.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter of your life. Be ready for the challenges. Don't remain in your comfort zone. You must not only look forward to becoming job creators but aspire to become wealth creators and contribute to the economic development of the country," he said.

"The responsibility of our great nation, this entire human civilization rests on the shoulders of the youth. Under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the progressive education system and the future-oriented IT reforms are paving the strong foundation for the better future of the younger generation," he added.

Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh said the passing out students today are privileged to be the graduates and post graduates in the era, under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, which is the best time for the youth.

"You are among the earliest beneficiaries of NEP 2020 and will be the celebrators of century India in 2047, which comes with both challenges and responsibilities. Now, it depends on you how to tackle the challenges and discharge your responsibilities," Singh said.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IIM Jammu and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was also signed on the occasion.

Dr. Milind Pralhad Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu; Prof BS Sahay, Director IIM Jammu; Vice Chancellor of various universities, faculty members, and students were present.

Chargesheet Filed

candidate for the said post by abuse of his powers and official position," the spokesperson said.

On receipt of the information, he said, a preliminary verification was initiated which culminated in registration of the instant case.

"Offences punishable under Sections 418, 420, 466, 511 RPC r/w Section 5(2) PC Act have been established and proved against the accused persons and accordingly the Chargesheet was presented before the Court of Additional Special Judge Anti-Corruption Kashmir for judicial determination", the spokesperson added.

J&K To Soon

saw impressive voter turnout. Under the Constitution of India, the State Election Commission is empowered to conduct polls for all three-tiers of Panchayati Raj system.

As per Jammu & Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory whenever Jammu & Kashmir is under the President's Rule under section 73 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Act.

In times of elected government, the SEC is appointed by LG on recommendation of a committee comprising chief minister, leader of Opposition, speaker of legislative assembly, a senior minister to be nominated by chief minister and minister incharge Panchayats.

There are possibilities that Panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir could be held in October- November this year as their five-year term is ending on January 9, 2024.

While the term of Panchayats and block development councils would end on January 09, 2024, the district development councils could also face dissolution with them.

HC Awards

the court said, has resulted in death of the deceased inside the jail.

"The jail authorities have, therefore, failed to ensure safety and security of the unfortunate undertrial prisoner. Therefore, respondents cannot escape their responsibility for the custodial death of the deceased," the court said.

The court said that even though the deceased, Mohammad Ismail Shah, was an undertrial in a murder case, the authorities were not absolved of their liability to ensure his safety and security in the jail.

"A prisoner cannot be deprived of his constitutional rights except in accordance with law. Therefore, the deceased in the instant case despite being an undertrial prisoner in a murder case was entitled to protection by the jail authorities," the court said, adding, "Since his killing took place while he was in jail, he was deprived of his life in contravention of the law."

Shah's untimely death, the court said, has deprived his widow, sons and daughters of his love and affection as also his company, as such, they are entitled to compensation from the authorities whose "negligence" has resulted in his untimely death.

"Having regard to the age of the deceased, who, as per the postmortem report, was 48 years old at the relevant time, and keeping in view the fact that all the children of the deceased are major, ends of justice would be met if an amount of Rs.5.00 (lakh) is awarded as compensation in favour of the petitioners (widow and children) to be paid by the respondents," the court said and accordingly directed the government to pay Rs 5 lakh within three months.

"In case the amount of compensation is not paid to the petitioners within the aforesaid period, it shall carry interest @ 6% per annum from the date of this judgment."

Soldier Dies Of

for factual details about his death", they said. (GNS)

Bear Mauls

died before he could be taken to the hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, the locals have appealed to the authorities to capture the wild bear at an earliest.

Missing Sopore

a police official, as per news agency KNO, said that youth was traced and after legal formalities he was handed over to the family.

Earlier on Friday morning, Hashim's family said that he left home yesterday afternoon and they tried to contact him, but didn't get any response following which they filed a missing report in Police Station Sopore.

West Indies, Zimbabwe & Sri Lanka Head Into World Cup Qualifier Unbeaten

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: West Indies, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka will enter the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Qualifier high on confidence, having won both their warm-up matches ahead of the tournament.

Netherlands and Nepal will also both enter the group stages on the back of victories, with the Netherlands overcoming Ireland while Nepal beat Oman.

Powell powers West Indies to big win against UAE

Big-hitting Rowman Powell's rapid century helped the West Indies defeat UAE by 114 runs at Takashinga, Harare on Thursday.

Nicholas Pooran's 74 had helped the Windies to a commanding position before three wickets in nine balls saw his side slip to 198-7 midway.

But Powell combined with Keemo Paul to put on 139 for the eighth wicket, the former eventually dismissed for 105 from just 55 balls as the Windies posted 374 for nine.

The UAE had a centurion of their own in the form of Basil

Hameed, who batted valiantly to reach 122 not out as his side fell 114 runs short.

Yannic Cariah was again the star of the West Indies attack as he took four for 58 to back up his four-wicket haul in the first warm-up game.

Zimbabwe go two from two after dominant Scotland victory

Brandon McMullen fell one run short of a half-century as Scotland were bowled out for 163 having been put into bat by hosts Zimbabwe.

The right-hander put on an innings-high partnership of 47 runs with Matthew Cross for the second wicket before the latter was bowled by Brad Evans for 32.

McMullen was unable to build another partnership before he was dismissed by Ryan Burl for 49, with late cameos from Jack Jarvis (26) and Christopher McBride (20) pushing Scotland past 150.

In response, Zimbabwe chased the modest total inside 25 overs with six wickets to spare.

Sikandar Raza top scored with 44 from 28 balls while



Joylord Gumbie and Craig Ervine both made 37, with Michael Leask's two quick wickets only providing temporary resistance.

Karunaratne century sets up big win for Sri Lanka

Dimuth Karunaratne made a sparkling century as Sri Lanka handed USA a 198-run defeat in Bulawayo.

Karunaratne was joined at the crease by Kusal Mendis in the seventh over with Sri Lan-

ka 39 for one, before the pair combined for a 191-run partnership to power the Lions to 392 for five.

Mendis departed for 105 from 91 before Karunaratne retired not out on 111 from 100 balls to leave time for strong middle-order striking from Charith Asalanka and Dasun Shanaka, who added 112 for the fifth wicket.

After losing both openers for just 10 runs to begin their response, the USA rebuilt

through Monank Patel who scored 68 before becoming one of three wickets in an over for Matheesha Pathirana to leave USA on 106 for seven.

Shayan Jahangir was left stranded on 63 not out as Usman Rafiq was run out with USA falling 198 runs short.

Barresi guides Netherlands to win

Ireland were bowled out for 193 in the 40th over with Harry Tector, who made a cen-

tury against USA earlier in the week, one of seven players to score single figures against Netherlands as Scott Edwards' side shared the wickets around.

Lorcan Tucker rebuilt from 58 for five in the 20th over, helped by a quick-fire 46 from 25 balls from Gareth Delany, who became Shariz Ahmad's second wicket.

Tucker was stumped by Edwards for 74 off the bowling of Clayton Floyd before Craig Young fell three balls later to Saqib Zulfiqar to bring Ireland's innings to a premature close.

Wesley Barresi's 90 helped see the Netherlands home, with Barresi and Max O'Dowd putting on 89 for the second wicket, though Ireland did not go down without a fight.

Three balls after O'Dowd departed, Noah Croes was also dismissed by Ben White, who returned figures of five for 61 as Ireland reduced Netherlands to 114 for six in the 19th over.

Barresi was dismissed 10 runs short of a century but Aryan Dutt and Logan van Beek calmly knocked off the remain-

ing runs to see the Netherlands home by two wickets.

Nepal hold on to defeat Oman

Captain Zeshan Maqsood rescued Oman after they slipped to seven for four, going on to make a run-a-ball century.

Maqsood combined with Shoaib Khan to steady Oman, putting on 84 runs for the fifth wicket before compiling an 115-run partnership with Ayaan Khan.

The left-hander was dismissed for 109 as Sompal Kami struck twice in the penultimate over before Khan departed in the final over for 56, Kami claiming figures of five for 57 to leave Oman 267 all out.

In reply, Nepal made a strong start as opener Kushal Bhurtel scored 101 before retiring as he and Bhim Sharki added 115 runs for the second wicket.

With Nepal needing just one run to win, Oman hit back with three quick wickets as Aqib Ilyas took four for 42 before Sandeep Lamichhane hit a six from the first ball that he faced to secure the win.

2023 Srinagar Premier League Round 3 Begins

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023 Srinagar Premier League has entered Round 3, with the first game taking place on Friday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The match was played between ARCO FC and Novelty FC. The 7:00 PM kick off meant that the contest took place under the floodlights. The match was evenly contested between the two teams, with the half time score reading 1-1. However, ARCO kicked into gear late in the second half to rally to a 3-2 win.



The championship is organised by District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Football Association (JKFA) and J&K Sports Council.

The JKFA on Friday appreciated DFA Srinagar management for organising the first two rounds of the league.

"We would also like to commend Mr. Ahmad Ajaz and his team for his exceptional organizational skills and dedication in successfully organizing this prestigious event," the association said.

Two Matches Played In Inter School Football Tourney



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing 1st Inter School Football Championship 2023, two Round 1 matches of the championship were played on Friday at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the first match, R.S Profiling KFA defeated Asif Memorial Barzulla Football Academy 2-0.

In the second match, Biscoe FC hammered Iqra Educational Institute 4-0.

In today's (Saturday, June 16) fixtures, Friends Football Academy will take on FC Ganderbal at 10:00AM. In the other match, North End Football Academy play Polo Ground Football Academy, with kick off at 11:30 AM.

The championship is being organised by Frisk Film Production in collaboration with J&K Sports Council. The championship is presented by Asawir Jewellers and sponsored by Arise International Academy.

Inter School Sports Events Conclude In Bijbehara

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Inter School Zonal Level competitions organised by the Zonal Physical Education Officer Bijbehara in the disciplines of Kabbadi, Kho Kho and Volleyball for U-14 & U-17 boys concluded on Friday at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Bijbehara.

On the concluding day almost 120 students from High and Higher Secondary Schools participated in these competitions.

Finally in U-14 Kho Kho competitions Oxford School Bijbehara

emerged as winner and HS Gundpora Jablipora emerged as Runner up. In Kabbadi MS Darigund emerged as winner and BMS HP Tawaila was the Runner up. In Volleyball MS Semthan was the Winner, while Public School Bijbehara came Runner ups.

In U-17 Kho Kho competitions, HS Jablipora emerged as winner and HSS Marhama came Runner ups.

In Kabbadi, Public School Bijbehara took first place while Rehmat Alam GB Khalil was the Runner up. In Volleyball, BHSS Bijbehara came first and HSS Marhama was the Runner up.

PCB Casts Fresh Doubts Over World Cup Participation



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board's chairman Najam Sethi on Friday cast fresh doubts over their participation in the ODI World Cup in India, saying it is "subject to government approval", putting the ICC in a bind before the schedule for the mega event is finalised.

Sethi's comments came after every stakeholder, including Asian Cricket Council (ACC) chief Jay Shah, agreed to organise the upcoming Asia Cup in a hybrid model, as proposed by the PCB chief.

"As far as India and Pakistan go, neither the PCB or the BCCI can take decisions," Sethi said during a press conference.

"It's our government who has to decide, just like when it comes to India, it's their government that decides when

they go to play. There is no point asking us if we will play in Ahmedabad.

"When the time comes, first it will be decided whether we are going or not, then the government decides where we will go. Our decision will rest on these two important conditions," he added.

The hybrid model was proposed as the Indian cricket board (BCCI) had made it clear that it won't send its team to Pakistan due to the longstanding geo-political tensions between the two countries.

The approval of the Asia Cup's schedule also meant that Pakistan would travel to India for the ODI World Cup in October-November. The arch-rivals are expected to face off at the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad on October 15.

It is understood that once ICC CEO Geoff Allardice and chairman Greg Barclay vis-

ited Karachi to meet Sethi last month, it was decided that Pakistan won't set any conditions for competing in the World Cup, provided four Asia Cup games are held in the country as they have the hosting rights.

Sethi further said, "We have told the ICC also that if our government looks into the security considerations and gives us permission, we will come to play in India. If they don't give, how can we come and play in India?"

"Even if the government gives us permission, we have to look at the venues and decide where to play. That comes later. Firstly, the government has to give us the nod. It has to tell us whether we can go or not."

The Asia Cup will be held from August 31 to September 17 with Pakistan and Sri Lanka hosting four and nine matches respectively.

Handling Indian Superstars Has Gotten Nitin Menon 'Match Ready' For Ashes

Press Trust of India

LONDON: Umpiring at home over the past three years under the constant pressure put by the big Indian stars has helped Nitin Menon grow immensely as an ICC Elite Panel umpire, preparing him well for his much-awaited Ashes debut next month.

After being inducted into the ICC Elite Panel in June 2020, Menon did majority of India's home games due to COVID-19 induced travel restrictions put in place for foreigners.

He also got to officiate in couple of T20 World Cups in UAE and Australia and he was in England last year for their home series against South Africa, taking his match tally to 15 Tests, 24 ODIs and 20 T20 Internationals since June 2020.

In an exclusive interview to PTI ahead of the Ashes, Menon said it was a blessing in disguise that he got to do so many games over the past three years.

"It has been an amazing experience working in Indian sub-continent in the first two years, doing Test matches and then getting to officiate in T20 World Cups in Australia and Dubai. I



am working with best match officials and players has added to my umpiring experience. I have learnt a lot about my own character, how I behave under pressure, so lots of positives."

Menon is expected to be part of the umpiring team in the last three Ashes Tests. Having done most of games in a pressure cooker environment at home, Menon finds officiating in overseas games much easier.

"When India play in India there is a lot of hype, lot of big stars in the Indian team they always try to create pressure on you, they always try to get those 50-50 decisions in fa-

avour of them but if we are in control of ourselves under pressure, then we don't focus on what they are trying to do.

"It just shows that I am strong enough to handle any situation rather than getting working up by the pressure created by players. That has given me a lot of self-confidence.

"Leading the Indian international panel of umpires at home has also been a big responsibility. I did not have a lot of experience initially (when he entered ICC elite panel) but the last three years has helped me grow as an umpire," said the only Indian in the elite panel.



Man City Set To Release Skipper Gundogan & Mendy

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Treble winners Manchester City are set to release captain Ilkay Gundogan and Benjamin Mendy when their contracts expire this month after the Premier League said on Friday they were included on the list of players who can leave on free transfers.

Gundogan had been silent on his future after leading the club to the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League trophies this season, with the Germany international linked with moves to Arsenal and Barcelona.

The 32-year-old, who proved to be the man for the big occasion in City's historic treble bid, won 14 trophies at the club, including five league titles following his move from Borussia Dortmund in 2016. Mendy has not played for City since August 2021 after he was suspended following his arrest on charges of rape and sexual assault.

The Frenchman, who was signed in 2017 for a fee in the region of 52 million pounds

(\$66.63 million), was found not guilty of six counts of rape and one count of sexual assault in January but he faces a retrial on two other charges.

Man City to face Arsenal in Community Shield on Aug. 6

Manchester City will kick off their 2023-24 season against Arsenal on Aug. 6 in the Community Shield, the traditional curtain-raiser to the Premier League season, England's Football Association (FA) said on Friday.

With City winning both the league and FA Cup, league runners-up Arsenal will play the English champions as the game returns to Wembley. Arsenal finished five points behind City in the league.

Last year's game between City and Liverpool was played at Leicester City's King Power Stadium as the women's European Championship final was scheduled over the same weekend at Wembley. The new Premier League season kicks off on Aug. 11 with City taking on newly-promoted Burnley.

Man United In Contract Talks With Goalkeeper De Gea

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Manchester United is continuing contract negotiations with David de Gea, the club said Friday, after the Spanish goalkeeper was left off its retained list of players for next season. Meanwhile, Mason Greenwood was included on the list, four months after charges against him of attempted rape and assault were dropped.

De Gea becomes a free agent this summer, but could still remain at the club where he has been since he signed from Atletico Madrid in 2011.

"Discussions remain open with David over a potential new contract," United said. Despite winning the Premier League Golden Glove for the most clean sheets last season, De Gea's position has been in question over his ability to play out from the back with his feet. Manager Erik ten Hag sees that as a key quality for his keepers and United

has been linked with a move for Brentford's David Raya this summer.

While De Gea's future remains uncertain, so does Greenwood's despite his inclusion on the retained list.

The 21-year-old striker has not played for United since he was arrested on suspicion of rape and assault in January 2022. All charges against him were dropped in February this year, but he remains the subject of an internal "process" being conducted by United. While there has been speculation about whether he will ever play for the club again, he is still under contract until 2025.

United said in February that it would "conduct its own process before determining next steps." There has been no further official communication over Greenwood's position, other than his inclusion on the retained players list, which was published on the club's website on Friday.



WHO Says Toxic Syrup Risk 'Ongoing', More Countries Hit

Agenceis

There is an ongoing global threat posed by toxic cough syrups, the World Health Organization (WHO) told Reuters, saying it was now working with six more countries than previously revealed to track the potentially deadly children's medicines.

The U.N. agency has already named nine countries where tainted syrups may have been on sale, after the deaths of more than 300 infants on three continents last year were linked to the drugs.

Rutendo Kuwana, the WHO team lead for incidents with substandard and falsified medicines, declined to name the six new countries the agency is working with, while investigations are still underway.

He warned that contaminated medicines could still be found for several years, because adulterated barrels of an essential ingredient may remain in warehouses. Cough syrups and the ingredient, propylene glycol, both have shelf-lives of around two years.

"This is an ongoing risk," said Kuwana.

Unscrupulous actors sometimes substitute propylene glycol with toxic alternatives, ethylene glycol and diethylene glycol, because they are cheaper, several pharmaceutical manufacturing experts told Reuters.

The alternatives are more commonly used in brake fluid and other products not meant for human consumption.

The WHO's working theory is that in 2021, when prices of propylene glycol spiked, one or more suppliers mixed the cheaper



toxic liquids with the legitimate chemical, Kuwana said. He did not say where the suppliers were based, and added that obscure supply chains have made proving this difficult.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers, including those alleged to have produced the tainted syrups that have been found so far, typically source ingredients from external suppliers.

Liberia and Cameroon

Earlier this week, Nigeria's regulator issued a warning about contaminated paracetamol syrups sold in Liberia, although no deaths have been reported there. The Nigerian regulator was testing the syrups, which were not sold in Nigeria, because Liberia has no testing facilities.

The WHO issued safety alerts last year for Indian-made products found in Gambia and Uzbekistan, and this year in Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

It also issued an alert last year for Indonesian-made syrups that were only sold domestically. In-

donesian authorities say more than 200 children were likely poisoned by these.

Three Indonesian-based manufacturers - PT Yarindo Farmatama, PT Universal Pharmaceutical Industries, PT AFI Farma - have had their licences revoked. A fourth, PT Konimex, said it had recalled all of the relevant products and its website says it was cleared by the Indonesian regulator to sell new batches as of December 2022. The Indonesian regulator did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In January, the WHO named four other countries it was working with - Timor Leste, Cambodia, Senegal and the Philippines - to track whether any of the tainted syrups had reached their markets.

There is no current risk to the population in the countries the WHO has named, Kuwana said, either because contaminated medicines had been pulled from shelves or because they never reached the market in the first place.

The countries' governments either confirmed this, said there was only a minimal risk, or did not respond to requests for comment.

The WHO said it has also offered help to Liberia and Cameroon - which recently signalled that it too may have contaminated cough syrups for sale.

Cameroon's health regulator said in April it was investigating the deaths of six children linked to a cough syrup branded as Naturcold. The manufacturer named on the packet is China's Fraken Group, which did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Groundwater Pumping Tilting Earth's Spin, May Impact Climate: Study

Agenceis

Groundwater pumping has shifted such a large mass of water that the Earth tilted nearly 80 centimetres east between 1993 and 2010 alone, which could impact our planet's climate, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, found that during the study period, the most water was redistributed in western North America and northwestern India.

Scientists have previously estimated humans pumped 2,150 gigatons of groundwater, equivalent to more than 6 millimetres of sea level rise, from 1993 to 2010. However, validating that estimate is difficult.

"Earth's rotational pole actually changes a lot," said Ki-Weon Seo, a geophysicist at Seoul National University in South Korea, who led the study.

"Our study shows that among climate-related causes, the redistribution of groundwater actually has the largest impact on the drift of the rotational pole," Seo said.

The researchers noted that water's ability to change the Earth's rotation was discovered in 2016, and until now, the specific contribution of groundwater to these rotational changes was unexplored.

The latest study modelled the observed changes in the drift of Earth's rotational pole and the



movement of waterfirst, with only ice sheets and glaciers considered, and then adding in different scenarios of groundwater redistribution.

The model only matched the observed polar drift once the researchers included 2150 gigatons of groundwater redistribution. Without it, the model was off by 78.5 centimeters, or 4.3 centimeters of drift per year.

The researchers said attempts by countries to slow groundwater depletion rates, especially in those sensitive regions, could theoretically alter the change in drift, but only if such conservation approaches are sustained for decades.

The rotational pole normally

changes by several metres within about a year, so changes due to groundwater pumping do not run the risk of shifting seasons. However, on geologic time scales, polar drift can have an impact on climate, they said.

"This is a nice contribution and an important documentation for sure," said Surendra Adhikari, a research scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, US, who was not involved in this study.

Adhikari published the 2016 paper on water redistribution impacting rotational drift.

"They have quantified the role of groundwater pumping on polar motion, and it's pretty significant," Adhikari said in a statement.

Parents Asleep, Child Falls To Death From 8th-Floor Noida Flat: Cops



Agenceis

Noida: A five-year-old boy died allegedly after he fell off the balcony of an eighth-floor apartment in a high-rise group housing society here on Friday, police said.

The parents of the child were asleep when the incident took place around 5.45 am at the Hyde Park society in Sector 78 under Sector 113 police station limits, they said.

"The family members told the police that sometimes the child would wake up earlier than others and roam around in the house. Today, the child went to the balcony where some planters are kept and above that is the balcony grill where from he fell down," a police spokesperson said.

The child was rushed to a private hospital in Sector 71 but did not survive, he said.

Further legal proceedings in the case are being carried out, police said.

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