

Pak Agencies Trying To Keep Militancy Alive: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: There are attempts to keep militancy, which is "gasp-ing and dying", alive by Pakistani agencies but the anti-infiltration grid along the Line of Control (LoC) is doing its job, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Dilbag Singh said on Saturday.

Talking to reporters after inau-gurating the Jashn-e-Dal festival here, he said the ceasefire under-standing between India and Pakistan along the LoC is being respected "by and large" by both sides. However, there have been some infiltration attempts by militants, Singh said.

"Ceasefire understanding is being respected by and large by either side but in between some activities, some infiltration bids, have taken place, especially in the Rajouri-Poonch sector and the Kupwara sector. We have taken action against the infiltrating groups," the director general of police (DGP) said.

Singh said while some infil-tration attempts have been suc-cessful, the number of militants who have managed to sneak in has been very low. "There are at-tempts to keep militancy, which is gasping and dying, alive through such activities by Pakistani agencies but our anti-infiltration grid along the LoC is alert and they are doing their job," he said.

"Nearly half a dozen similar at-tempts were foiled earlier as well. There were a couple of successful infiltration bids in the Poonch-Rajouri area in which dreaded terrorists | [More on PIO](#)

Power Outages In Kashmir To Continue Till Debts Cleared

PDD Supplies 1200-1250 MWs Against Required 1400-1450 MWs

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As the number of tourists from India and abroad began to rise with soaring mer-cury, Kashmir valley has been experiencing sporadic power outages, as a result of 25 per-cent reduction in energy supply by hydro power utilities, in-cluding National Hydro Power Corporation Private Ltd (NHPC).

A senior official at the Power Development Department (PDD) told Kashmir Observer that J&K faces a 20 to 25 per-cent power deficit at the mo-ment, while the department supplies 1100 to 1200 mega-watts against the required 1400-1450 megawatts.

He said the sudden reduc-tion in energy supply as a result of nonpayment of outstand-ing debts to the hydro electric giants including that of the Union Territory's own power plants, forced the department to resort to the curtailment amidst rise in temperature.

The official further said the crises that might have arisen out of the spontaneous power cuts, will end once all debts are



FILE PHOTO

cleared. The department, he said, purchases energy from hydro power utilities as a commodity.

"We cannot say as to when the crises may end. It's for the centre to take a call on the issue. Our present requirement is 1400-1450 megawatts and despite a 25 percent sudden shortfall,

the department supplies 1100 to 1200 megawatts," the official said, adding the government always makes sure that there is round the clock power supply in commercial areas.

It may be in place to mention that J&K for the past couple of weeks has been facing frequent

only the outer power houses, but UT owned power utilities too have reduced energy supply.

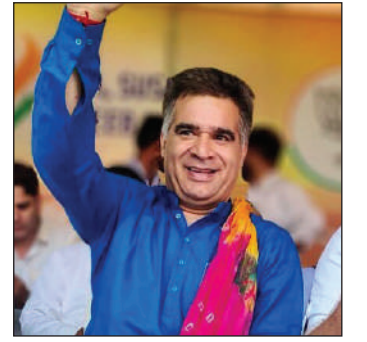
"These issues will continue until the consumers learn to use energy in a judicious manner and pay all outstanding bills without delay. This way, the department will be able to clear the outstanding debts. Required supply is possible when all out-standing debts are cleared. We need people's cooperation in this direction," they said.

Regarding smart power met-ers, sources said that people have to bear with the govern-ment, as there is no other way out to deal with the power pilferage.

"When consumers could pay monthly bills for mobiles, manage other bills, why can't they manage smart meters? Smart meters are aimed at pro-viding uninterrupted supply to the consumers on subsidized rates," sources added.

They also said the govern-ment is likely to provide elec-tricity to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category on sub-sidized rates once the smart meter installation process is completed in the UT.

BJP Ready For J&K Polls: Raina



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The BJP on Saturday said it was ready for assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to the Election Commission to announce dates for the polls in the Union territory.

Addressing a party rally here, Jammu and Kashmir BJP presi-dent Ravinder Raina said, "Former chief minister Omar Abdullah ac-cused us a couple of days ago of running away from elections. I re-quest the EC with folded hands to announce the dates for elections in Jammu and Kashmir."

Raina said the party was confi-dent of forming the government in Jammu and Kashmir as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had worked for peace in the Union territory and welfare of its people.

"BJP is completely ready for the assembly elections in JK. We are confident that the people of Kashmir will wholeheartedly vote for BJP this time. The work done by Modiji for the poor and the underprivileged will make the peo-ple of Kashmir vote for BJP.

"BJP is ready for all elections -- be it Lok Sabha, assembly, or local bodies. No one needs to be scared, the people have to decide and the verdict | [More on PIO](#)

6 THESE ISSUES WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE CONSUMERS learn to use energy in a judicious manner and pay all outstanding bills without delay. This way, the department will be able to clear the outstanding debts. Required supply is possible when all outstanding debts are cleared. We need people's cooperation in this direction."

10,000 More CRPF Men Being Deployed For Yatra Duty

10 Companies Also Being Sent To Jammu To Strengthen Security Grid



Agencies

Srinagar: Ahead of the forthcom-ing Amarnath Yatra, additional 85 CRPF companies are being in-ducted into Jammu and Kashmir for ensuring safety to the pilgrims, official sources said on Saturday.

The 62-day long annual

pilgrimage is commencing from July 1 and the 85 companies in-cluding six woman coys are most-ly being inducted in the Valley, they said.

A paramilitary CRPF official said that 75 of the coys, each compris-ing about 135 personnel, are being deployed in south | [More on PIO](#)

CCTV Cameras Being Installed In Lakhampur

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has begun installing CCTV cameras at Lakhampur, the entry point of the Kathua district, as part of security measures for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, officials said.

They also asked owners of shops and business establishments along the Kathua-Jammu highway | [More on PIO](#)

Sadhus Start Converging In Jammu

Sadhus from across the country have started flocking to the winter capital Jammu to join the annual Amarnath pilgrimage which is scheduled to start in the Valley next month. Over 200 Sadhus, including women, have arrived at their traditional Ram Mandir base camp | [More on PIO](#)

HC Allows Temporary Structures At Sonamarg During Yatra

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has modified its order of total ban on fresh constructions by allowing authorities to raise "temporary structures" at Sonamarg area for the ensuing Amarnath Yatra.

However, a bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi directed the authorities that the structures are liable to be demolished on completion of the Yatra by "restoring the earlier position in the field."

"Considering the fact that Amarnath Yatra is going to commence on 01.07.2023, in order to facilitate and provide convenient provisions and facilities for the

large number of pilgrims who are going to visit Amarnath, which is also for a limited period, as prayed for by counsel for the respondent (government), we allow raising only temporary structures meant for the convenient transit of the Yatris/Pilgrims, which structures shall be liable to be demolished on completion of the Yatra by restoring the earlier position in the field," the court said.

By order dated 27 March 2023, the court had banned all types of constructions in Sonamarg, known as golden meadow. "Accordingly, the order dated 27.03.2023 passed by this Court is modified only for the aforesaid lim-ited period | [More on PIO](#)

Development Accelerated In J&K After 2019: Puri

Observer News Service

Jammu: Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said after the ab-ro-gation of Article 370 in 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing develop-ment in all sectors.

Talking to reporters

on the sidelines of a pro-gramme in Udhampur in the Union Territory, he also hit out at Delhi Minister and AAP leader Atishi on her remark in London that India has the "largest number of mal-nourished" people, saying "they | [More on PIO](#)

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Corporate Headquarters
M.A. Road
Srinagar 190001, J&K

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DIPK-NB-1346/23
Date: 17/10/2023

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CIN: L6510JK9385G000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

Awaam Ki Awaaz

18 June, 2023

ALL INDIA RADIO - J&K | DD - KASHIR

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NewsOnAir

Awaam Ki Awaaz- J&K

www.awaamkiawaaz.jk.gov.in

Dated: 17/10/2023
DIPK-3648/23



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No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Mammals During Lockdowns Moved Farther, More Liberally, Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

During strict Covid lockdowns between January and May 2020, animals had travelled up to 73 per cent longer distances in 10 days and occurred on average 36 per cent closer to roads than the lockdown-free year before, researchers say.

The study findings suggested, they said, that most animals in these locations were exploring more of the landscape when vehicle movement was reduced.

The researchers also suggested that venturing closer to roads was because animals were less fearful of the road traffic or human presence in these regions.

They said their study, published in the journal Science, showed how animals responded directly to human behavioural changes and that it provided valuable insight into future conservation strategies, be-



cause it meant that humans making behavioural adjustments could impact animals' lives positively.

Exploiting the unique, natural opportunity afforded by lockdowns to study the effects of abrupt changes in human presence on wildlife, Marlee Tucker from Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and 174 colleagues collated movement data of

43 different land mammal species around the world, tracked using GPS devices.

They then compared the mammals' movements during the first period of lockdowns with movements during the same months a year earlier.

Altogether, there were more than 2,300 individuals included in the study, from el-

phants and giraffes to bears and deer.

"There were many media reports that nature was recovering during those first lockdowns. For example, cougars were roaming the streets of Santiago, Chile, but we wanted to know: is there any evidence of this? Or were people simply paying more attention to everything while being at home?" said Tucker.

There were several explanations for the results, the researchers said. Fewer people outside during lockdowns gave animals the opportunity to explore new areas.

"In contrast, in areas with less strict lockdowns, we saw that animals travelled shorter distances. This may have to do with the fact that during those lockdowns, people were actually encouraged to go into nature.

"As a result, some nature areas were busier than before COVID-19," said Thomas Mueller, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, who designed the study together with Tucker.

Public Notice

I want to correct the name of my son from Abdullah to Abdullah Shabir Rather in his School records at R. P School Alamdar Colony, Lalbazar. objections if any may submit the same to the Principal of the said School within a period of seven days. After seven days no objection will be entertained.
Shabir Ahmad Rather
F/o Abdullah Shabir Rather
Class 3rd, Roll No 29

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF SPECIAL TRIBUNAL AT SRINAGAR in the case of:

1. Farooq Ahmad Tantry
2. Javid Ahmad Tantry
3. Riyaz Ahmad Tantry
1-3 sons of Late Ghulam Mohammad Tantry All residents of Chaki Duderhama, Ganderbal

Caveators.....
Manzoor Ahmad Tantry S/o Abdul Khaliq Tantry R/o Chaki Duderhama, Ganderbal. Non caveator....

In the matter of:
Caveat application in terms of the section 148-A of the code of Civil procedure.

May it please your honour,
The caveators humbly submits as under:

1. That the caveators apprehend that Non-caveator may file an appeal or any other proceedings before this Hon'ble against the order No.MC/GBL/2023/1311-14 Dated 16-06-2023 and may succeed to get an ex-parte order against caveators.

2. That in the event any such suit or any other proceedings being preferred by the non-caveator against the caveators may kindly be given an opportunity of being heard.

In the premises, it is therefore prayed that in the event of filing of Suit or appeal by the non-caveator against the caveators, the caveators may be put on notice before passing of any order.

Caveators through Counsel
UMAR RASHID & ASSOCIATES

nj

Court Of The 2Nd Additional Munsiff JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS AT SRINAGAR

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
CNR: JKS603-018299-2023 Date of filing 14.06.2023

Gh. Nabi Matta S/o Ab Rahim Matta
R/o Malik Angan Fateh Kadal Sgr

Applicant
Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Applciant
WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Ab Rahim Matta S/o Gh Qadir Matta R/o Malik Angan Fateh Kadal Sgr Srinagar has died on 20-01-2008 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the death particulars, Ab Rahim Matta, in the concerned register of births and deaths.

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

Dated, this 14th day of June 2023.

Sd/-
(AHTZAZ AHMED)
2nd Additional (JMJC), Srinagar

NJ

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-

Roll No: 359259
Class 10th
Year & Session Annual Regular 2006
Registration: 05NKM312258
Name: Shakeeb Ahmad Bahar
Father's Name: Gh. Ahmad Bahar
Mother's Name: Raja Begum
Date of Birth:- 05-03-1989
Residence:- Baharabad Hajin



According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification (Marks Certificate/s), so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 3410333 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/KD/22
Dated

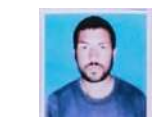
Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.

bb

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2006 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name: sHAKHEEB AHMAD BAHAR
S/o: Gh Ahmad Bahar
Roll No: 359259
Year & Session 2006 Annual/ Regular



Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Board Of School Education
Sub Office Bandipora

bb

Office Of The Executive Engineer (Distribution), Electric Division Kulgam, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited
Contact No/ Fax: - 01931-260386 E-mail: - exenpddkulgam@gmail.com
NIT: - EDK/e-tender/39 of 2023-24
Dated: - 16-06-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, e-tenders (Single-Cover) are hereby invited from Registered Class-A Electrical Contractors for execution of below mentioned works under PRI Grants of District Anantnag 2023-24.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (Lacs)	Cost of tender document	EMD	Class
1	Improvement of LT Network at Lalipora, Wards No's 1,2,3,4,5,6 & of YK Pora A and YK Pora B	Rs.16.42lacs	Rs.1000	Rs.32840	Class-A

1	Publishing Date & Time	16-06-2023 (1700 Hrs)
2	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	16-06-2023 (1700 Hrs)
3	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	16-06-2023 (1700 Hrs)
4	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	30-06-2023 (1400 Hrs)
5	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	16-06-2023 (1700 Hrs)
6	Bid Submission End Date & Time	19-07-2023 (1300 Hrs)
7	Bid opening date & Time	20-07-2023 (1300 Hrs)
8	Venue of opening Bids	Electric Division Kulgam

Position of Funds = Authorized
Please Read Document Carefully
The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted.

Executive Engineer,
Electric Division Kulgam

No. EDK/TS/1003-09
DIPK-NB-1364/23 Dated: 17/06/2023

Sonamarg Development Authority
Tel/Fax: - (0194-241600 Ganderbal) Email:- Sdaofficial@yahoo.com

Subject :- Cancellation of Tender Notice.
Reference:-Letter No.Estates/10-B/DTK/1016 dated 16-06-2023 from Director Tourism Kashmir.

NOTICE

As desired by the competent authority, it is hereby notified for the information of the public/bidders that the tenders issued by this office vide EO No. CEO/SDA/2023/177-185 and CEO/SDA/2023/192-201 dated 02.05.2023 regarding outsourcing of "Collection of Amenities/Sanitation Charges at Shutkadi Sonamarg from different types of vehicles entering in-vogue (Toll Post)" and "Family Children's park (Fish Pond) at sonamarg (Entry Charges only)" through open auction mode are cancelled and fresh tenders will be invited shortly through online mode/e-Auction as per procedure prescribed by the Government.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Sonamarg Development Authority

No:- CEO/SDA/2023-24/ 625-28.
DIPK-NB-1366/23 Dated:-17-06-2023

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Public Health Engineering Division, Bijbehara
e-mail :phebeijbehara230@gmail.com

SHORT TERM ---YATRA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No.:- 33/PHE/BJJof 2023-24 [e-Tendering]
Dated :-16.06.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in SingleCoverSystem) are invited on percentage basis from approved and registered Govt. contractors, for the works mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Time of completion	Earnest money. (in Rs)	Class of Contractor	M.H	Cost of Tender doc. (in Rs)
1	Construction of Steel Truss 0.40 lac gallons SSFP at mamal under Shri Amar Nathji Yatra 2023 (Under Plan Capex)	8.82	15 days	26,460	CEE DEE	Plan Capex Budget	600
2	Laying / fitting of pipes and carriage of pipe material GI/ HDPE through various stations under ISANJAY 2023	Unit Rate Basis	Yatra period	15,000	DEE	REVEX	200

01. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q). Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.
02. Bids must be uploaded on Jktenders.gov.in with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (Tender receiving authority).
03. Earnest Money equivalent to 3% of advertised cost shall have to be uploaded by the tenderer in shape of CDR/FDR/G without which the tender shall not be entertained.
04. The quantity of items in the BOQ are purely on tentative basis just to arrive at a genuine / exact comparative cost. The quantity of items in the BOQ can increase or decrease and shall not be mentioned in the tender.
05. The successful bidder shall have to respond within the minimum possible time (not more than 03 hours) to execute the requisite job falling which the Engineer in-charge or the authorized supervisory staff shall be at liberty to get the job executed / completed through any other means on the risk and cost of the allottee. If the allottee will fail to respond time continuously for 03 turns his contract shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the job shall be put to fresh tenders after forfeiting of his performance security and shall be debared to take part in any other tendering process of the Division.
06. The tenderer shall have to satisfy himself regarding all aspects like topography of the area, climatic conditions, geographical conditions within the peripherals of the area, before tendering for the stages of the particular area at his own expense.
07. The tenderer shall have to submit the tender online without any addition or alteration in the rate schedule items or any conditions thereof.
08. Conditional tender whatsoever shall be entertained even if the rates shall be below stone.
09. The tenderer has to understand fully the nature of work or works as per proper nomenclature of items of work in rate/quantity schedule in the form of BOQ.
10. The tenderer has to sign a deed at the time of allotment and has to give full details of men and machinery available within or he has to give a written bond duly stamped as per norms of providing men and machinery as required for execution of any of the work or works allotted to him.
11. The successful bidder has to remain in close liaison with the Divisional Office and subordinate sub divisional offices of PHE Division Bijbehara till the expiry of the contract, besides the tenderer shall have to remain available (24x7) round the year as such have to maintain his residence near Head Quarter of the respective sub division, so as to remain available during night hours.
12. The contractors who wish to put their tenders for stage contracts should bear in mind that the works under stage tendering needs day and night operations and has to execute the work or works in all conditions of weather or any untoward situations.
Unbalanced Tender:
13. In case tender of the lowest tenderer is found unbalanced, the successful one shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ Bank Guarantee before fixation of contract as per following breakup within a period of 07 days (from opening of tender), failing which the CDR of the tenderer shall be forfeited

S. No.	Percentage of Unbalanced Tender viz advertised cost on account of low rates	Additional performance security
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2	Greater than 15% and upto 20% below	5%
3	Greater than 20% and upto 25% below	10%
4	Greater than 25% and upto 30% below	15%
5	Greater than 30%	20%

14. Since the maintenance works are of emergent nature, therefore, in order to store supplies the maintenance works/jobs are to be carried out during day and night hours.
15. The Payment to the concerned agencies shall be made as per availability of funds.
16. The items which may not figure in the BOQ but found necessary for execution shall be paid as per SSR or lowest market rates decided by the contract committee of the Divisional Level.
17. Work done claims has to be supported with pre, during and post photographic evidence.
The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below:-

S.No.	Description	Date	Time
1	Publishing date of NIT	DD	MM
2	Download start date	DD	MM
3	Bid submission start date	DD	MM
4	Bid submission end date	DD	MM
5	Bid opening date	DD	MM

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
JSPHE Division Bijbehara.

No. PHE/BJJ/3833-54
DIPK-3643/23 Dated:- 17.06.2023

From the Court of principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present : Mr. Jawad Ahmad
Dilshada W/o Late Abdul Gani Hakeem R/o B8 Drabiyar Habba KADAL Srinagar

vs

1. Basharat Ahmad Hakeem
2. Ulfat Jan
Son & Dughter of Late Abdul Gani Hakeem R/o Drabiyar Habba Kadal Sgr
3. Kounsar Jan D/o Abdul Hakeem W/o Javid Ahmad Pir R/o Iddgah Sgr

In the matter of
Application for appointment of Guardian for the person and property of Minor(s)
Notice to public at Large
Where the petitioners(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT for appointment of guardian the person and property of minor(s) namely Azad Ahmad Hakeem S/o Late Abdul Gani Hakeem R/o Drabiyar Habba Kadal Sgr . The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed 03-07-2023
Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the medium of this proclamation that at any one has any objection , he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 03-07-2023 failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same
In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on --

Jawad Ahmad
Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of "D Class" Contractor Card from the office of the Superintendent Engineer R&B Division Kupwara Baramulla . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Gh Rasool Bhat S/o Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Mehmoodpora Wailoo Tangmarg bmg

Public Notice

It's notified for the information that I have lost my DOB certificate issued by the J&K state board of school education with the following particulars.
Name: Rabia Bhat
Parentage: Mohd Yousuf Bhat
R/o: Hafta Yarbala Srinagar
Roll No: 11795, Session Oct -Nov 1978
Under serial no. 11057
D.O.B: 01-10-1963
Now I have applied for issuance of duplicate DOB certificate in the J&K board of school education Baramulla Srinagar. Before the same proceeds and issuance, anybody having any objection may file the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

'Vitasta Cultural Festival' Pre-Events In Srinagar, Budgam Witnesses overwhelming Participation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The jam packed auditoriums of Srinagar's Amar Singh College and Nawa Kadal Women's College witnessed captivating moments on Saturday, as folk artists took the stage during the pre-event program of renowned 'Vitasta Cultural Festival'.

Similar programs were organized at various locations in central Kashmir's Budgam district as well.

The range of these artistic performances included mesmerizing art forms such as Bhand Pather, Gojri, Dhambali, Bach Nagma, Rauf and other captivating expressions of cultural heritage including performances of traditional songs, graceful dances and other presentations.

The artistic performances highlighted a diverse range of fascinating art forms of Jammu and Kashmir's rich cultural heritage and traditional legacy.

Pertinently, a range of pre-event programs featuring cultural performances and exhibitions of Jammu and Kashmir's heritage are currently being held in various locations across the Valley. These events aim to encourage active public participation and foster a bond with the upcoming three-day 'Vitasta cultural festival', which

is scheduled to be held at the esteemed Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) from June 23 to 25.

The prestigious festival, along with its pre-events, is being organized by the Union Ministry of Culture, through the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala. One of the primary purposes of this festival is 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.

Additionally, the festival aims to serve as a platform for artists representing diverse art forms of Kashmiri folk culture and provide them with a valuable opportunity to display their skills while also contributing towards preservation and promotion of illustrious artistic heritage that characterizes Kashmiri folk culture.

Meanwhile, the organizers have announced a range of pre-events scheduled to take place at various picturesque spots in Srinagar and elsewhere tomorrow (on Sunday). The venues included Srinagar's Kong Posh Park, Zero Bridge, Zabarwan Park, and Badamwari Garden, as well as the scenic Alusteng village in central Kashmir's Ganderbal



Director General of Police J&K, Dilbag Singh Inaugurates Jashn-e-Dal Festival at world famous Dal Lake in Srinagar on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

13 Children Rescued From 'Unregistered' Orphanage In Srinagar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: At least thirteen children were rescued during a raid from an 'unregistered' orphanage at Lawaypora area on the outskirts of Srinagar, following the death of an inmate under mysterious circumstances.

Police along with child rights organizations raided Al Muzamil Welfare Trust at Lawaypora area and evacuated thirteen minor children.

Action comes following the mysterious death of an inmate in the orphanage, which was operating illegally for years,

Chairman Child Welfare Committee, Dr Khair-un-Nissa told Kashmir Observer.

"I had also served a legal notice to the owner of the so-called orphanage during my visit; however the trustees failed to respond, prompting us to conduct a surprise raid. This orphanage was being run illegally and action warranted under will be initiated against the owners very soon," she added.

She also said that police have also taken cognizance of the mysterious death of the inmate and have set investigation into motion. She said few suspects have

also been detained for questioning in connection with the case.

"The joint raid was conducted late last evening after an inmate died under mysterious circumstances, while three children who were rescued disclosed the owners of the trust had taken them to some unknown location. Police are investigating the matter," Khair-un-Nissa said.

A police official while confirming the action said that thirteen children were evacuated from the orphanage while investigations have been taken up into the mysterious death of an inmate of the said illegal orphanage.

Over 17000 Presumptive Tests For TB Detection Conducted Till May 2023

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As many as 17448 Presumptive Examination for Tuberculosis detection were conducted from January to May this year by District TB Society Srinagar.

A total of 38223 such tests were also conducted during the year 2022. It was also given out that Srinagar is well on the path to become TB Free District shortly.

The information was given during a meeting of District TB Control Society held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Com-

missioner Srinagar (DC) Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at DC Office Complex to accelerate the progress towards TB elimination from the District. DC Srinagar also took appraisal about implementation of Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative launched under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan to provide additional patient support to improve treatment outcomes of TB patients.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman District TB Control Society, was given a detailed appraisal about Public

and Private Sector engagement under National TB Elimination Program in the District through a PowerPoint Presentation.

The DC took a detailed overview of the Program activities including TB Notification achievement against the set targets for 2023 (Jan-May), TB Cases Notified by DTC Srinagar, Presumptive TB Testing done, Number of Presumptive TB Examined/Enrolled for Diagnosis at PHIs & MC. The DC was also briefed about Screening conducted for Comorbidities and TB Elimination Strategy.

Kerala Library Advisory Committee Members Visits SPS Library

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kerala Library Advisory Committee members visited SPS Library complex here today.

The visiting delegation comprised Legislators, K Ansan and K J Maxi; Secretary Kerala, Niyamasabha, A M Basheer; Librarian, M R Indu, Assistant Librarian, Shameena S and other officials of the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

The members of the delegation visited Oriental Research Library and vari-

ous sections of SPS Library. They also interacted with the library users present in the complex. The visiting delegation appreciated the huge and diverse collection of Manuscripts and Rare Books maintained by Oriental Research Library.

The Director, Libraries & Research, J&K, Mohammad Rafi gave a brief overview of the Public Library scenario in J&K and the new initiatives being taken by the Department to reinvent Public Libraries as multi-faceted hubs for youth development and empowerment.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Branch Poloview Srinagar J&K-190001
T 0194-2476935/0194-2471307 F 0194-2474092
E: polovw@jkbmail.com W: www.jkbank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002.

Whereas Mr. Shah Hussain, as the Authorized Officer of The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 31.01.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Altaf Hussain Laway S/O late Mohammad Abdullah Laway R/O Sanat Nagar, Srinagar 190005 to repay an amount of Rs. 1,43,59,700.21 (Rupees One Crore forty three lacs fifty nine thousand seven hundred and twenty one paise only) as on 31.01.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of The J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 14th day of June of the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of The J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs 1,48,97,547.21 (Rupees one crore forty eight lacs ninety seven thousand five hundred forty seven and paise twenty one only) as on 31.05.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.06.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)
Equitable Mortgage of land measuring 03 Marlas & 254 Sft and a five storeyed building with an area of about 913 sft standing thereon bearing Khasra no. 53, Khata no. 296, Khawat no. 60 min (New) and 37(Old) situated at Maisuma Mouza Kothi Bagh, Tehsil & District Srinagar (within Municipal limits) standing in the name of Mr. Altaf Hussain Laway.

Place : Srinagar **Shah Hussain**
Dated: 14.06.2023 **Authorized Officer**

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1355/23 dated: 17-06-2023

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd
Impaired Assets Recovery Branch (O490)
Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar
T +91 (0)194 248 1930 F +91 (0)194 248 1915
E: iarb.chq@jkbmail.com W: www.jkbank.com

E-AUCTION/SALE 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 and guarantors in particular that the below mentioned immovable property mortgaged to Jammu the Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch Residency Road Srinagar. The possession whereof has been taken by the Authorized Officer of The Jammu the Kashmir Bank Ltd under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 will be sold through e-auction on 20.07.2023 "As is where is", "As is What is", "Whatever there is", and "No complaint" basis for recovery of dues to The Jammu the Kashmir Bank Ltd Branch IARB-CHQ. The description of property, reserve price and earnest money deposit (EMD) is mentioned herein below:

Names of the Borrowers cum Mortgagor.	M/S ABS Infrastructures Registered Address: Lethpora, Tehsil Pampore, District Pulwama, Kashmir. Partnership Concern of : 1. Mr. Bharat Chowdhary S/O Vijay Kumar Mahajan R/O Shakti Nagar, Jammu. 2. Mr. Ajay Chowdhary S/O Vijay Kumar Mahajan R/O Shakti Nagar, Jammu. 3. Mr. Prvav Gupta S/O Satish Gupta R/O 74-B/D Ganhi Nagar, Jammu.	
Description of the mortgaged property (put on sale)	Land measuring 74 Kanals 02 Marals along with all civil structures and immovable on the project land (gross block) situated at Ladhu Pulwama.	Reserve price Rs 1173.00 lacs
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10% of the reserve price by way of Demand Draft/Payment Order favoring The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. IARB Kashmir drawn on any nationalized/scheduled Bank payable at Srinagar.	

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 Numbers: 9265562818/9265562821/6352634834). The bids complete in all respects can be only submitted online by or before 19.07.2023 upto 4.00 PM. The e-auction will be held on 20.07.2023 from 2.00 PM-4.00 PM. The contact details of the Bank officials are: Mr. Abdul Rashid Mobile No. +918826117693 or 0194-2481630-35 Extension (1070-1072)

This publication is also a 30 days' Notice in terms of sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read within 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 expense will be recovered from them.

Place: Srinagar **Sd/-**
Date: 15.06.2023 **Authorized Officer**

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info@jkbmail.com; W : www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-1344/23 dated: 17-06-2023

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
28 Zil-Qadah
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:34
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9:29

This Day In History

- 618 - Coronation of the Chinese governor Li Yuan as Emperor Gaozu of Tang, the new Emperor of China, initiating three centuries of the Tang Dynasty's rule over China
- 860 - Rus Vikings attack Constantinople
- 1155 - Pope Adrian IV crowns Frederick I Barbarossa Roman-German Emperor
- 1264 - The Parliament of Ireland meets at Castledermot in County Kildare, the first definitively known meeting of this Irish legislature
- 1316 - Peace of Fexhe: prince-bishop Adolf II of Mark and Luikse towns
- 1538 - Treaty of Nice: ends war between Emperor Charles V & King French I
- 1541 - Irish parliament selects Henry VIII of England as King of Ireland
- 1574 - Polish King Hendrik of Anjou secretly leaves Poland
- 1580 - States of Utrecht forbid catholic worship
- 1583 - Richard Martin of London takes out first life insurance policy, on William Gibbons; premium was £383
- 1629 - Sea battle at Dungeness: Piet Heyn beat the Dunkirkers, commerce raiders in the service of the Spanish Monarchy
- 1639 - Treaty of Berwick: Ends the First Bishops' War between England and Scotland
- 1682 - William Penn founds Philadelphia, US
- 1757 - Battle at Kolin Bohemia: Austrian army beats Prussia
- 1812 - War of 1812 begins as US declares war against Britain
- 1815 - Battle of Waterloo; Napoleon and France defeated by British forces under Wellington and Prussian troops under Blucher
- 1821 Opera "Der Freischutz" is produced (Berlin)
- 1822 - Part of US-Canadian boundary determined
- 1837 - Spain gets new Constitution
- 1912 - The Chicago national Republican Convention splits between President Taft and Theodore Roosevelt; after Taft is nominated, Roosevelt and progressive elements of the Party form the Progressive Party (also known as the 'Bull Moose Party')
- 1941- Turkey signs peace treaty with nazi-Germany
- 1948- UN Commission on Human Rights adopts the International Declaration of Human Rights
- 1953- Egypt proclaimed a republic, General Neguib becomes president
- 1959- 1st telecast transmitted from England to US
- 1977- Space Shuttle test model "Enterprise" carries a crew aloft for 1st time, It was fixed to a modified Boeing 747
- 1981- Vaccine to prevent hoof & mouth disease announced

From KO Archives

Passport Issued, Posthumously

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR: A passport has been issued in favour of a Sopore woman one year after her death. Mehra Begum w/o Abdul Ahad Wandroo of New Colony, Sopore, had applied for a passport on June 7, 1998. But for about two years, the police and CID dilly-dallied the verification of her antecedents.

The passport was issued to her vide No B0921489 this week. But, in the meantime, she had passed away only to mock at the speed at which her case had moved in the state offices.

(Kashmir Observer, June 18, 2000)

Saudi, Iran Foreign Ministers Meet In Tehran Amid Warming Ties



Agencies

TEHRAN, IRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian welcomed his Saudi counterpart at the foreign ministry ahead of bilateral talks and a press conference on Saturday afternoon.

The Saudi minister said he would also have a meeting with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who has just finished a tour of Latin America.

During the press conference, the two diplomats hailed re-establishment of diplomatic relations, which they said would be paramount to improving security across the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has never equated security with militarism, and considers security to be a comprehensive concept, which includes political, economic, cultural, trade and social dimensions between all the countries of the region," Amirabdollahian said.

The Iranian foreign minister added that he discussed a wide range of issues with his counterpart, which included trade ties and joint investments, in addition to accommodating Saudi tourists and pilgrims who may be interested in visiting Iran.

For his part, bin Farhan said "mutual respect, non-interference in the two countries' internal affairs and commitment to the United Nations Charter" will be at the centre of bilateral

relations going forward, with an eye on securing the interests of both nations.

"I would also like to highlight the two countries' discussions on cooperation on ensuring maritime security and reducing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

China-brokered deal
Amirabdollahian and bin Farhan last met in early June in South Africa on the sidelines of a meeting of BRICS, the economic bloc consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

But this is the first visit by a Saudi official to Iran since 2016, when Riyadh broke diplomatic relations after its diplomatic missions in Tehran and Mashhad were attacked after it executed a Shia religious leader in Saudi Arabia.

Tehran and Riyadh agreed to reopen their embassies within two months as part of a China-brokered deal signed in Beijing on March 10, but while diplomatic relations have been restored, reopening the embassy buildings has proved more challenging.

Tehran has reportedly selected Alireza Enayati, a former envoy to Kuwait and a foreign ministry deputy for regional affairs, as its ambassador to the kingdom. But Enayati was absent at the reopening ceremony, and Iran has not confirmed that he has started work at the embassy in Riyadh.

Parents Protest Playing Of Azaan At Mumbai School; Teacher Suspended



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Parents and political activists staged a protest on Friday at a private school in suburban Kandivali after 'azaan' or the Islamic call to prayer was allegedly played during the morning assembly.

While the school principal said that the teacher responsible for playing azaan has been suspended, police said they were conducting an inquiry though no case has been registered yet.

Azaan was played on the loudspeaker during the assem-

bly session of the school around 7 am, some parents said.

Local BJP MLA Yogesh Sagar, who joined in the protest, claimed that it was done intentionally and not by mistake, and the school was trying to shield the teacher who was responsible.

The school principal told mediapersons that the teacher was suspended.

"We promise that this won't happen henceforth," the principal said, adding that Saraswati pooja, Ganapati pooja and Navratri pooja are also conducted at the school.

NEET Merit List:

National Medical Commission Revises Regulations, Physics Marks To Get Priority Over Biology In Case Of Tie

Press Trust of India

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has decided to revise the process for determining ranks of aspirants having an identical NEET score, prioritising marks obtained in Physics, followed by Chemistry and Biology.

This is unlike the current practice of giving priority to marks obtained in Biology, followed by Chemistry and then Physics.

According to the Graduate Medical Education Regulations-2023 issued recently, if the subject marks do not resolve the tie, then draw of lots using computers will be conducted to draw the merit list.

There would be no human intervention in the draw of lots.

The new regulations, notified on June 2, are likely to be implemented from next year.

The National Testing Agency, which conducts the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for admission to undergraduate medical courses, and the National Medical Commission (NMC) will be deliberating on the issue further, sources said.

"In case of tie in marks of the students appearing for NEET-UG, the respective marks obtained in Physics, followed by Chemistry and further followed by Biology in the NEET UG shall be considered; Pro-



vided if the tie were to continue, then draw of lots by using the computer, with no human intervention, the eligible candidates shall be selected," according to the regulations.

The NEET-UG results were declared on June 13 this year.

According to the existing guidelines, if two or more candidates obtain equal marks/percentile scores, the tie-breaker rule is followed to decide their ranks.

A candidate with higher marks in Biology is ranked above the rest. In case of identical marks in Biology, the same rule is applied for Chemistry, followed by Physics. If the scores still remain identical, the elder candidate gets the higher rank.

According to the new regulations, students pursuing MBBS course need to complete it within nine years from the date of admission, while

they will get only four attempts to clear the first year.

The NMC has also stated there shall be a common counselling for admissions to graduate courses at all medical institutions in the country on the basis of the NEET-UG merit list.

"Under no circumstances the student shall be allowed more than four (04) attempts for first year (First Professional MBBS) and no student shall be allowed to continue undergraduate medical course after nine (09) years from the date of admission into the course," the NMC regulations stated.

The student admitted into a graduate medical education programme shall not be deemed to have completed his graduation until he completes his rotating medical internship as per Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship Regulations, 2021.

Dozens Die As Northern India Swelters Under Heatwave

Agencies

At least 34 people have died in the past two days as a large swath of the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh swelters under severe heat, officials said on Saturday, prompting doctors to advise residents over 60 to stay indoors during the daytime.

The dead were all aged over 60 and had pre-existing health conditions that may have been exacerbated by the intense heat.

The fatalities occurred in Ballia district, some 300km (200 miles) southeast of Lucknow, the state capital.

Twenty-three deaths were reported on Thursday and another 11 died on Friday, Ballia's Chief Medical Officer Jayant Kumar said.

"All the individuals were suffering from some ailments and their conditions worsened due to the extreme heat," Kumar told The Associated Press news



agency on Saturday.

He said most of the deaths were because of heart attacks, brain strokes and diarrhoea. Diwakar Singh, another medical officer, said the people were admitted to Ballia's main hospital in critical condition.

"Elderly people are vulnerable to extreme heat too," he said.

India Meteorological Department data shows Ballia reported a maximum temperature of 42.2 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit) on Friday, which is 4.7C

(8F) above normal.

The scorching summer has caused power outages across the state, leaving people with no running water, fans or air conditioners. Many have staged protests.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) assured the public that the government was taking all necessary measures to ensure an uninterrupted power supply in the state. He urged citizens to cooperate with the government and use electricity judiciously.



From Times Square To Niagara Falls, PM Modi's Welcome Messages From US

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK: From Times Square and Niagara Falls to Princeton University and Hawaii, members of the Indian-American community are sending welcome messages from iconic US locations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his upcoming historic State visit, expressing pride over his "inspiring" leadership.

Members of the diaspora and young Indian students are taking to social media such as Twitter to post their video messages welcoming PM Modi, who will arrive in New York on June 20 and will lead the 9th International Yoga Day celebrations at the UN headquarters on June 21.

PM Modi will then travel to Washington DC where he will be welcomed by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden on June 22 for the State visit, which will include an address to the joint session of the US Congress and the historic State Dinner.

"Long live India-US friendship!", "We would like to welcome Prime Minister @

narendramodi for this historic State visit", "Hello and welcome, Prime Minister of India @narendramodi to this beautiful city", "India-US ties are a force for global good" and "The Indian-American community is deeply proud of Prime Minister Modi's inspiring leadership," some of the messages said.

The Consulate General of India in New York is tweeting the special video messages that members of the diaspora are sending from iconic American landmarks across the country.

These iconic locations include the Statue of Liberty, Niagara Falls, Princeton University in New Jersey, Columbia University and Columbia Business School in New York, National Museum of the US Air Force in Ohio, iconic New York landmarks Times Square, Brooklyn Bridge and The Edge, Wright Brothers' Museum in Dayton, Ohio, Liberty Bell in Philadelphia as well as from New England and Hawaii.

Prominent US lawmakers, leaders and State Governors are also sending their welcome messages to PM Modi.

At Least 41 Killed In Rebel Attack On Ugandan School Near Congo Border

Agencies

KAMPALA: Ugandan authorities recovered the bodies of 41 people, including 38 students, following an attack by suspected rebels on secondary school near the border with Congo, the local mayor said Saturday.

The victims included the students, one guard and two members of the local community who were killed outside the school, Mpondwe-Lhubirha Mayor Sevest Mapeze told The Associated Press. An unknown number of people were abducted by the rebels, who fled across the porous border into Congo after the raid on Friday night.

Mapeze said that while some of the students suffered fatal burns when the rebels set fire to a dormitory, others were

in volatile eastern Congo, carried out the raid on Lhubirha Secondary School in the border town of Mpondwe.

The school, co-ed and privately owned, is located in the Ugandan district of Kasese, about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the Congo border.

"A dormitory was set on fire and a food store looted. So far 25 bodies have been recovered from the school and transferred to Bwera Hospital," police said in a statement, adding that eight others were in critical condition.

Police said Ugandan troops tracked the attackers into Congo's Virunga National Park. The military confirmed in a statement that Ugandan troops inside Congo "are pursuing the enemy to rescue those abducted."

Joe Walusimbi, an official



shot or hacked with machetes.

Police said that rebels from the Allied Democratic Forces, who have been launching attacks for years from their bases

representing Uganda's president in Kasese, told The Associated Press over the phone that some of the victims "were burnt beyond recognition."

NEWS MAKERS

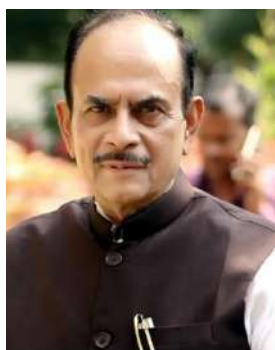
Students To Remove Burqa Before Exam, Minister's "Less Clothes" Shocker

Agencies

HYDERABAD (TELANGANA): A few girl students who appeared for the Urdu medium degree examination on Saturday at KV Ranga Reddy College in Santosh Nagar, Hyderabad were allegedly asked to remove their burqa before taking the examination.

Telangana Home Minister Mahmood Ali condemned the incident and assured that the necessary action will be taken against the perpetrators. However, he cautioned women from wearing short dresses.

"Some Headmaster or Principal might be doing this but our policy is totally secular. People can wear whatever they want," Mahmood Ali said. "Nowhere it is written that a burqa can't be worn. We will take action," he added.



peace if they wear more clothes."

"College authorities forced us to remove our burqa before entering the examination centre. They

asked us to wear the burqa outside," one of the women students who came for the examination said.

A few girl students who appeared for the examination at KV Ranga Reddy College alleged that the college management stopped them from appearing in the burqa. The college staff at the examination centre asked them to remove the burqa, they claimed.

The girl students further alleged that in this confusion, they were prevented from appearing in the examination for about half an hour. While some girl students took off their burqa and went to the examination centre. Following this incident, the parents of the girl students complained to Home Minister Mahmood Ali about this issue.

Ameesha Patel Surrenders Before Ranchi Court In Cheque Bounce Case

Press Trust of India

Bollywood actress Ameesha Patel on Saturday surrendered before the Ranchi Civil Court in connection with a cheque bounce case.

Senior division judge DN Shukla granted her bail and asked her to appear before the court personally again on June 21. The case dates back to 2018 when Jharkhand-based film producer Ajay Kumar Singh had registered a case of fraud and cheque bounce against the actress.

"Earlier, the court had issued her summons many times in the case but she did not appear. Later, the court issued a warrant against her," said the complainant's advocate Vijaya Lakshmi Srivastava. According to the complaint, Singh had transferred Rs 2.5 crore to the actor's bank account for the production of a movie titled "Desi Magic". Patel, however, did not proceed with the film later. She sent a cheque of Rs 2.50 crore but it had bounced.

The Supreme Court in August 2022 stayed criminal proceedings for the offence of cheating and criminal breach of trust against Patel in connection with summons issued by the trial court in Jharkhand. The top court had, however, said proceedings for offences punishable under Section 138 (cheque bounce) of the Negotiable Instruments Act can continue in accordance with the law.

"Adipurush Not Fit For Public": Request Against Movie In Delhi Court

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Hindu Sena filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court against 'Adipurush' demanding that the film not be certified for public exhibition.

Hindu Sena national president Vishnu Gupta on Friday filed the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in Delhi High Court against 'Adipurush' film.

In the writ petition filed in Delhi HC, Mr Gupta stated, "This is a writ petition in the shape of public interest litigation under article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for issuance of an appropriate writ in the nature of direction to the respondents for removal of objectionable scenes depicting religious leaders / characters/figures in bad taste and issues a writ of mandamus to the respondents directing them to not certify the feature film Adipurush for public exhibition and pass such other or further order as this hon'ble court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case."

The petition further alleged that the film 'hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community by depicting the religious leaders/characters/figures in an inaccur-

rate and inappropriate manner."

"That the petitioner has preferred the aforesaid Writ petition in the shape of PIL against the feature film 'ADIPURUSH' directed by Om Raut which has hurt the sentiments of the Hindu community by depicting the religious leaders/characters/figures in an inaccurate and inappropriate manner contrary to the description of Hindu religious leaders/characters as described in Ramayana authored by writers like Maharishi Valmiki, Saint Tulsidas etc. The Petitioner being aggrieved, concerned and hurt by such an inaccurate description of the religious leaders/characters in the film 'Adipurush' gave a Representation dated 04.10.2022 to the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. However, the said representation has not been responded to as of date", the petition read.

The petition further stated the depiction of Ravana, Lord Ram, Mata Sita and Hanuman in the feature film Adipurush is contrary to the image and descriptions of these religious leaders / characters/figures as depicted in Maharishi Valmiki's Ramayan and Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas.

House Sealed In Jammu After Sex Racket Busted

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu sealed a house on Saturday in connection with a case registered following the arrest of six people over a week ago for allegedly running a sex racket, officials said. A joint team of police and revenue officials sealed the house in the Bahu Fort area of the city under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act on the orders of the deputy commissioner, they said. "The house was sealed in connection with a case registered at Bahu Fort police station following the busting of a

sex racket recently. A 15-year-old girl was also rescued during the operation," said Zaheer Abbas Jafri, sub-divisional police officer, Jammu City (east). He said a charge sheet was filed against all the six accused and the proceedings for attachment of the house was initiated. The rescued girl has recorded her statement before a court, the police officer said. "A notice was served to the house owner on the orders of the Jammu deputy commissioner. The house was sealed after the expiry of the notice period," said Punica Sharma, the tehsildar of Bahu.

Vaishno Devi Board Wins First Prize In National Water Awards For 3rd Consecutive Year

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has secured a hat-trick of winning the first prize in the 'National Water Awards' for the promotion of water conservation and proper management of water, officials said. The shrine board bagged the 'Best Institution for Campus Usage' award in the fourth National Water Awards, they said. An official said Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar conferred the National Water Awards 2023 during a ceremony organised at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Jal Shakti Ministry. A total of 41 winners, including the Vaishno Devi shrine board, were selected for the awards under 11 categories. The National Water Awards were instituted to recognise

and encourage exemplary work and efforts made by states, districts, individuals and organisations across the country in attaining the vision of 'Jal Samridh Bharat'. The award was received by the shrine board's Chief Executive Officer Anshul Garg. "This will encourage and motivate the shrine board to continue its endeavour to adopt and promote best water usage practices in the future," Garg said after receiving the award. The board takes initiative and adopts the best water management practices and techniques for water conservation, the official said. These include the construction of water harvesting ponds, afforestation drives in Trikuta hills, installation of water ATMs, recycling of sewage treatment plants, reuse of water in flushing of toilet blocks, installation of waterless urinals and rooftop rainwater harvesting.

HSC Entrance Exam For Civil Services Coaching Successfully Held

Over 200 Aspirants Appear In Exams At Roots IAS Academy Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Roots IAS Academy, a leading institute for civil services coaching, proudly announces the successful completion of the HSC Entrance Exam for aspiring civil servants in Srinagar. The event witnessed an impressive participation of close to 200 aspirants hailing from various districts of the valley. The HSC Entrance Exam, held on Saturday, was meticulously organized into three phases: General Studies (GS), Essay, and Civil Services Aptitude Test (CSAT). The rigorous examination aimed to evaluate the candidates' knowledge, critical thinking abilities, and analytical skills, which are essential for success

in the civil services field. During the examination, Roots IAS Academy had the privilege of hosting esteemed visitors from the government sector. Secretary Tribal Affairs, Mr. Haroon Rashid, and Administrative Secretary Tribal Affairs, Mission Youth CEO Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, paid a visit to the institute. Their presence was a testament to the significance and recognition of Roots IAS Academy's contribution to the development of aspiring civil servants in the region. Roots IAS Academy, renowned for its comprehensive coaching programs and experienced faculty, provided a conducive environment for the aspirants to showcase their talents and compete at the highest level. The academy's commitment to excellence and student welfare was evident throughout the examination process, ensuring fairness and transparency in evaluating the candidates' performance.

Jammu Traders Turn To Holidays To Escape Scorching Heat, Several Markets Shut Down



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Markets in several localities of Jammu and Kashmir's winter capital are being shut down as traders and businesspersons are going on holidays to escape the prevailing scorching heat wave conditions in the region. Except for the Jammu's biggest warehouse Nehru market, 10 big shopping areas have been shut down by the trader organisation here since June 14. "The month of June is very hot. There is heat wave conditions prevailing in Jammu city.

To beat the heat, market places have been closed. We have announced holidays for four days," Executive member of Chamber of Commerce and Industries Jammu (CCIJ) Krishen Lal Gupta told PTI here. He said like any other government or private sector employee, businessmen and their families also need a break. "It was decided by the trader bodies of different locations to observe holidays on rotational basis. Traders do not get holidays except on Sundays. So it was decided unanimously to go on holidays and shut markets. It is good step," Gupta

said. The days chosen for shutting down markets are also coinciding with the summer holidays in schools and colleges. "You can see number of markets are wearing a deserted look. These holidays will also give traders and their families a much-needed break from their routine jobs," he said. Ram Paul Sharma, who looks after the watch and ward of the Nehru market said under the rotational system, the biggest vegetable market of Jammu Narwal Mandi will remain closed from next Saturday onwards.

DOCTOR ON WHEELS

Free Telemedicine Mobile Camp Inaugurated In Kathua

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday dedicated to the public a free telemedicine mobile camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. This is the third phase of the Union Territory's first-ever mobile telemedicine service -- Doctor on Wheels -- being provided with funds purely from non-government sources. The first phase covered more than 60 villages in the remote Gandoh area of Doda district. The second phase covered far-flung villages along the International Border in Kathua district. "This free telemedicine facility at Billawar today will overcome the problems of accessibility, availability and affordability," Singh, the Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said, after inaugurating the service at the Mandli block in Billawar tehsil. The minister, who represents the Udhampur parliamentary constituency that also covers Kathua and Doda, said all the three obstacles such as quality of services, doctors and assistance, the distance of travel and the cost of consultation or treatment are targeted and resolved efficiently through this facility. "Ordinarily, (treatment at) a metro hospital will cost a patient more than Rs 50,000 and may take two to three weeks' time. This type of free telemedicine mobile camp will solve all the problems, especially for those from weak socio-economic backgrounds," he said. The minister said the camp at Mandli is being run by two startup groups from north and south India, respectively.

Goyal Reviews Progress On Issuance Of Individual Arms Licences

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Home, RK Goyal on Saturday reviewed the status of various services related to Arms licenses including issuance and renewal of individual arms licenses, being provided through NDAL-ALIS portal. The ACS advised the District Magistrates to extend assistance to the general public desirous of availing various services including issuance and renewal of arms licenses, utilizing the on-line NDAL-ALIS platform. He impressed upon them to take immediate steps for timely processing of applications re-

ceived for grant of Individual Arms Licenses strictly in terms of the instructions issued vide Government Order No. 30-Home of 2023 dated 18.01.2023. In order to have speedy verification of antecedents from the CID, he asked them to employ dedicated electronic channels by the licensing authorities. In the meeting, it was reiterated to strictly adhere to the provisions contained in the Arms Act and the Arms Rules, so that the bonafide applicants, eligible for grant and renewal of these licenses are facilitated as envisaged in the online services being provided through NDAL-ALIS portal of Government of India.

Shiv Sena UBT Holds Protest For Statehood, Elected Govt

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Shiv Sena (UBT) on Saturday staged a protest outside the office of the State Election Commission here, demanding the restoration of statehood and a democratically elected government in the union territory. President of the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena in J-K Manish Sahni, who was leading the protest, said almost five years

have passed since the fall of the PDP-BJP coalition in June 2018 but the promise of restoration of statehood and Assembly elections are still a far cry. "Union Minister Amit Shah is visiting Jammu and Kashmir on June 23 and if the promise of restoring statehood is not fulfilled soon, we will protest his visit by tying black bands," he said, addressing the protesters who also included the party affiliates like Karni Sena and Sainik Samaj Party.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated: 16/06/2023

E-NIT No: - 33/Xen/Rew/Bla/2023-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors/Regd. With J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	EMD AMOUNT	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS
1	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 3 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
2	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 4 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
3	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 6 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
4	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 5 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
5	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 7 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
6	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 8 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
7	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 1 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
8	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 9 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
9	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Zehanpora Ward 2 Panchayat Halqa Zehanpora under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
10	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Hakapathri Ward 5 Panchayat Halqa Pehlipora B under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
11	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Hakapathri Ward 3 Panchayat Halqa Pehlipora B under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
12	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Hakapathri Ward 6 Panchayat Halqa Pehlipora B under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded
13	C/O of Community Modified Leach pits at Hakapathri Ward 1 Panchayat Halqa Pehlipora B under SBM Plan year 2023_24 Block Noorkhah	0.68	200	1360	10days	DEE	SBM	AAA Accorded

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 16-06-2023 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | From 16-06-2023 to 26-06-2023 up to 6:00 PM |
| 3 | Bid submission Start date | 16-06-2023 |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | 26-06-2023 up to 6:00 PM |
| 5 | Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online) | Technical Bids will be opened on 27-06-2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online. |

 - The G.O No.238-F OF 2021 DATED:07.09.2021 issued by the Govt(Finance deptt)that the participation in the tendering process of works upto an amount of Rs 3.00 lacs is restricted to the resident of concerned panchayat. In the event of inadequate response to a tender, participation from adjoining panchayat shall be permitted & participant to upload Panchayat certificate necessary.
 - If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering Cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
 - In case of dilemma/confusion, the rate and the unit against any item shown in Boq, the SOR rate along with its unit will be applicable.
 - Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein Name of work and NIT No. in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority).
 - 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 at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
 - All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
 - The 1ST Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/ BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.
 - a. Unbalanced Bid: The successful bidder shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply thereto: -

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv. Cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on
1	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2.	>15% upto and including 20% below	5%
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	10%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	15%
5	>30% below	20%

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

- The earnest money/performance security shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: 257-264
Dated: 16-06-2023

DIPK-3639-23
DT: 17/06/2023

Executive Engineer.
REW Baramulla

98.10% Families Covered Under PMJAY-SEHAT Scheme In J&K: Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Ambitious 'ABPMJAY-SEHAT' has proved a savior for an ailing 65 year old 'Anchal Das' of ward number 7, Kathua, when he got hassle free treatment in a most convenient way he would have never even dreamt of. All his life, Das toiled hard to feed his family of 7 but things turned haywire when doctors advised him Ureter (PCNL) surgery. His world fell apart. Saving being luxury for him due to meagre monthly income of Rs 8,000, Das could save just a few hundred bucks a month. Das was virtually broken on the mere thought of managing Rs 58, 000 for his surgery and subsequent treatment. But despair turned into hope with "ABPMJAY-SEHAT coming as a savior. The health scheme came as life booster when I was treated in a hospital for free and with great care", says Das while expressing his deep gratitude to the J&K administration for this historic initiative. For someone whose only means to earn a living is toiling hard in the fields of Kashmir, even a small injury would mean empty bellies back

home. Similarly, Abdul Razzaq Dar had five family members solely dependent on him for all their needs. For the last eight years, he had been going through tough time in performing his daily work due to his knee pain. With a meagre annual income of Rs 50000, Dar could have hardly thought of a proper treatment and his condition was deteriorating with each passing day. And this was the time when "Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana SEHAT" scheme came as a blessing for distressed Dar. Dar availed benefit of a government scheme for the first time in his whole life and was completely appreciable of government for this great help. Finally, after eight long years of hurt and wait, Dar got his knee replaced in a private hospital under ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme which was not less than some miracle for him. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in his commitment towards developing India as a healthy nation, launched this ambitious Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme on 26th December, 2020.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the scheme was implemented through insurance mode with private Bajaj Allianz GIC as the implementing agency. This is for the first time that a public funded Health Insurance Scheme meant for the entire population is being implemented in the UT. The scheme primarily focuses on financial protection from catastrophic health expenditures, which is the pillar of Universal Health Coverage. It is delivered through both public and private healthcare providers for secondary and tertiary care health services. It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. All Medical and surgical conditions are included with minimal exclusions. It covers both Pre and Post hospitalization expenses and all pre-existing conditions are covered from day one. This cashless treatment facility being provided by central government under ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme after the abrogation of Article 370 for poor and needy families has substantially reduced their out-of-pocket expenditure as well as financial bankruptcy due to severe and prolonged illness, and expensive treatment.

Elite Edge: Breaking the Coaching Conundrum Code

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

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In the course of time, coaching centers have metamorphosed into bustling marketplaces, where the art of pedagogy is an exquisite commodity. However, just as an astute merchant would never dare display a flawed merchandise in their coveted shop window, so too should these esteemed establishments withhold any subpar educational offerings from the discerning public

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the remarkable Neet'ians who have emerged triumphant this time around. It is their unwavering diligence, unyielding commitment, and unwavering dedication that have enabled them to conquer the pinnacle of excellence in the most esteemed examination whose results were declared yesterday. The aspirants who have fallen short this time must not surrender, but rather embrace the realization that there exists a crucial element that eludes them, prompting them to fervently strive towards its attainment.

There's a famous proverb that "Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan." A deluge of promotions and lucrative collaborations has inundated the media landscape, with coaching centers extending accolades and attributing their success to these symbiotic alliances, spanning from social media platforms to print publications. It's intriguing how coaching institutes eagerly showcase their successful students everywhere, from social media to newspapers.

According to the Facebook post of a Journalist, "One of the 'Modified version' of a coaching institute in Srinagar has prepared a List of students who have qualified NEET UG 2023 and has claimed all these students were enrolled at the institute. But soon after the post was shared on social Media, some students, whose names and pics were displayed in the post, have started approaching the coaching institute asking them to remove their names saying that they were never enrolled in the coaching institute.... Any coaching institute which claims to have produced NEET qualifiers should also produce the attendance sheet of all these students as well. Otherwise they should refrain from deceiving parents and students. Let Good sense prevail".

In the wake of this latest mishap, numerous parents have voiced apprehensions, questioning whether these coaching centers surreptitiously insert fabricated names into their roster of accomplished students to artificially enhance their prestige. It behooves the responsible entities, both in print and social media realms, to exercise utmost diligence and verify the authenticity of the information they disseminate before broadcasting it to the world.

Yet, one thing perplexes me—why don't they accept responsibility for the failures too? After all, they are equally accountable for the students' lack of success. In the course of time, coaching centers have metamorphosed into bustling marketplaces, where the art of pedagogy is an exquisite commodity. However, just as an astute merchant would never dare display a flawed merchandise in their coveted shop window, so too should these esteemed establishments withhold any subpar educational offerings from the discerning public. Coaching centers and schools ought to provide



Photo for representational purposes only

a comprehensive list of students who didn't pass their exams. It's only fair to disclose the exact number of students who faced difficulties. While they eagerly take credit for a single student's exceptional achievement, they should also acknowledge the collective responsibility for those who didn't make the cut. Transparency in showcasing results will foster a more realistic representation of their impact and provide a holistic view of their educational contributions.

Cease the unabashed appropriation of a student's toil, for education has devolved into a lamentable charade where the sacred essence is desecrated. The beleaguered learners bear the brunt of an unforgiving maelstrom, perpetuated by the dog-eat-dog competition amongst coaching behemoths. It is imperative to renounce the practice of laying claim to the fruits of their labor and instead, cultivate an environment that fosters support, enlightenment, and intellectual growth. Let education reclaim its noble purpose, where students transcend the strife and find solace in a sanctuary free from pernicious rivalry. Why is it that the teachers within school walls do not impart knowledge with the same unwavering zeal and commitment as their counterparts in coaching institutes? Although restricted from engaging in private tutoring, this directive often falls on deaf ears, as the sanctity of education is overshadowed by the pursuit of profit.

I have personally witnessed esteemed schools in Jammu and Kashmir shamelessly branding themselves as local businesses on their Facebook pages. Just last week, while watching a video on

Facebook, an advertisement surfaced, enticing individuals with the prospect of a lucrative business opportunity in Kashmir, acting as distributors for a renowned international school, resembling the strategies employed by commercial enterprise as that of other companies Alas!

In my personal conviction, the existence of coaching institutes appears incongruous, for the noble pursuit of education has been hijacked and reduced to a mere profit-driven enterprise, rendering education a subject of ridicule rather than enlightenment. It is imperative for the government to take heed of the pedagogues engaged in clandestine private ventures, subjecting them to rigorous scrutiny and ultimately severing their ties to public service. By doing so, the government would redress the plight of jobless youth, whose rightful opportunities may be impinged upon by these dual-practicing educators. Lastly my discontent is not aimed at any particular coaching institute or teacher, but rather directed towards the pervasive syndicate of coaching institutions that possesses the audacity to exploit any means at their disposal, leaving no stone unturned in their insatiable pursuit of profit.

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 columnist and Poet pursuing an msc in zoology from HNBGU UTTARAKHAND. He tweets @peermohdamir

Economic growth in the recently-ended fiscal year has outstripped all expectations and forecasts. The 7.2% increase in GDP in 2022-23 (FY23), upon 9.1% recorded the previous year, has generated extreme optimism. This is reflected in the near-universal chorus about the economy's resilience, the resurgence of animal spirits and private investments, a new growth trajectory fired by public spending, reforms, digitalisation and more. It is bolstered further by India's placement as the fastest-growing major economy in the world by the International Monetary Fund's projections. The euphoria inspires deeper thinking, an examination of longer trends in the macroeconomy, if only because the antecedents of this strength are unusual—a series of negative macroeconomic shocks over a three-year slowdown, leading up to the pandemic in 2020-21. A look back illuminates the economy's evolution and provides a perspective as to where it stands at present.

Commentators have flagged that absenting the -5.8% contraction in GDP inflicted by the pandemic in 2020-21 and retaining a steady growth rate of 4-5% in the last three years would imply a 2%-5% higher GDP level (the range reflects different counterfactual rates). This is a crude measure of the slack or the gap that remains to be recouped; alternatively, it represents the permanent loss of output after the pandemic.

Further clues are offered by simple comparisons of three-year averages of key macroeconomic aggregates in FY21-FY23 with the matching pre-pandemic period (2017-18 to 2019-20 or FY18-FY20), a time of continuous deceleration in growth (this had slowed from 8.2% in 2016-17 to 6.8%, 6.5%, and 3.9%, respectively, over FY18-FY20, or up to the pandemic).

Using this gauge, overall GDP growth averages 3.5% in the last three years against 5.7% in the pre-pandemic

reference period. Final consumption expenditure, adjusted for inflation, is slower, at 4.5% on average compared to a corresponding pre-pandemic 6.2%, which itself had been a sharp fall from the successive annual growth of 8% before. Fixed assets' creation has been more stable across the two time periods, with the average growth and share in aggregate output both improving a bit by the public capex support growth in the last three years. What is surprising is that government consumption grew slower on average in the last three years at 1.9%, contrasting poorly with the robust 7.5% three-year average growth recorded before the pandemic.

The biggest difference is made by exports' growth, an average 11.2% in the last three years and 2.6 times more than before the pandemic. The export stimulation added an average 3 percentage points annually to GDP growth after the pandemic, a significant increase from the single-point contribution before.

A similar appraisal of production or supply-side trends is equally instructive. Features that stand out here are the following: one, manufacturing has grown faster after the pandemic, at an average 5% compared to 3.3% in the reference interval of comparison. This is no doubt closely linked to the robust export growth observed above.

Keep Calm

How do we make sense of the observed deficits with brightened growth prospects following acutely negative shocks that include a full-blown pandemic and oil price spikes?

Renu Kohli

“The biggest difference is made by exports' growth, an average 11.2% in the last three years and 2.6 times more than before the pandemic. The export stimulation added an average 3 percentage points annually to GDP growth after the pandemic, a significant increase from the single-point contribution before.”

Two, the construction segment also increased pace by a similar magnitude (2 percentage points higher), upheld by public investments in the post-pandemic period. Three, the segment of trade, hotels, transport, communication, and broadcasting services displays a steep slowdown. Growth in this segment

has averaged a third of that recorded in the pre-pandemic period, a reflection of the harsh incidence of Covid-19 upon services in general. The share of this segment, which is marked by significant informality, has reduced on an average 2 percentage points in the gross value added after the pandemic. In FY23, while GDP accelerated to 7.2%, the share of this category in aggregate output was still one point lower than that in 2019-20. This broadly states the extent of the persisting deficit in the informal economy. A clear offset of this gap is mirrored in the agriculture sector, the fluid counterpart of the informal economy. Agriculture's share in overall value-added stands enlarged after the pandemic, with a corresponding increase in workers' engagement in agriculture captured elsewhere by official employment reports.

Altogether, these trends reveal that the pandemic's economic scars still linger despite the brisk growth recovery. Bear in mind that our reference period of comparison here was itself a time when economic performance was below potential or full capacity. At one level, this enables us to see the distance from those lowered levels. On another plane, our understanding must also factor in the growth support from catch-up demand due to normalisation and

the economy's full reopening last year (FY23). The robust consumer spending of 7.5% annual growth may not be sustained as it was boosted by unspent incomes. Then too, much of this consumption strength is likely to be explained by inequality and asymmetry that have been systematically observed in the recovery period.

The quarterly GDP data display signs of fading demand, the lower tiers pulled down by inflation. In the January-March 2023 quarter, private consumption contracted -3.2% over the previous quarter, slowing down to almost half its rate of growth one year ago. The consumption slowdown is part of a longer trend highlighted above. Joining these dots, including the enduring gap in the major services segments, there's enough ground for concern about the largest component of India's domestic demand. It is reinforced by the eventual slowing of the global economy that will undoubtedly impact exports that have dominantly upheld economic growth after the pandemic.

Does the optimism resonate with these macroeconomic trends or appear to be a paradox? How do we make sense of the observed deficits with brightened growth prospects following acutely negative shocks that include a full-blown pandemic and oil price spikes? Other than conclude that catch-up is still some way to go, do future uncertainties induce more caution than confidence? It is easy to get excited at data points but what matters is the trend, which shows us where economic well-being was, and is, at present.

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 Telegraph India

The Decline of Respect Towards Teachers: A Troubling Trend in Education

Ummar Jamal and Asma S. Zaroo

In the bygone era, teachers were held in the highest regard. Teaching was revered as a noble profession, and teachers commanded admiration from both students and society as a whole. In ancient cultures, teachers were even considered equivalent to parents, and students were expected to show them the same reverence and obedience. The teacher-student relationship of the past was built on respect, discipline, and order, with students expected to be punctual, attentive, and well-behaved in class. Any form of disrespect towards teachers was simply not tolerated.

In stark contrast, we have witnessed a significant shift in recent times towards a more casual and individualistic society. The values of self-expression and personal autonomy have gained prominence, encouraging students to question authority, challenge the status quo, and advocate for their own interests. Unfortunately, this shift has led to a decline in traditional forms of respect towards teachers.

Disrespect towards teachers manifests in various ways, such as students talking back in a disrespectful tone, ignoring instructions and assignments, being disruptive in class, ridiculing teachers publicly, interrupting their lessons, and disregarding their authority and rules. Moreover, the perception of teaching as a highly valued profession has waned in the present era. This is partly due to institutions hiring individuals without the prescribed professional qualifications for teaching roles, undermining the expertise and respect associated with the profession. Additionally, the negative portrayal of teachers in the media and popular culture further contributes to the disesteem of the teaching profession.

Another contributing factor to this issue is the lack of support from parents and school administrations. Teachers are often left to handle disciplinary issues on their own, which can be overwhelming. When the authority of teachers is not upheld, students perceive them as powerless, thereby disrespecting them even more. Furthermore, the rise of technology and social media has transformed the way students communicate and interact with teachers, further eroding the respect traditionally accorded to them.

Moreover, the decline in respect towards teachers can be attributed to various other factors, including societal changes, moral



degradation, technological advancements, and a shift in values and attitudes towards authority and education. However, it is essential to delve into the scientific explanations that shed light on this issue.

From a behavioral psychology perspective, indiscipline in schools can be seen as a learned behavior resulting from a lack of reinforcement of acceptable behavior, both at home and within the school environment. Social psychology attributes indiscipline to various social issues, such as peer pressure to break rules, as well as societal norms that prioritize social status over academic achievements, devaluing the role of teachers. Neuroscience research suggests that environmental factors, including stress, can impact cognitive function, leading to indiscipline and poor motivation among students, thereby contributing to the devaluation of teachers. Furthermore, cultural differences play a significant role in shaping behaviors and values. Cultural norms within schools and classrooms can

influence indiscipline behaviors and the devaluation of teachers, with individualistic cultures prioritizing personal interests over academic achievement, while cultures emphasizing respect for hierarchy discourage constructive criticism of teachers.

While it is important to recognize the challenges faced by teachers in maintaining a healthy student-teacher relationship, it is also necessary to acknowledge that teachers themselves can contribute to the decline in such relationships. Here are a few reasons why teachers may be partly responsible for the erosion of a healthy student-teacher dynamic:

Lack of empathy and understanding: Some teachers may fail to empathize with their students' challenges and individual circumstances. This lack of understanding can create a disconnect between teachers and students, leading to a breakdown in trust and respect.

Ineffective communication: Communication plays a crucial role in building posi-

tive relationships. Teachers who struggle to effectively communicate with their students may find it challenging to establish a healthy rapport. Poor communication can lead to misunderstandings, frustration, and a sense of disengagement among students.

Failure to adapt teaching methods: Every student has unique learning needs and preferences. Teachers who rigidly adhere to a one-size-fits-all approach may struggle to engage and connect with their students. Failing to adapt teaching methods to cater to different learning styles can result in disinterest and disengagement among students.

Lack of enthusiasm and passion: Teachers who lack enthusiasm and passion for their subject matter may find it difficult to inspire and motivate their students. A lack of enthusiasm can lead to student apathy and a diminished sense of respect for the teacher.

Inconsistent discipline and favoritism: Teachers who do not enforce consistent discipline or show favoritism towards cer-

tain students can breed resentment and a sense of unfairness among the rest of the class. This can undermine the teacher's authority and erode respect.

Failure to establish a positive classroom culture: Teachers are responsible for setting the tone and creating a positive classroom environment. Teachers who do not prioritize fostering a supportive and inclusive atmosphere may witness increased conflicts and a lack of respect among students.

It is important to note that these factors do not apply to all teachers, as many educators are dedicated and work hard to maintain healthy student-teacher relationships. However, recognizing and addressing these shortcomings can help improve the overall dynamics between teachers and students.

It is crucial for teachers to continuously reflect on their teaching practices, seek feedback from students, and actively work towards building strong relationships based on respect, empathy, and effective communication. By creating a supportive and engaging learning environment, teachers can foster positive relationships that contribute to the holistic development of their students.

The consequences of this decline in respect towards teachers are alarming. Teachers' job satisfaction levels are at an all-time low, they work long hours for inadequate pay, and nearly half of the workforce is contemplating quitting. A nationwide survey conducted by the EdWeek Research Center and commissioned by the Winston School of Education and Social Policy at Merrimack College revealed that teachers feel under pressure, lacking support, and facing increasingly high expectations. They often feel micromanaged and excluded from decision-making processes.

To address this issue, it is crucial to involve parents and school administrators in the disciplinary process, providing support to teachers and upholding their authority. Additionally, implementing behavior management programs that focus on positive reinforcement for good behavior can help cultivate respect in schools. Professional development opportunities

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Bill Littlefield

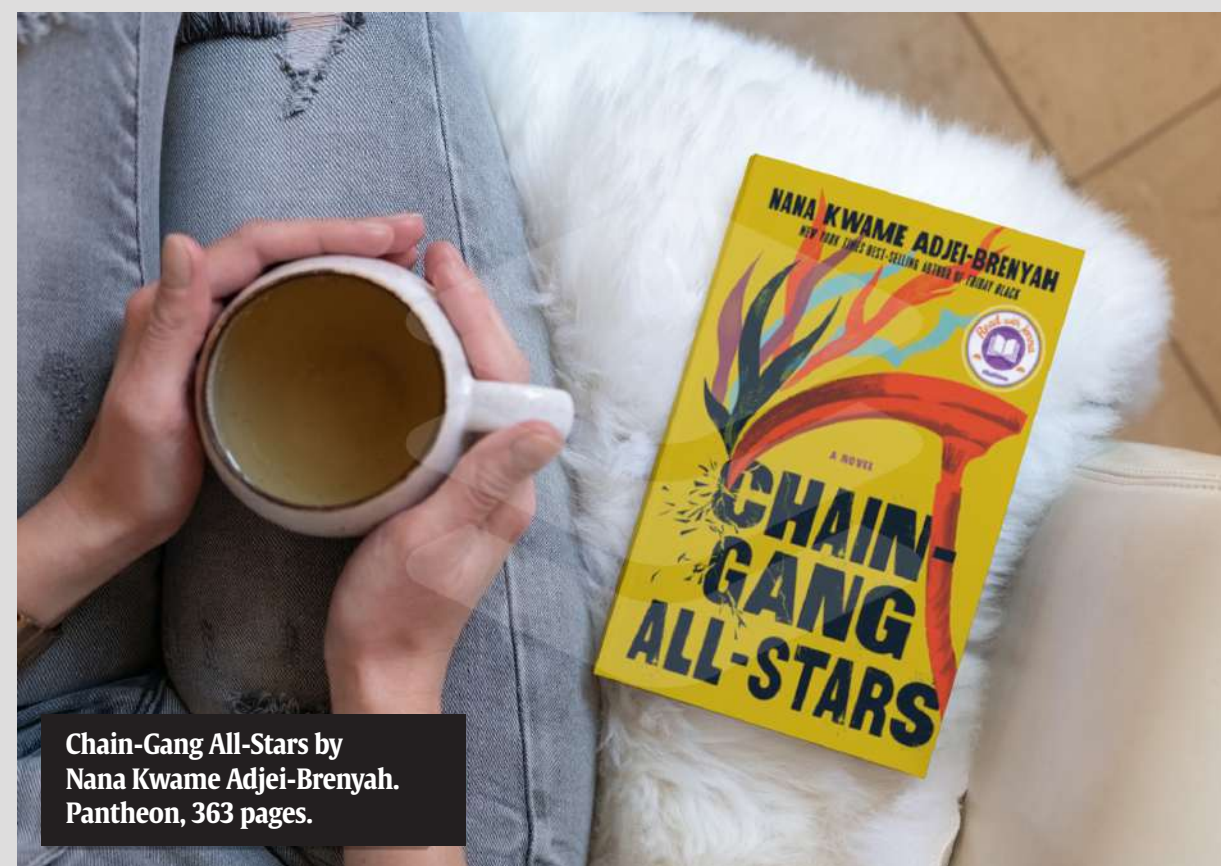
BOOK REVIEW

“Chain-Gang All-Stars” A Terrifying Future World

Chain-Gang All-Stars is an ambitious novel by a determined author. Most novelists who want to address hideous social conditions imagine what might happen next and let the damaged characters and grim circumstances do the work. Adjei-Brenyah certainly does this. But via footnotes, he adds messages from history, contemporary and otherwise, to his tale of a world in which the treatment of people convicted of murder is even worse than what incarcerated men and women face in this country. And America leads the world, at least among allegedly democratic nations, in imprisoning its citizens. One such footnote makes that precise numerical point. Another footnote refers to the real life inhumane treatment of three men, Albert Woodfox, Robert King, and Herman Wallace, who all spent decades in isolation before two of them were released and one of them had died.

The characters in this narrative have been given an alternative to incarceration and constant, unimaginably painful torture. They can elect to fight each other like ancient gladiators, killing each other legally. This blood sport entertains large crowds conditioned to love mayhem as audiences today have been taught to swallow and wallow in fantasies of Reality TV. The two most significant warriors are women: Hurricane Staxxx and Loretta Thurwar. Each is worshipped by fans who follow every aspect of their idols' lives, in and out of the arena, via tiny, mobile cameras that fly constantly about their favorites. The two women are the primary “links” in a “chain,” or squad, of lesser contestants trying to reach “High Free.” Theoretically, if a warrior is successful enough in the arena, he or she can earn the right to walk away from the hellish world created by the profit-driven megacorporation that runs the private prison system, among other entities. (“Low-free” is death sustained in the arena, the idea being that one way or another, free is free.)

Though most people are delighted by



Chain-Gang All-Stars by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah. Pantheon, 363 pages.

the spectacle of men and women killing each other in order to gain “blood points,” and perhaps even their release, there is a small group opposing establishment of a mad and murderous circus. But the novel is less about following the efforts of seek-

ing to not only end gladiatorial combat but incarceration itself, than it is about the development of Hurricane Staxxx and Loretta Thurwar. Their relationship is complicated. They depend on each other, they love each other, and, inevitably in a

novel built the way Chain-Gang All-Stars is built, they must fight each other.

Adjei-Brenyah's politics are clear. He has the most significant member of the group opposed to the gruesome, state-sanctioned combat recognize that al-

though “many politicians” had “implored non-violence” among the spectators in advance of the combat, this was “an absurd thing for the murderous state to plead for, but, as always, the massive violence of the state was ‘justice,’ was ‘law and order,’ and resistance to perpetual violence was an act of terror.” But, because the author creates a world at least as repressive and violent as that of, for example, The Handmaid's Tale, he's had to be inventive and explicit in his descriptions of the grim things the authorities can do to incarcerated people and the almost equally violent punishments the combatants in the arena can inflict on each other with a variety of weapons. The latter will leave video game fans who read the novel drooling. But that raises the thorny issue of exploitation. Adjei-Brenyah's hope is that not too many readers of Chain-Gang All-Stars will think the combat the novel creates is cool. Who can be sure?

One function of dystopian novels is to alert readers to the awful potential of the systems we often take for granted. The implication is that — if all goes along as it has been going along — the future will be much worse than the present. Adjei-Brenyah felt that the best way to accomplish that is to educate his readers, via the aforementioned footnotes, about the cruelty and injustice that infests the carceral state in this country today, where men and women in prison are often so effectively isolated that people on the outside hear very little about what incarcerated people endure on a daily basis, for years. As of 2018, while 392 out of every 100,000 white men are incarcerated, 2,272 out of every 100,000 Black men claim that hideous distinction. He also points out that, under the U.S. Constitution, enslaving the incarcerated is legal.

Nana-Kwame Adjei-Brenyah is an energetic story-teller with a vivid, sometimes grotesquely grim imagination. He creates a terrifying future world. I'm glad that he chose to anchor that creation so powerfully in the shameful present.

The article was originally published by Art Fuse

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1
The Rhodes Scholarships for India 2023-24

Description: The Rhodes Scholarships for India 2023-24 is an initiative of the Rhodes Trust in partnership with the second-century founder of McCall MacBain Foundation (NGO), John McCall MacBain O.C. for Indian postgraduate applicants to the University of Oxford, in the United Kingdom.

Eligibility: Open for Indian students who hold a valid passport or equivalent proof of citizenship. The applicants must meet the specified age criteria and academic requirements. The applicants must have applied for a postgraduate course at the University of Oxford.

- Prizes & Rewards: Fully-funded scholarship for full-time postgraduate study
- Last Date to Apply: 01-08-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TRS14

Scholarship Name 2

Coal India Limited EWS Scholarship 2023

Description: Coal India Limited EWS Scholarship 2023 is an opportunity offered by Coal India Limited to students who are pursuing UG degree in Engineering and Medical course. The main objective of this scholarship is to spread quality professional education among meritorious (BPL) students with merit to nurture successful careers.

Eligibility: Open for applicants who are 25 years of age as of the first of November of the current academic session. The candidates must be pursuing a full-time degree course in Engineering in Mining, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil, Computer IT, Environment, Electronics and Tele Communications, Medical disciplines in IITs, NITs and such Engineering and Medical colleges recognized by the Central or State Government. They must belong to Below Poverty Line (BPL).

- Prizes & Rewards: Total course fee for the entire period of the course
- Last Date to Apply: 15-04-2024
- Application mode: Via post only at -



Chief General Manager (Welfare), Coal India Limited, Coal Bhawan, 10, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata - 700001 Phone Number - (033)-22488099 Fax Number -

(033)-22313875/22135778
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/EWST6

Scholarship Name 3
Esri India M.Tech Scholarship Program 2023

Description: Esri India M.Tech Scholarship Program 2023 is an opportunity offered by Esri India* to students of Geoinformatics or a course that involves studying remote sensing, GIS, spatial modelling, spatial analysis, digital image processing for GIS and related subjects, for their respective students.

Eligibility: Open for Indian applicants who are 18 years of age. The applicants must be at the beginning of 2nd year of a postgraduate course [M.Tech./M.Sc.] in Geoinformatics or a course that involves remote sensing/GIS/spatial modeling/spatial analysis/digital image processing for GIS and related subjects.

- Prizes & Rewards: INR 1 lakh per student per year
- Last Date to Apply: 10-07-2023
- Application mode: Via email only at - gis.education@esri.in
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GISU1



WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

Early Intervention

- Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.

Timely Transportation

- Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

Reduced Complications

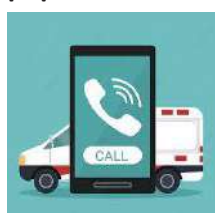
- Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

Better Coordination

- Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

Improved Accessibility:

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
J.V FOREST DIVISION BARAMULLA

e- NIT No. 08 of 2023-24 Dated 12-06 -2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	Cost of Tender Document	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
01	Planting of Polybag raised saplings and Naked root saplings and providing and fixing of Barbed wire fencing with Angle Iron Posts in cement concrete Blocks in Compartment 59 Raja Nallah I, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Posts=839	19.09	38180	800	Others B,C Forest B	45 days
02	Planting of Polybag raised saplings and Naked root saplings and providing and fixing of Barbed wire fencing with Angle Iron Posts in cement concrete Blocks in Compartment 59 Raja Nallah II, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Posts=855	21.416	42832	800	Others B,C Forest B	45 days
03	Planting of Polybag raised saplings and Naked root saplings and providing and fixing of Barbed wire fencing with Angle Iron Posts in cement concrete Blocks and Construction of water Harvesting Structure in Compartment 60 Badgran, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Posts=998	22.29	44580	800	Others B,C Forest B	45 days

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Budgeted
Position of AA	Accorded
Position of TS	Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	13-06-2023
Download Start Date :	13-06-2023 from 10:00 am
Bid submission Start Date:	13-06-2023 from 10:00 am
Bid submission End Date:	26-06-2023 from 4:00 pm
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	27-06-2023 at 11:30 am in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer J.V Forest Division Baramulla
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2022-23, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

No. DFO/J.V/Accts/2023-24/e-Tendering/33-34
DIPK-3672/23
dated: 17-06-2023

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer,
J.V Forest Division,
Baramulla



J&K Bank MD & CEO Chairs Customer Meet In Kargil

All the issues will be addressed on priority : Baldev Prakash

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On his visit to Ladakh, J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash today chaired a customer meet in Kargil held at the Hotel Kargil that was attended by a cross-section of bank's valuable customers including hoteliers, traders and local residents.

Accompanied by the Bank's Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, Zonal Head (Leh) Angchuk Dorje and Cluster Head (Kargil) Ishfaq Ahmad, MD & CEO interacted with customers and took stock of Bank's services being provided to the people of Kargil.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Ladakh is one of the most important zones in terms of bank's commitment of serving to empower. It assumes greater significance as the Bank is in mission-mode to realize the national vision of inclusive growth and equitable financial development. And we are already geared towards meeting these goals in all our operational geographies."

"The purpose of my visit is to get a first hand feedback of

our services and issues that you face while dealing with the Bank. After listening to you, I assure you that all the issues will be addressed on priority and within the framework of regulatory guidelines", he added.

Thanking the participant customers for their love and long-association with the premier financial institution of J&K and Ladakh, MD & CEO informed them of Bank's plans to expand the Bank's infra structure in Ladakh while extending best conventional and digital banking services to the people.

"This year we plan to make effective interventions under CSR also in the UT", he added. While lauding MD & CEO's concern for and consistency in reaching out to the people of Ladakh, the participant customers appreciated his patience and warmth while listening to them. Acknowledging the Bank's efforts besides appreciating the staff for their customer-friendly approach, the participants also put forth some valuable suggestions to further improve bank's services and footprint in the UT.

Dir Horti Assesses Impact Of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner Pest Affecting Apple Orchards



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director of Horticulture Kashmir, G. R. Mir conducted a comprehensive tour of various areas of District Kulgam on Saturday to assess the intensity and impact of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner affecting apple orchards.

Accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer, Kulgam, Subject Matter Specialist, Kulgam and scientist from KVK, Kulgam, Dr. Khurshid Ahmad, the Director assessed the intensity of the infestation and interacted with local orchardists. The Director's visit primarily focused on fruit growing belts in the district, with particular emphasis on areas affected by the Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. Orchards in Yaripora, Matibugh, Badroo, Kokergund, H. M. Bugh, Katpora, Hangul bush, Tarigam, and Batapora were among the locations he visited.

The Director also extended his tour to District Pulwama, visiting various areas viz. Laspipora, Petipora, Nowpora, Panzran, Achan, Litter etc. to gain insights into the spread of the pest. By observing and en-

gaging with local farmers, the Director aimed to understand the specific challenges faced by orchardists in this region.

The emergence of the Apple Leaf Blotch Miner, a new insect pest in certain areas of the Kashmir Valley, has been attributed to the diversification of crops and changes in pest dynamics influenced by climate factors.

During the visit, the Dir observed pest-infested orchards and engaged in discussions with local orchardists to understand the challenges they are facing. He emphasized on the importance of following the advisories issued by SKUAST-K (Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir) and the Department of Horticulture, Kashmir, to effectively control the pest and minimize its impact on fruit crops.

Furthermore, the Director stressed the need to enhance awareness among orchardists about the identification and management of the Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. By disseminating knowledge and best practices, the Department aims to empower orchardists

to take proactive measures to protect their orchards.

During the visit, the Director also reviewed the availability of pesticides in the market that are necessary for controlling the Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. Ensuring the availability and accessibility of appropriate pest control measures is crucial for orchardists to effectively manage the pest and safeguard their crops.

Mr. G. R., Director of Horticulture Kashmir, emphasized the Department's commitment to supporting the orchardists in combating the Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and promoting sustainable fruit cultivation practices.

He urged orchardists to actively collaborate with the Department and research institutions to stay updated on the latest advancements in pest management techniques.

For further information and guidance on controlling the Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and other horticultural concerns, orchardists are encouraged to reach out to the Department of Horticulture, Kashmir, or SKUAST-K.

Strengthen GST Registration Process Further With Tech: FM To Tax Officers

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday asked tax officers to strengthen the GST registration process further by using technology during a review meeting on fake registration and billing.

Tax officers have identified 11,140 fake GST registration and initiated action against fraudsters in the ongoing two-month-long special drive launched on May 16.

"Smt @nsitharaman instructed that the GST registration process may be further strengthened using technology to curb entry of such fake entities in GST ecosystem. The FM called for a nationwide campaign to explain the objectives of the special drive to weed out fake entities," the office of the Finance Minister said in a tweet.

During the review meeting, which was also attended by Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra and CBIC Chairman Vivek Johri, Sitharaman was apprised



of the methods like identity theft of people being adopted by fraudsters.

"Smt @nsitharaman took note of the existing measures being undertaken by the ministry like OTP-based verification of Aadhar and pilot of biometric-based Aadhar authentication at the time of registration in high-risk cases," the tweet added.

The Revenue Secretary and CBIC Chairman apprised the finance minister that AI/ML (Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning) tools are being extensively used to identify possible fake networks.

GST Council To Discuss Measures To Curb Evasion, GoM Report On Online Gaming In July 11 Meet

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The GST Council on July 11 will discuss some more measures to tighten the noose on fake registration and fraudulent generation of input tax credit (ITC) as it looks to check tax evasion, a top official said on Friday.

"We are thinking of some other measures and we will take them through the due process of the law committee and GST council," Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman Vivek Johri told reporters.

The 50th meeting of the GST Council is scheduled on July 11. The Council will also discuss

the GoM report on online gaming, casinos and horse racing and will circulate it to the states soon.

The GoM submitted its report to the Council in December last year, but the Council has not taken it up for discussion.

Further, the Council will also decide on a convenor for the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation.

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai was the convenor of the panel and now with the change of Government in Karnataka, the Council has to select a new convenor.

The GST officers already have initiated a two-month special drive against fake registration.

Govt Likely To Come Out With Logistics Cost Estimate By Sept: DPIIT

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government is working on a framework to assess the logistics cost in the country and is expected to get a realistic estimate by September, a senior DPIIT official said on Friday.

At present, the government is going by certain estimates, which suggest that India's logistics cost stands at about 13-14 per cent of the country's GDP (gross domestic product).

Special Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Sumita Dawra said that the government is coming out with its logistics cost framework.

The framework would include elements of this cost and how to measure that.

"So our framework is being done with the help of our technical partner and it's almost done. But then we have to calculate and I think by the month of September, we will have realistic logistics costs in the country. We will define what are the components and we will have our own estimates," she said while speaking at CII's conclave on

trade facilitation.

Logistics cost plays a key role in facilitating trade and enhancing the competitiveness of traders.

The department conducted a workshop in March on the logistics cost framework, and a task force was set up to formulate a framework to determine the cost in the country.

The task force members include representatives from Niti Aayog, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), academic experts, and other stakeholders.

The government has rolled out a national logistics policy and PM Gati Shakti initiative to boost the competitiveness of the industry and cut logistics costs.

Speaking at the conclave, Sanjay Budhia, Chairman of CII National Committee on EXIM and Managing Director of Patton Group, said that continued focus on creating a paperless trading ecosystem by measures like faceless assessment, risk management system, and direct port delivery have started showing results at the ground level.

One Day Job Fair Held In Kulgam

Director Employment says Deptt will start Free short term employment oriented courses

Observer News Service

KULGAM: In an endeavour to provide a suitable & convenient platform to the educated unemployed youth/job seekers and facilitate their interaction with the Private Companies and Employers for Training, Skilling and placement, District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam Saturday organised one day Job Fair in the office premises here at Kulgam.

The Job fair was inaugurated by Director Employment Kashmir, Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad, Assistant Director Employment, DE&CC Kulgam Nowshad Anjum Mir and other officers were also present on the occasion.

12 Private Companies and Skill Development Organisations operating in Education, Finance, Skill Development, Agriculture, Automobile and Insurance sectors including Team Brain Development Institute Pvt. Ltd, M/s Ilena Technologies, M/s Green Plan-

et Bio-products, WizKids Educorp, M/s Think & Win Technologies, M/s Future Solutions Pvt. Ltd, Imperial Institute Kulgam, Nivia Bupa Health Insurance Company, Bajaj Allianz, Tata AIA Life, SBI Life and Ashoka Leyland participated in the event with around 600 vacancies.

Resource Persons from line departments including Sheep Husbandry Department, Animal Husbandry Department, Women Development Corporation, Handloom and Handicrafts department, KVIB also disseminated the information about their respective schemes and programmes.

The event saw an overwhelming response from the job seekers and companies. Dir visited the stalls and interacted with the participating youth and representatives of private companies.

While addressing the audience, Director Employment emphasized upon the youth to come out of the traditional mind set up and participate in such kinds of events to extend their horizons of vision and

wisdom.

He advised the participants to upgrade their skills as per the Job market demand/ trends and enhance their chances of employment.

Director informed the participants that unemployed youth (25-30 per batch) from each district will be imparted short term employment/ entrepreneurship oriented training as per the market/ industry demand and for this purpose applications from eligible and desirous youth shall be invited from 20th June 2023 by the respective District Employment & Counselling Centres.

These training/skill development courses will be conducted in collaboration with NIELIT, IHM, IMPA&RD, Universities, Polytechnics, IIT and other Government recognized skill development institutions depending upon the availability of such institutions and relevance of the courses, he added.

The training shall be provided free of cost and the trainees will also get a monthly stipend of Rs. 1000 each.

Autowings Toyota Launches Toyota HILUX At Golf Course Gulmarg

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Autowings Toyota, authorized dealer of Toyota Kirloskar Motors Pvt Ltd Saturday launched the Toyota HILUX at Golf Course -Gulmarg.

The launching was done by the chief guest Arif Pervaz Shah, ARTO Kashmir along with Anuj Pathak (Field Sales Manager- Toyota Kirloskar Motors Pvt Ltd), Azhar Majid Mir (MD Auto wings Toyota pvt ltd) in presence of top management of Autowings Toyota pvt ltd and huge gathering of customer's and dignitaries.

Speaking on the launch Younis Bashir (CEO, Autowings Toyota) said "we are extremely delighted by the launch the HILUX which is known for its unbreakable reputation with 20 million hilux owner's all across globe. It is combination of power pack, sophistication and style makes a bold statement whether it is your regular commute during the week or your off road adventure during weekend, powered



by 2.75 L BS -V1 engine with both option of (4*4) manual/ automatic transmission with power output of 204 ps and torque output of 500 Nm , water wading capacity of 700 mm (2.29 ft) , EMBEDDED WITH SAFETY FEATURES like VCS vehicle

stability control with brake assist, HAC (Hill Assist control), 7 SRS Airbags, WIL Concept seats (whiplash injury lessening), Child Restraint System :ISOFIX +Tether Anchor on 2nd Row, Speed Auto Lock ,Emergency brake signal also Agilent exterior front bumper

w/ piano black accents, Aero stabilizing Fins on ORVM, Dust Sensing LED head lamps , FOR COMFORT & CONVIENCE it is packed with features like Heat rejection glass, cruise control ,large TFT Multi information display, Optitron Metal

Combimeter with illumination control, 8.0" DA touch screen with capacitive switches(BT,USB,ANDRIOD AUTO, Apple Car Play), cooled upper glove box, Driving Modes: ECO,PWR Mode , park assist: Back Monitor, Front And Rear

Sensor with MID indicator ,power steering with VFC(variable flow control), Automatic Climate Control Air-Conditioner(Dual zone) OFF-ROAD IT IS LOADED with Tough Frame, DAC (downhill assist control), A-TRC (active traction control)

, Electronic drive (2wd/4wd) control, Electronic differential lock and much more. We are sure HILUX will create a new bench mark and demonstrate TOYOTA'S commitment in offering cutting edge technology features and quality to the customer's



Module Forging Driving Licences For J-K Residents Using Details Of Security Forces Busted In Gujarat

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A retired Navy official and another person were arrested after a major fake driving licence module was uncovered in Gujarat with links to Jammu and Kashmir where they forged the documents using details of security forces, officials said on Saturday.

The fake driving licence racket, which was active in Ahmedabad for nearly four years, was busted by the crime branch of the Gujarat Police based on inputs from the Southern Command Military Intelligence, they said.

The officials said 284 driving licences, 97 service motor driving licence books, nine fake rubber stamps, three laptops, four mobile phones, 37 'No-Objection' certificates, nine serving certificates, five confirmation letters, 27 'speed post' stickers and digital pens were seized from the accused.

A case was registered and further investigation is on, they said, indicating that more arrests are likely soon.

Earlier, the country's biggest arms licence scam was detected in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017 which is currently being investigated by the CBI. The federal agency registered the first set of FIRs on October 16, 2018, in connection with alleged



irregularities in the grant of 2.78 lakh arms licences in 22 districts during 2012-16.

The officials said the Army's Southern Command Military Intelligence busted the driving licence scam, leading to the arrest of Santosh Singh, who was employed with the Indian Navy from 1991 to 2012, and Dhaval Rawat, an RTO agent in Gandhinagar who used to provide driving licences to individuals of Jammu and Kashmir on

the basis of fake certificates of security forces.

The accused, who were apprehended on Friday, revealed that they have supplied more than 1,000 driving licences to their handlers, the officials said, adding they used to work on the behest of Ishfaq, Waseem and Nassar Mir, who are based in Uri, where they reportedly run a driving school.

The officials said the accused also revealed that they earned

more than Rs 50 lakh this year alone, though they were active for nearly four years.

"Obtaining a driving licence on fake documents belonging to security agencies is a matter of grave concern as these driving licences can further be used for obtaining other official documents like passports by inimical persons. The module could also have been exploited to make fake driving licences of illegal Bangladeshi migrants," an

official privy to the probe said.

He said Singh, originally from Madhya Pradesh, started making driving licences for soldiers of various battalions of the security forces in Gandhinagar.

During this time, he was contacted by the three Jammu and Kashmir residents and some others and was asked to forge driving licences using details of jawans and security forces battalions, the official said.

"Singh has been making licences for security forces for the past several years and knows very well what documents are required. His contacts in Jammu and Kashmir used to send the Aadhaar card and the photo of the person whose driving licence is to be made," he said. The official added that Singh ordered a coin-making machine online to forge coins for various battalions.

Rawat worked with Singh for two years and knew how he was making fake driving licences, he said.

In order to avoid having to appear in person for document verification and live photo taking, applicants used to get driving licences by paying middlemen at the RTO office, the official said, adding the licences were delivered to Ayan Umar, who forged RTO 'No-Objection' certificates to change the addresses to Jammu and Kashmir.

Pre-arrest Bail Extraordinary Remedy To Be Granted In Extraordinary Cases, Says Delhi court



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: A Delhi court has denied pre-arrest bail to a man accused of involvement in organised cyber crime, saying anticipatory bail was an extraordinary remedy and is to be given only in extraordinary cases. Vacation Judge Aparna Swami dismissed the application filed by Shivam Kumar, and directed him to join the investigation.

"Anticipatory bail is an extraordinary remedy and is to be given only in extraordinary cases. The present (case) does not warrant the same and thus, in light of the above discussion, I do not find this to be a fit case for grant of anticipatory bail," the judge said in an order passed on June 12.

The court noted the case involved around 600 victims who were cheated of Rs 4.47 crore.

The court also noted cyber police of seven states had issued notices for freezing the bank account of the company of the accused.

"This being an economic offence, it must be dealt with

sternly in the matter of bail... For the case to be taken to its logical end, it requires detailed investigation, which in turn is dependent on sustained interrogation of the applicant/accused," the judge said.

The accused had sought anticipatory bail, claiming he was only a director in the company and had no role in the offence. He alleged he was falsely implicated in the case.

The prosecution opposed the application on the ground that an amount of Rs 14 lakh cheated from the victims was yet to be recovered and his custodial interrogation was needed to unearth the conspiracy.

According to the prosecution, Rs 14 lakh of the cheated amount was transferred to the bank account of the company where the applicant was one of the directors. An FIR was lodged under various sections including 420 (cheating) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) of IPC.

The prosecution claimed the accused had not joined the investigation despite notice and also switched off his mobile phone.

HC seeks presence of Delhi Waqf Board CEO over non-payment of salaries to employees

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the chief executive officer of Delhi Waqf Board to come before it and explain the reasons for non-payment of salaries to board employees for several months in spite of a court order directing clearance of the outstanding dues.

Justice Jyoti Singh said the petition of the Delhi Waqf Board Employees depicts a "very sorry" state of affairs as admittedly the employees have not received their salaries for nearly nine months. The authorities

were "totally insensitive" to the plight of the employees who were finding it difficult to make two ends meet, the judge said.

Prima facie, the court said, there is scant regard for court orders, as despite there being an assurance on the last date of hearing, there was no certainty as to when salaries would be paid and now the "usual and casual response" is that the matter is under consideration and there is deficiency of funds.

"In this view of the matter, this court deems it appropriate to direct Md. Rehan Raza, Chief Executive Officer/Respondent

No. 1 (Delhi Waqf Board) to remain present in Court on the next date of hearing i.e. 11.07.2023 at 02.30 PM, to explain the alleged non-compliance of the orders passed by this Court and non-performance of the statutory obligations of the Delhi Waqf Board to pay salaries and allowances to its employees," said the court in its order passed on June 1.

"It appears that the Respondents are totally insensitive to the plight of the employees who are without their salaries and it needs no emphasis that they are finding it difficult to make two ends meet and fend for themselves and their

families," it said.

It said prima facie the court is of the view that the respondents have scant regard even for the orders passed by it as despite an assurance given on the last date of hearing that the dues will be cleared within two weeks, even today there is no certainty as to when the petitioners will receive their salaries.

The petitioner association along with an individual employee had moved the court earlier this year, claiming they had not received their salaries since October last year and were facing "unfathomable financial hardships".

The petitioners alleged there was non-compliance of an order passed by the court on March 27 directing the respondents- the city government and Delhi Waqf Board authorities- to clear the outstanding salaries of board employees of over six months within two weeks.

Advocate M Sufian Siddiqui, appearing for the petitioners, argued before the high court that the aggrieved employees have been robbed of their right to a dignified life in a brazen infringement of their fundamental and constitutional rights.

"The employees of Delhi

Waqf Board falling in Category I (Permanent employees recruited against the sanctioned post), II (Permanent employees whose recruitment is approved by the Divisional Commissioner), III (Employees who were recruited on contractual basis but are waiting for their absorption) and IV (Contractual employees who continue to be contractual) have not received their salary from October 2022," the petition has said.

It said it was imperative for the Board to meet and take necessary measures for the release of salaries of its employees and paucity of funds cannot be an excuse.

It submitted the "entire functioning of the board has collapsed" and its staff "has been in a grim situation because of unresolved issues".

"The functioning of the Delhi Waqf Board has come to a standstill as its business is to be transacted at its meetings. Staggeringly, after 05.01.2022 no meeting of the members of the Board has taken place. Hence, as a necessary corollary, the Board has not been able to meet and transact its business, as such, revenue generation of the Delhi Waqf Board has taken a blow," the petition has said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Pak Agencies

from Pakistan came in and they targeted ordinary people and some security personnel at some places as well. Operations are going on to track them and foil such conspiracies," the DGP said.

On the operations in Poonch and Kupwara on Friday, Singh said two infiltration attempts were foiled.

"Yesterday, two infiltration attempts took place in Poonch and the Jumagund area in Kupwara where infiltrators from Pakistan tried to come in. In Poonch, they did not get a chance to enter and their attempt was foiled and they were forced to retreat under the cover of foliage. We recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition, which the terrorists had brought along. In Kupwara, five terrorists, who had come from Pakistan, were killed," he said.

The DGP said youngsters of Jammu and Kashmir have seen through the evil designs of the enemy and chosen the path of peace and development.

"I also congratulate the youth of Kashmir and Jammu. They have finally seen through the evil designs of our adversary and have chosen peace over death and destruction. There are hardly any people joining terrorist ranks," he said.

On the Amarnath Yatra, Singh said all arrangements have been made for the pilgrimage which is scheduled to begin from July 1.

"On behalf of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we welcome the yatri. Like every year, security arrangements and other logistics by the civil administration are being put in place. I hope the arrival of yatri will even further improve the atmosphere of festivities created by tourist arrivals. We will try our best that pilgrims go back with good memories from here," he said.

BJP Ready For

will come in the political battlefield. I am confident that BJP will form the next government in JK," he added.

Launching the party's "Har Ghar Chalo" campaign, Raina said the aim of the Modi government was to work for the welfare of the poor.

"We want the poor to be happy, we want to serve the poor. Everyone

should feel this government belongs to him, everyone should feel that they are getting justice," he said.

Making a pitch for the next year's Lok Sabha polls, Raina said, "We want BJP to win Lok Sabha elections from Kashmir."

He appealed to the people of Kashmir to give one chance to BJP. "We will work for the development and welfare of the people. We will work for communal harmony and brotherhood," he added.

Talking to reporters after the rally, Raina said Modi has brought peace to Jammu and Kashmir which has made the BJP popular in the Union territory.

"Modi sahib has worked for the welfare of people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is the reason that BJP is moving ahead in JK," he said.

He said National Conference leader Omar Abdullah should know that elections are announced and conducted by the Election Commission and not by the prime minister or a political party.

10,000 More CRPF

Kashmir, central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. Ten companies are being deployed in Jammu, the official said.

Other than sanitising the areas lying in south Kashmir and Baltal route in central Kashmir, the official said, the paramilitary personnel will be deployed for Road Opening Parties (ROPs) on the highway in the Valley.

The official said that additional companies are being inducted exclusively for the yatra duty. As per officials, around nine lakh pilgrims are expected to perform the annual yatra this year and as such "more troops would be required for their safety". Asked if more companies will be rushed, the officials said, "There is no such information as of now." (GNS)

CCTV Cameras

to focus their CCTV cameras towards the road as part of the security measure, they said.

The annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir is scheduled to start on July 1 and continue till August 31. The journey can be undertaken through two routes

-- the traditional 48-km route through Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in the Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

"Installation of CCTV camera has started in Lakhnanpur area of Kathua district and will be completed in two days," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Kathua Shivdeep Singh Jamwal said.

Officials said security has been beefed up at Lakhnanpur and checkpoints have been set up there to segregate routine vehicles and Amarnath Yatra vehicles entering Jammu and Kashmir. (PTI)

Sadhus Start

in the old city's Purani Mandi area and are upbeat to offer their prayers at the 3,880-metre high holy cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, housing the naturally formed ice-Shivling.

The 62-day long pilgrimage will commence on July 1 from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in the Ganderbal district.

The first batch of pilgrims, including a group of Sadhus, is leaving for the Yatra from Jammu on June 30.

"I am performing the Yatra for the first time and waiting eagerly to reach Kashmir, the name of which fills our chest with pride as Kashmir to Kanyakumari is India," a 58-year-old sadhu from Andhra Pradesh, Vasudevanand Sarawari, told PTI.

The sadhu reached the Ram Temple after conducting Char Dham, a pilgrimage of four holy places -- Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath -- by foot.

"I am thankful to my Lord for giving me an opportunity to seek his blessings by joining the Amarnath pilgrimage this year. One should perform the Yatra at least once in the lifetime," he said amid chants of "Bham Bham Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev" from his fellow sadhus, staying in small groups inside a large hall at the temple complex, in praise of Lord Shiva.

Authorities have beefed up security across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the Yatra from Lakhnanpur the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering

Punjab to the cave shrine including various base camps enroute for a peaceful pilgrimage.

"I am satisfied with all the arrangements. I paid my obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine after reaching here some days back. Jammu and Kashmir is an abode of holy places and we, in Andhra Pradesh, have high esteem for the region," he said.

Purnima, a resident of Assam, said she has been religiously visiting the cave shrine every year for over the past 13 years, barring one year break due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When I was seven-year-old, I was not able to speak or walk and my mother took a pledge to undertake Amarnath Yatra till I am cured. She used to take me to the shrine on her back and after 10 years of pilgrimage, I regained the strength to walk and speak as well," she said, expressing her excitement to embark on the Yatra once again.

Kanchan Chohan, a Sadhvi from Indore, said she had renounced the worldly life and is looking for peace. "This is my first yatra and I will come again and again till my last breath."

Radey Sham Maharaj, the priest at the temple said, so far 207 Sadhus and Sadhvis have reached the Ram Temple for the Yatra.

"Like yesteryears, all arrangements for the devotees for their lodging and boarding at the temple have the capacity to accommodate over 2,000 Sadhus," he said.

"Besides food and shelter, medical facilities and proper sanitation will be ensured in active coordination with the district administration so that there is no inconvenience to the sadhus," the priest said.

He said coolers and air conditioners are available in good numbers to help the sadhus to beat the heat.

"The registration counter will be opened (by the authorities) on June 30 to facilitate the sadhus," he said.

Many of the sadhus have already conducted the Yatra many times and said they will pray for everlasting peace while paying obeisance at the shrine. (PTI)

HC Allows

only till the conclusion of Amarnath Yatra of this year."

Meanwhile, based on submissions by amicus curie that two important departments namely, J&K Forest Department, and Department of Wildlife should be heard before any decision is taken by the Court, the division bench asked them to submit a report regarding the matter pertaining to the preservation of the Sonamarg.

"We are also of the view that since they are important stakeholders in the preservation of environment at Sonamarg, they are directed to file their responses and submit their views in this PIL and if already submitted, they shall update the status of their response," the court said and ordered listing of the PIL July 17.

On March 27 this year, the Court had ordered: "...we make it emphatically clear that there shall be no fresh activity of construction to be carried out in respect of any building or structure in the Sonamarg Development Area irrespective of whether there is any building permission granted for the purpose by any competent authority."

Renovation or Repairs permitted by the Court shall be carried out only after obtaining proper building permission from the BOCA, Sonamarg, it had said.

Development Accelerated

are making irresponsible statements".

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming State Visit to the US, Puri said, "Relations with the US have witnessed a lot of improvement. Many issues will come up for discussion (during the visit). Issues related to terrorism generally come up for discussion and if there is international cooperation against terrorism, it will definitely benefit many of our states."

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 on the invitation of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. They will host Modi at a State Dinner on June 22. The visit also includes an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on June 22.

On the objections raised by the Congress over the renaming of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Delhi as the Prime Ministers'

Museum and Library Society, the Union minister said he was surprised that the centre was named after "just one prime minister". How many prime ministers did the country have? "I am surprised over the naming of the centre after just one prime minister", he said.

"We had Pandit ji (Jawahar Lal Nehru), who had a lot of contributions, followed by Gulzarilal Nanda, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira ji, PV Narasimha Rao ji and Manmohan Singh ji," the minister of housing and urban affairs, and petroleum and natural gas said.

"What one can say about the Opposition? One youth leader went to London and said there are 38 crore Indians who are hungry. The prime minister is providing free dry ration to 80 crore people since the outbreak of the (coronavirus) pandemic. They are making irresponsible statements," he said.

Atishi had said in London on Thursday that India has the "largest number of malnourished" people, despite being the second largest producer of food in the world.

The minister said, "Development works are happening across the country. When Modi took over in 2014, it was said that the northeastern region is the most neglected but he made sure that every minister visits the region once in a month to ensure its development."

He also said after the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is also witnessing massive development in all sectors.

Puri said this was his sixth visit to Jammu and Kashmir in the past couple of years and "we are witness to massive footfall of tourists, setting up of IIM, AIIMS, hospitals and other educational institutions".

"I feel some works are pending due to some obstacles but they are being taken care of to further speed up the development," he said.

Puri said the Devika river project, costing Rs 190 crore, will be completed within the next three months. "This is North India's first river rejuvenation project which will offer a unique destination both for pilgrims and tourists," he said.



Srinagar Premier League: Galaxy Wins Round 3 Match

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023 Srinagar Football Premier League Round 3 continued on Saturday, with Galaxy FC taking on Star Kashmir FC at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The 7:00 PM kick off was played under the floodlights and witnessed a highly contested match between two evenly matched teams. Galaxy FC scored the game's only goal in the first half, and decided to

dig deep to preserve their slender lead.

Star Kashmir players were ably thwarted by Galaxy's goalkeeper Abrar, who also took the man of the match award for his performance.

The 2023 Srinagar Football Premier League is being organised by District Football Association (DFA) Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Football Association and J&K Sports Council.

Two Matches Played In Inter School Football C'ship



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing 1st Inter School Football Championship 2023 two matches were played on Saturday at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The first match of the day saw Yaqoob Steel Sales FFA take on FC Ganderbal. Yaqoob Steel Sales FFA dominated the proceedings and won 5-1.

In the second match of the day, 8th match of the championship,

ALBA North End FC went toe-to-toe with Commute Polo Ground FC. ALBA North End FC defeated Commute Polo Ground FC 3-0 to cap off an assured performance.

The 1st Inter School Football Championship 2023 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.

District Pencak Silat C'ship Begins In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The two-day District Srinagar Pencak Silat Championship commenced at Indoor Hall Polo Ground Srinagar here on Saturday.

The championship is being organised by District Srinagar Pencak Silat Association in collaboration with Pencak Silat Association of J&K under the aegis of J&K Sports Council, and will witness the participation of more than 790 players from different schools and clubs.

Mohammad Iqbal, in-charge manager of Indoor Sports Complex was chief guest on the inaugural ceremony, and office bearers of the state and district association units of J&K Pencak Silat Association were also present on the occasion.

"The participants shall compete in different age groups including pre-teen, sub-junior, junior in both boys and girls besides senior men and women events will also be held," said Irfan Aziz Botta Treasurer, Indian Pencak Silat Federation.

Ashes Day 2: Khawaja Leads Aussie Fightback



Agencies

BIRMINGHAM: Opener Usman Khawaja revived Australia's fortunes with an unbeaten 84 against England by tea on day two of the Ashes opener at Edgbaston on Saturday.

Australia was 188-4, still 205 runs behind England but feeling a little happier after the morning dismissals of top-ranked Test batter Marcus Labuschagne for a golden duck and second-ranked Steve Smith for 16.

With Khawaja was all-rounder Cameron Green, who survived a stumping chance to be 21 not out in another promising partnership for Australia of 40 runs and counting. Ali has figures of 1-82 from 18 overs — including being hit

the morning, Australia dug in after lunch. Khawaja and Travis Head paired up for 81 runs.

Head plundered Moeen Ali in particular, though the England spinner had the last say by ending the dangerous partnership. Khawaja and Head, the third-ranked test batter, sprayed the ball above, between and over England's fielders to give the hosts a taste of their own Bazball medicine.

The pair came together at 67-3 and took the visitors to 148, increasing the run rate by around a run an over mostly at Ali's expense, until Head, on 50, advanced once too often against the spinner to send the ball to Zak Crawley at midwicket.

After losing three wickets in

for six three times, twice by Khawaja — but went into the match knowing England captain Ben Stokes was happy to back a bowler always on the attack even at the cost of being expensive.

After dismissing Head, Ali deserved Green's wicket two balls later but Jonny Bairstow spilled a clear stumping chance in what has otherwise been a superb Test for the wicketkeeper-batter.

Australia went to lunch on 78-3 after David Warner self-destructed and England seamer Stuart Broad dismissed Labuschagne off the next ball in more bowler-friendly conditions. Stokes trapped Smith leg before on lunch just when Australia seemed to be recovering. (AP)

Ishan Kishan Heading To NCA For S&C Work Ahead Of WI Tour

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan and a few other contracted players will check into the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru next week, for Strength & Conditioning (S&C) related work ahead of the national team's departure for the Caribbean islands for a full tour against the West Indies.

India will play two Tests, three ODIs and five one-day internationals against the West Indies starting July 12, for which the Rohit Sharma-led team is slated to depart on July 3. Normally, when there is a gap between two international series, the centrally contracted and targeted players, who are not a part of any domestic tournaments are called at the NCA to have an update on their fitness status.

With the Duleep Trophy scheduled to be held entirely in Bengaluru from June 28 and the final to be played from July 12-16 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, it has already been reported by PTI earlier that Kishan had opted out of the season opening domestic red ball tournament. With the East Zone taking on the Cen-



tral Zone in the first quarter-final at Alur in Bengaluru, the 24-year-old had the opportunity to play one game with the red-ball before the Indian team's departure for the Caribbean tour.

The one-off game would have given Kishan a chance to push his case for selection in the Test team, especially when the incumbent KS Bharat struggling to make a mark with the bat. But Kishan, who was being touted as India's wicketkeeper-batter in the WTC final ahead of Bharat, had a couple of days ago opted out

of the Duleep Trophy and his decision certainly raises questions about his desire to play Test cricket, and across formats for India. However perhaps with no one to challenge his place as second keeper in Test side, Kishan's decision to opt out is more to do with lack of options.

For the record, his last competitive match was for Mumbai Indians on May 26 and if he is not selected in playing for Tests, his next game would be ODI series opener against West Indies on July 27 at the Kensington Oval in Barbados.



Bangladesh Thrash Afghans In Record 546-Run Win

Agencies

MIRPUR: Bangladesh crushed Afghanistan by 546 runs in their one-off test on the fourth day in Mirpur on Saturday for the biggest test win by runs in the 21st century after fast bowler Taskin Ahmed claimed career-best figures of 4-37. The visitors, playing their first test since 2021, were set a daunting target of 662 and were dismissed for 115 after last batter Zahir Khan retired hurt after being hit by a Taskin bouncer.

Bangladesh, whose previous biggest win was by 226 runs against Zimbabwe, earned the biggest test win by runs since Australia's 562-run victory over England in 1934. England hold the all-time record with a 675-run win over Australia in 1928.

Taskin spearheaded the pace attack that combined to take 14 wickets in the match, with Shoriful Islam chipping in with 3-28 as Afghanistan, who resumed at 45-2

on Saturday, stumbled early when Nasir Jamal (6) edged Ebadot Hosain in the third over.

Shoriful had Afsar Zaxai (6) caught at gully and dismissed Bahir Shah (7) before Rahmat Shah, who top-scored with a dogged 73-ball 30, was caught behind the stumps off Taskin. Karim Janat hit two sixes before Taskin bowled him for 18 while Mehidy Hasan removed Amir Hamza (5) to leave Afghanistan at 106-8.

Taskin had Yamin Ahmadzai caught at mid-off to get his fourth in the next over before Zahir was hit on the elbow while trying to duck a short ball and had to retire hurt. Bangladesh made 382 in the first innings, with Najmul Hossain Shanto scoring 146, and bowled out Afghanistan for 146 in reply.

Najmul notched 124 in the second while Mominul Haque ended a two-year century drought with an unbeaten 121 as Bangladesh declared at 425-4 in Friday's final session.

Spain Trumping Fatigue In Bid To Win Nations League

Agencies

ROTTERDAM: Spain coach Luis de la Fuente is confident the motivation of playing in the Nations League final will trump any end-of-season fatigue his players might feel after an exhausting campaign. Spain take on Croatia to decide the title in Rotterdam on Sunday after edging Italy in the last minute of their semi-final on Thursday.

De la Fuente told a pre-match press conference he had no concerns about his players finding the requisite energy before heading off on holidays. "They're all fine. No one is going to let us down. We're going to give it a whirl tomorrow," he said.

"I think my team has peaked at the best moment of the season. Motivation overcomes

has a chance to win a title in only his fourth game in charge.

"What gives recognition are the titles, but what matters is the previous work. The title puts the varnish on the work," he said. "To get to a final is a privilege. If you leave everything out there on the pitch, there can be no frustration afterward. Of course, we want to win, not for me but to make our supporters happy."

Croatia, however, will be a tricky opponent for Spain, the coach added. "I see it as a very even contest, each team has their own strong characteristics but we have both shown that today we are the two best teams in Europe."

"We would like to win the game inside the 90 minutes. They have more experience, and that half hour (of extra time)



everything." De la Fuente took over as Spain coach after their last-16 elimination at the World Cup last November, and he now

is vital in terms of experience. A calm head sets the tone, and I think Croatia are also very strong physically." (AP)

FIFA Says Vinicius Junior Will Help Tackle Racism In Revived Task Force

Agencies

GENEVA: Brazil and Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior has agreed to join a new task force to tackle racism in soccer, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Thursday.

Vinicius, who is Black, has been the target of sustained racist abuse by fans in Spanish stadiums throughout the season, with little done by referees or soccer bodies to protect him.

That must stop, Infantino said in an Instagram post after he met the player at a Brazil training camp in Barcelona. "There is no football if there is racism! So let's stop the games," Infantino wrote.

"We will also strengthen the engagement with players on this crucial topic so I am glad Vinicius accepted to be part of a task force which will include other important players and will elaborate concrete and efficient measures to end racism in football once and for all."

Vinicius spoke to reporters for the first time since he was racially abused in a Spanish league match in Valencia last month. He thanked everyone who supported him.

"Everyone has been giving me strength so I can continue in this battle," he said. "We needed someone to stay strong to try to improve this. I want to keep going for all the youngsters and for all the people who suffer with this but don't have the same voice that I have."

Vinicius did not take any questions from reporters.

FIFA created an anti-racism task force in 2013 after a notorious incident of abuse suffered in Italy by AC Milan midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng, who is Black.

Boateng worked with the task force which FIFA shut down in 2016, months after Infantino was elected. FIFA said then the task force had "completely fulfilled its temporary mission."

Shutting down the anti-racism panel had been "a monumental mistake," one of its members, British-Nigerian journalist Osasu Obayiwana, said Thursday.

Infantino said Thursday that more should be done to enforce soccer's current three-step policy to stop games when players are racially abused. The first just requires referees to



pause play for a warning to be broadcast to spectators. It has rarely been used.

He also called on fans who

hurl racial abuse "to be banned from stadiums across the globe."

"We want to identify racists

in stadiums and across social media. They are criminals," the FIFA leader said. "The authorities need to take these people

to court and we will say this to all of them: Racism is a crime." FIFA and European soccer body UEFA do work with the

"India Wouldn't Have Been Partitioned If Netaji Was There": Ajit Doval

Agenceis

New Delhi: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had the audacity to fearlessly challenge the British and India would not have been partitioned if he was there at that time, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Saturday.

Mr Doval said Bose was determined to fight the British for India's Independence and never wanted to beg for freedom, adding he not only wanted to end political subjugation but felt that the political, social, economic and cultural mindset of the people has to be changed and "they should feel like free birds in the sky".

The National Security Advisor (NSA) said this while delivering the first Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose memorial lecture organised by the industry chamber ASSOCHAM.

In the course of his address, Mr Doval delved into various aspects of Bose's life and noted that he even had the audacity to challenge Mahatma Gandhi. But at the same time, Mr Doval noted that Bose had a deep respect for Gandhi.

"The seed, the idea that came to his mind was 'I will fight the British, I will not beg for freedom. It is my right and I will have to get it,'" Doval said.

"India would not have been partitioned if Subhas Bose was there. Jinnah said I can accept only one leader and that is Subhas Bose," he added.

Mr Doval said Bose's contribution to India is exemplary.

"In Indian history, there are very few parallels or in global history where people had the audacity to sail against the current -- and not an easy current. It was the current of the mighty British empire," he said.

"Netaji said I will not compromise for anything less than full independence and freedom," Mr Doval said.

Netaji said "I want to free this country not only from political subjugation" but felt that the political, social, economic and cultural mindset of the people has to be changed, and "they should feel like free birds in the sky", the NSA added.

"Bose possessed audacity like no other. He had the courage to challenge the prevailing powers, regardless of the consequences. His



audacity was evident throughout his life, from his journey to London for the ICS to his escape from India during detention. He displayed unparalleled bravery and determination," Mr Doval said.

Highlighting the legacy of Bose, Mr Doval spoke about Netaji's ability to unite people from diverse backgrounds and how he envisioned a unified and strong India.

"Bose's leadership was exceptional. He recognised India as a reality, transcending divisions of caste, religion, and ethnicity. His vision of a united India is encapsulated in his famous slogan 'Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja'.

"It resonated with people across all walks of life. He inspired them to fight for their country, united in their pursuit of freedom," Mr Doval said.

The NSA said Bose was a secular person and that he was deeply religious. Mr Doval said Bose's efforts were driven by his passion for patriotism and his unwavering dream of a great India. The NSA said Bose was a highly religious man.

"Bose's efforts were monumental, fuelled by his romantic ideals of patriotism and his unwavering hope for a great India.

"History may have been unkind to him, but his impact and nationalism continued even after his passing. He left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of countless Indians who were inspired by his extraordinary journey," he said.

Reacting to his remarks, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh accused Mr Doval of distorting history.

First "Trooping The Colour" Parade For Britain's King Charles



Agenceis

London: Britain's King Charles celebrated his first official birthday parade as sovereign on Saturday, riding on horseback to inspect soldiers in a ceremony that has been an annual event since 1760.

The parade, known as "Trooping the Colour", comes just weeks after Charles's coronation on May 6, another ceremony featuring soldiers marching in scarlet coats and bearskin fur hats in central London accompanied to music played by military bands.

By appearing on horseback Charles, 74, revives a tradition which his mother, Queen Elizabeth, gave up in 1986 when she was 60.

In what is the British military's annual tribute to the monarch, Charles was greeted by a Royal Salute, and carried out an inspection of soldiers in front of 8,000 spectators, followed by his son the Prince of Wales, his sister Princess Anne and his brother the Duke of Edinburgh also on horseback.

The Queen and the Princess of Wales followed in a carriage. The colour, or regimental flag, which was trooped in the ceremony belongs to the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards.

Charles was then due to return to Buckingham Palace with his family where they will gather on the building's famous balcony to watch a fly-past of around 70 military aircraft and helicopters starting

at 1200 GMT.

Clear skies mean crowds gathered along the route between the Mall and Horse Guard's Parade will see a full air display, including Typhoon fighters and Red Arrows, jets which were prevented from joining the coronation fly-past due to low cloud.

The C-130 Hercules will also take part, the transport plane's final ceremonial flight before being retired after almost 60 years of service.

Charles became king when his mother Queen Elizabeth died aged 96 in September. Trooping the Colour marks the official Birthday of Britain's monarch and is usually held in June. Charles's actual Birthday is Nov. 14.

The \$470 Billion Lunch

Elon Musk, Bernard Arnault Dine Together In Paris

Agenceis

The world's two richest people, Elon Musk and Bernard Arnault, met for lunch on Friday in Paris along with some of their family members.

The Tesla CEO was accompanied by his mother, Maye Musk, while Bernard Arnault, Chairman and CEO of LVMH, came with two of his sons - Antoine and Alexandre Arnault.

Antoine Arnault shared a few pictures from the lunch on Instagram Stories where Elon Musk and Bernard Arnault are seen posing together.

After lunch, Elon Musk attended the seventh edition of the Viva Technology conference, which was held from June 14 to June 17 in Paris, France. The annual conference was founded by the Publicis Groupe SA and Les Echos, which are owned LVMH. It is "Europe's biggest startup and tech event" aimed at promoting innovation by connecting tech leaders, startups, major corporations, and investors.

Elon Musk and Bernard Arnault were among the official speakers at the technology conference. Other speakers included French President Emmanuel Macron, Co-Founder of Salesforce Marc Benioff, and VP and Chief AI Scientist at Meta Yann LeCun among others.

Emmanuel Macron also shared a picture with Elon Musk on Twitter where the two were seen smiling and shaking hands. "Let's work together!" the French president wrote.

According to Forbes, Elon Musk is the world's wealthiest person with a net worth is \$236.9 billion while Bernard Arnault and family is ranked second with a net worth of \$233.4 billion. The Tesla CEO recently reclaimed the title of being the richest person in the world. Bernard Arnault had surpassed him in December when the tech industry was struggling but luxury showed resilience in the face of inflation. Bernard Arnault's LVMH owns brands including Louis Vuitton, Hennessy, and Fendi.



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