

Climate-Induced Disasters Killed 552 People Over Past 10 Years in J&K

Parvaiz Bhat

In Budgam district's Gurwaith village many people are yet to overcome the trauma caused to the villagers when two people were killed on May 6 this year by lightning while they were herding their sheep in a pasture. On the same day two more people were killed by lightning in a village in Pulwama district while they were working in their farm. Another person was killed by lightning on July 7 in Kulgam. As many as 2863 extreme

weather events in J&K have killed 552 people between 2010 and 2022 besides causing heavy damage to infrastructure and livestock, says a study Extreme Weather Events induced mortalities in Jammu and Kashmir, India during 2010-2022, published in the International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction. Interestingly, out of the total 2863 extreme weather events, 1942 are the lightning events forming the bulk of the overall extreme weather events followed by 409 heavy rainfall



events, 186 landslides, 168 flash floods, 48 heat waves, 42 heavy snowfall events, 37 cold waves and 31 windstorms in the time period analysed in the study. According to Mukhtar

Ahmed, lead author of the study, there has been an increase in extreme weather events over the past two decades which is seen as a manifestation of global warming and human-caused climate change. Ahmed said that deaths due to extreme weather events have also increased over the years. He, however, added that despite the increase in extreme weather events, deaths due to heavy rain and snow have decreased which is mainly attributed to better early warning, weather forecasts and improved disaster

management. "Otherwise, such mortalities would have been manifold," Ahmed told Kashmir Observer. For the villagers in Gurwaith, the lightning strike was a bolt from the blue which sent shivers down their spines. "Lightning has never killed anyone in our village despite being a forest village. But that incident on that fateful day has shocked us all as it took away two lives from our village," villagers in Gurwaith said. "People are scared following the | More on PIO

Govt Sets Up Dept Of Public Grievances

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday accorded sanction to the creation of Public Grievances department in the Union Territory.

"In pursuance of Entry 15 of the Second Schedule of Transaction of Business of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Rules, notified vide Government Order No. 811-JK(GAD) of 2020, dated 01.09.2020, sanction is hereby accorded to the creation of "Department of Public Grievances," said an order.

The order states that the department will deal with the redressal of Public Grievances, Lieutenant Governor's Mulaqaat - Live Public Grievance Hearing

It will also deal with Jammu and Kashmir Integrated Grievance Redress and Monitoring System - JK-IGRAMS, monitoring disposal of grievances by Administrative Departments and subordinate offices, grievance Redressal Quality Monitoring and monitoring of redressal of grievances received on social media.

"It is further | More on PIO

Rabita Chief Hails PM Modi Over Inclusive Growth

"Salute constitution, democracy" Muslim World League Gen Secy heaps praise on friendly India

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A day after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Muslim World League Secretary-General Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa on Wednesday hailed his "passionate perspective" towards inclusive growth and said they agreed on the importance of working together to confront all aspects of extremism and hatred, regardless of their source.

Al-Issa, who is on an India visit, met Modi on Tuesday and discussed furthering inter-faith dialogue, countering extremist ideologies, promoting global peace, and deepening partnership between India and Saudi Arabia.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Al-Issa said he had an insightful discussion with the Indian prime minister on a variety of issues, including ways to further human-centric development and the importance of promoting understanding and harmony among the followers of faith and culture. "I appreciate His Excellency's passionate perspective towards inclusive growth," the Muslim World League (MWL)



secretary-general said.

There was also agreement on the importance of working together on confronting all aspects of extremism and hatred, regardless of their source and reason, as peace and prosperity in our diverse world can only be achieved with aware and comprehensive citizenship, he said.

"Also, I elaborated upon the details of this important meeting in my lecture at the India Islamic

Cultural Centre, which was delivered after the meeting with His Excellency the PM; it was attended by senior scholars, both Muslim and non-Muslim, along with thinkers and politicians coming from different states of India who valued and appreciated the lecture," Al-Issa said.

Tagging a tweet by Al-Issa on their meeting, Modi said, "Pleased to have met H.E. Sheikh @MhmdAlissa, Secretary General of

@MWLOrg and Chairman of the Organisation of Muslim Scholars. We had a great exchange of views on furthering inter-faith dialogue, countering extremist ideologies, promoting global peace, and deepening partnership between India and Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, in a tweet, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had said, "PM @narendramodi met H.E. Sheikh @MhmdAlissa, Secretary General of Muslim World League @MWLOrg and Chairman of the Organisation of Muslim Scholars. They had insightful discussions on various aspects of furthering inter-faith harmony, peace and working towards human progress."

MWL is an international NGO headquartered in Mecca, with members from all Islamic countries and sects.

It aims to present Islam and its tolerant principles, provide humanitarian aid, extend bridges of dialogue and cooperation with all, engage in positive openness to all cultures and civilisations, follow the path of centrism and moderation, and ward off movements calling for extremism, violence and exclusion.

LG Calls For Identifying New Sectors Of Employment Says Research Should Reflect The Reality Of Accelerated Transformation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday emphasized on identifying new sectors of employment and increasing interaction with leading academicians, besides insisting that the research should reflect the reality of accelerated transformation.

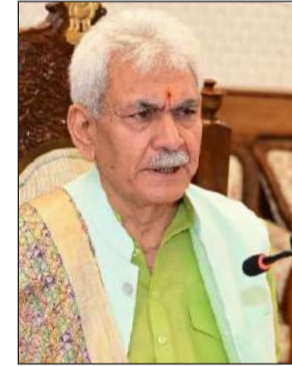
"5Cs- Critical evaluation is a must for future strategy. Critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, curiosity will build an equitable and vibrant knowledge society," the LG said.

He made these remarks while chairing the meeting of J&K Higher Education Council at Raj Bhawan, here on Wednesday.

The meeting deliberated on a range of themes like multidisciplinary education, ecosystem for research and innovation, Indian philosophy and languages, and project based learning mode, combined with needs and challenges of society.

The LG said that 'Design Your Degree' is one of the cornerstones of the National Education Policy-2020.

"It will promote applicative learning, skill enhancement aligned with needs of the 21st Century and provide unique opportunity to students to shape their



WE SHOULD STUDY SUCCESSFUL MODELS OF OTHER universities like Delhi University for reforms in examination."

curriculum," he added.

Sharing the ongoing transformational journey of the education sector in J&K, Sinha said the rapid advancements in education and other sectors and the evolving needs and aspirations of the society requires contribution of learning in classrooms to changes and new solutions.

"Journey of our Amrit Kaal will not only be about degree but also about skills and values. No classroom can afford to teach subjects | More on PIO

5 Amarnath Pilgrims Die In 24 Hours, Toll 19

Srinagar: Five Amarnath pilgrims died in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll in this year's yatra in the south Kashmir Himalayas to 19, officials said on Wednesday.

The pilgrims died of cardiac arrest, they added.

Three deaths took place on the Pahalgam axis of the yatra and two on the Baltal route, the officials said.

Two pilgrims each belonged to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, while the other yatri is yet to be identified, they said.

These five deaths have taken the death toll so far in this year's yatra to 19, including an ITBP officer posted on yatra duty, and a sevadar, according to officials.

Cardiac arrest triggered by lower oxygen concentration at high altitudes is one of the most common causes of fatalities among Amarnath pilgrims and security forces posted there for duty.

Till Tuesday, 1,37,353 pilgrims have visited the cave shrine to have | More on PIO

Govt Buildings To Be Illuminated On Aug-15

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With over a month left for the August-15 celebrations, the authorities in Valley on Wednesday directed Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) to ensure power supply to Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium besides making arrangements for illumination of government buildings to mark the celebration of the festival.

These directions were passed by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri while chairing a meeting of officers to review the arrangements for the celebration of ensuing Independence Day, an official spokesperson.

The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at S.K Cricket Stadium in summer capital Srinagar, where the chief guest shall hoist the tricolor.

At the outset, the spokesperson said, the Div Com highlighted the importance | More on PIO

Court Denies Bail To Accused In Gang Rape Case

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A fast track court here has rejected bail application of one of the accused in gang rape of a minor girl in Panthachowk area here last year.

The accused, R Farooq Lone, had sought bail on the health grounds but the Presiding Officer of Fast Track Court For POCSO cases Srinagar, Aarti Mohan, said that concerned Superintendent jail can be directed to provide adequate medical treatment to him in case required.

According to prosecution, on 21 September 2022, a man filed complaint with police station Panthachowk, stating that four persons subjected his 15-year-old daughter to sexual assault. The complainant further submitted that his daughter knew one of the accused who had developed friendly relationship with her and took some photographs also. Later on his daughter was



blackmailed. The complainant said that the person along with other accused called his daughter to Khonmoh area on the pretext of deleting the photos. However, when his daughter reached the place of meeting she was sexually assaulted by those four persons and after a month his daughter told him about the same incident.

Accordingly, the prosecution said, a case (FIR No. 96/2022) under section 376-D, 506, section 3/4 of POCSO Act was registered. After the completion of investigation, police filed charge-sheet under section 376-DA, 392, 354 (C), 352, 342,

506, 120-B IPC, section 5/6 of POCSO Act, 67 B(e) IT Act on 15 December 2022.

"In the instant case also, the accused has been charged for commission of offence u/s 5/6 of POCSO Act besides other offences under IPC therefore section 29 of the same would be triggered against him and the presumption of innocence is not available to the accused," said the court.

"Without going into the merits of the statement, lest it may prejudice the accused in any manner, it is sufficient to say that the victim has supported her earlier statement recorded u/s 164 Cr.P.C in material particulars," the court said, adding, "The accused has not brought forth any circumstance which would convince this court that the presumption which has arisen against him stand rebutted in any manner." Subsequently the court rejected the bail application of one of the accused.

WITHOUT GOING INTO THE MERITS of the statement, lest it may prejudice the accused in any manner, it is sufficient to say that the victim has supported her earlier statement recorded u/s 164 Cr.P.C in material particulars."

India's Defence System Backed By Strong Govt: Thakur

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: India is one of the most powerful countries and its defence forces and system are backed by a strong government, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said on Wednesday.

On the last day of his two-day visit to Ladakh, the minister for information and broadcasting, interacted with personnel of the army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) as well as locals in the Chumur area near the India-China border.

The people of Ladakh need not worry about external influences as the government has taken appropriate measures



to safeguard the borders, Thakur asserted, according to a statement.

During an interaction with ITBP personnel at Karzok village, 211 kilometres from Leh, he said, "The present

government is working hard to make India a stronger and better nation, the stronger (defence) forces are backed by a stronger government, and under the leadership of the Prime Minister Narendra | More on PIO

S H O R T T A K E S

5 OGWs Arrested In Budgam

Five militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested by a joint team of police and army from Central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said Wednesday. Rouf Ahmad Wani, Hilal Ahmad Malik, Tawfeeq Ahmad Dar, Danish Ahmad Dar and Showkat Ali Dar were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 62 RR in Khag area of the district, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. He said incriminating materials have been recovered from | More on PIO

Teen Dies After Car Rams Into Tree

A teenager girl was killed and three persons injured after a car they were traveling in crashed into a tree in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag on Wednesday afternoon. Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that the car bearing registration number JK02CS 3742 crashed into a tree near GDC Bijbehara, resulting in injuries to four occupants. The injured persons were evacuated to SDH Bijbehara, where one of the injured identified as | More on PIO

Teen Girl Drowns In Mendhar

A teenage girl hailing from Sagra Balnoi area of Mendhar in Poonch district died after she drowned in river water in the village on Wednesday evening. The deceased has been identified as Mehnaz Bi (18) daughter of Mohammad Rafiq resident of Sagra village of Mankote tehsil in Poonchs' Mendhar sub division. Police officials said that the girl was crossing a river stream in the village when she drowned and later her body was fished out of water. Meanwhile, police | More on PIO

Accidental Fire Kills Soldier

A soldier was killed on Wednesday in an "accidental discharge of his weapon" along Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said. The injured soldier, a rifleman, was taken to hospital where he was declared dead, the officials told a local news agency GNS. He has been identified as Deepak Verma (24). The incident, they said, took place near Noorkote along LoC. Further proceedings have been started into the incident, they added.

5 Amarnath Yatis Injured In Accident

A car carrying Amarnath pilgrims hit a road divider in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, leaving five people injured, a police official said. The pilgrims from Uttar Pradesh were on their way to the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district when the driver of their vehicle lost control and hit the road divider at Samroli along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway around 6.15 am, the official said. The injured pilgrims | More on PIO

2 Gamblers Held In Tangmarg

Two gamblers were arrested on Wednesday in an input driven raid in Tangmarg area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. Acting on specific information about the gambling activities, a team of cops led by PSI Shoaib Mohammad carried out a raid near forest hut Babarshahi crossing, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. The gamblers, he said, tried to flee from the spot after noticing the police party approaching them. "But the alert police party chased them and we're | More on PIO

SP College Srinagar Accredited With Grade A+ By NAAC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant achievement, Sri Pratap College, Srinagar has been accredited with Grade A+ by NAAC.

The NAAC team consisted of Dr. Satyanarayana Sirasani, Chairperson; Dr. Annasaheb Shankar Rayamane, Member Coordinator and Dr. Yashodhara Sharma, Member, in the month of June, conducted an exhaustive assessment of the College and expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with regard to academics, extra-curricular activities, infrastructure and research activities of the college.

Speaking on this development, Principal SP College, Prof. Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi expressed

satisfaction with the NAAC assessment and congratulated all the stakeholders who made it possible for the College. "This is a special moment and would not have been possible without the untiring efforts and sincere dedication of the entire College staff, both teaching and non-teaching as well as research scholars and students" he said.

The Principal also expressed his gratitude to Principal Secretary Education Alok Kumar; Director Colleges, Prof (Dr.) Yasmeen Ashai; Director Finance and Planning and Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges for the constant support and timely guidance provided for successful completion of the re-accreditation process.

This is a special moment and would not have been possible without the untiring efforts and sincere dedication of the entire College staff, both teaching and non-teaching as well as research scholars and students

80 Youth Joins PDP Youth Wing In Lal Chowk

Observer News Service

Srinagar: More than 80 activists today joined the Youth Wing of People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Lal Chowk, constituency and pledged to take forward the party's pro-people agenda.

The new entrants belong to Solina, Barzulla, Jawar Nagar, Wazir Bagh and Raj Bagh areas of the Lal Chowk constituency.

To welcome these young and dynamic activists into the party fold, a simple function was held at the party headquarter, which was presided over by the PDP president Mehbooba Mufti.

Youth Wing Coordinator for Central Kashmir, and Lal Chowk constituency in-charge, Zuhaib Yousuf Mir was also present at the event.

After Mehbooba Mufti welcomed the new entrants, Zuhaib Mir expressed satisfaction over the fact that the worthy

party president, Mehbooba Mufti sahib's vision is fast attracting people.

Zuhaib Mir said that PDP president's fearless and sincere leadership is paying at the ground level and by virtue of that common people as well as the people in know-how are showing their keen interest in the programs of PDP.

The new party entrants expressed their willingness to educate the people of Kashmir about their rights which have been snatched from them.

One of the newly joined party workers, Younus Matto said on the occasion, "We will leave no stone unturned to reach the common people and explain to them the main objectives of PDP."

He was loudly applauded for praising the party President, Mehbooba Mufti for her courageous stance about the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.



Fuel stations across Kashmir including Srinagar faces shortage of petroleum products on the 3rd consecutive day on Wednesday KO Photo, Abid Bhat

DC Srinagar Presides 3rd Day Of CBC Multimedia Exhibition In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad today presided over the third day proceedings of the five day multimedia exhibition organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India at Government SP Higher Secondary School, Srinagar.

The multimedia exhibition on the theme of 9 Years: Seva Sushasan Garib Kalyan is underway from July 10 to 14 for public awareness about different public welfare schemes as well as to showcase the strides made by the government in different sectors for inclusive development of the nation.

Addressing a gathering of officers, students, teachers and progressive farmers, Shri Ajaz said that the welfare schemes of the government impact every household. Making special reference to the Ayushman Bharat - Sehat and PM-KISAN, he said schemes like these are making life easy for the citizens.

He however said that there is a lack of adequate public awareness regarding these schemes. He impressed upon the youth especially students to be the brand ambassadors of these welfare schemes and help their families and communities to avail benefits.

He said the multimedia exhibition on the nine years' achievements of the government is only a reflection of the development that is evident around us. Making a special mention of the investment by Dubai based Emaar group, Shri Ajaz said that projects like

Srinagar Among Top Performers In Swachh Bharat Mission

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Ajaz Asad Wednesday said that under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 the administration has completed all targets in our villages. He added that Srinagar district is among the 10 top districts across the country in terms of model category.

Speaking at the event held in Srinagar, Deputy Commissioner Ajaz Asad said, "Under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 we have completed all targets in our villages. It has 3 categories, first is Rising category, 2nd is aspiring and then model category. Srinagar has reached the model category and I want to congratulate the Rural Development department for achieving the targets". He said that Srinagar district is among the 10 top districts of the country.

these will generate employment opportunities for educated youth.

He urged the participants to spread the word about the multimedia exhibition so that more people can avail benefits.

The deputy commissioner also visited the departmental stalls setup for public awareness and on the spot delivery of services.

Joint Director, CBC, J&K and Ladakh region Sh. Ghulam Abbas expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders and participants for turning up in great numbers to visit the exhibition.

He informed the visitors about objectives of outreach programs of the CBC and also impressed upon the students to dedicate their youthful energies for upliftment of the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. He said the

last nine years have been dedicated by the government to the service of the poor and marginalized. He said we can only achieve our goal, the goal of Amrit Kaal, by our collective effort.

The third day of the event was dedicated to the awareness of the schemes launched for the welfare of farmers. Chief Agriculture Officer, Manohar Lal Sharma briefed about the activities and achievements of the department of agriculture and farmers' welfare. Resource persons from departments of Agriculture and Horticulture as well as Centre for Financial Literacy also addressed the gathering. Chief Education Officer, Srinagar Sh. Mohammad Shabir along with the Principal, Govt. SP Higher Secondary School, Sh. Nisar Ahmad also attended the program.

- 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
- BIJHERA: 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
24 Zil-Hajj
1444

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:47
ZUHR	12:36
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:47
ISHA	9:26

This Day In History

- 1643 - Battle at Roundway Down: Royalists beat parliamentary armies
- 1835 - Swedish-American inventor John Ericsson files for a patent for his screw propeller design
- 1854 - In the Battle of Guaymas, Mexico, General Jose Maria Yanez stops the French invasion led by Count Gaston de Raousset Boulbon
- 1882 - 200 die as train derails near Tcherny, Russia
- 1911 - Great Britain and Japan renew their alliance of 1902 for another four years; the reason Japan joins WWI on the Allies side
- 1935 - US-Russian commerce treaty takes effect
- 1943 - Greatest tank battle in history ends with Russia's defeat of Germany at Kursk, almost 6,000 tanks take part, 2,900 lost by Germany
- 1953 - Battle of the Kumsong River begins - last major battle of the Korean war.
- 1960 - US Democratic convention nominates JFK as presidential candidate
- 1962 - 500 Indonesian paratrooper land on New-Guinea
- 1963 - Indian government announces it will cut last remaining links with South Africa by refusing landing facilities to South African aircraft
- 1969 - Russia launches unmanned Luna 15 to Moon
- 1978 - Albania drops diplomatic relations with People's Republic of China
- 1980 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1982 - Iran launches first attack into Iraq
- 1992 - The Tripartite Alliance, consisting of the African National Congress, South African Communist Party and Congress of South African Trade Union, outlines a mass action plan for August
- 1995 - Space shuttle STS-70 (Discovery 20), launches.

KU Organizes Lecture On 'Women Entrepreneurs In North-East India'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Depart-

ment of Social Work (DoSW), University of Kashmir, organised a

special lecture on "Women Entrepreneurs in North-East India".

Srinagar Development Authority

TENDER NOTICE NO: 04/EE of 2023-24

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Development Authority, the Executive Engineer, Srinagar Development Authority, invites tenders by e-tendering system on item rate basis from Registered PWD contractors of J&K UT for below mentioned works:-

S.No	Name of work	Amount of work	Class of contractor	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
01	Upgradation/revamping of General Bus Stand Parimpora by way of GSB filling, Grde-II and macadamization.	Rs. 4.07 Crores	Regd. Hot Mix "Plant Holder"	Rs. 815000/-	Rs. 10000/-	(30) days

A). Postion of Funds: - (Under SMRDA)
B). Administratively approved
C). TS Accorded.

01. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the department website WWW.Jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01.	Date of publishing of tender Notice.	10 th of July 2023 at (4.00 PM).
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents.	From 11th of July (10.00 AM) to 29th July, 2023 upto 4.00PM.
03.	Pre Bid Meeting	15th of July 2023 in the office of Vice Chairman SDA at 12.00 Noon.
04.	Bid submission start date.	17th of July, 2023 from (10.00 AM).
05.	Bid submission end date.	31st of July, 2023 upto (4.00 PM).
06.	Date & time of opening of technical bids.	2nd of August, 2023 at 12.00 Noon in the office of Executive Engineer SDA.
07.	Date & time of opening of financial bid (on line).	To be notified after Technical bid evaluation.

Executive Engineer,
Srinagar Development Authority

No:- SDA/EE/ 302-309
DIPK-NB-1902/23 Dated: 12/07/2023

Office Of The Principal Govt. Degree College For Women, Sopore (J&K)-193201
(NAAC Accredited Grade "B")
Email Id: gdcwsopore@gmail.com

Notice Inviting e-Tender
E-NIT No. 03 of 2023-24
Dated : 12/07/2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J and K Union Territory, the college is going to outsource the College Canteen for the calendar year i.e. from August 2023 to July 2024. In this connection, e-tenders are invited through online mode (www.jktenders.gov.in) from the registered dealers.

Interested vendors may upload tender documents and quote rates for different items on e-tender portal and will also submit its hard copy super-scribed as "e-tender for outsourcing of college canteen" to the Principal Govt. Degree College for Women Sopore" by or before 27-07-2023. The CDR of Rs 1000/- may also be uploaded on e-tender portal and will also deposit the CDR in the office of undersigned. The complete e-tender document along with terms and conditions is available for download from www.gdcwsopore.edu.in and (www.jktenders.gov.in). The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all e-tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Complete details for submission and opening of e-tender offers are as detailed below:

Date of issue of e-tender	12/07/2023
Date of publication of e-tender notice	12/07/2023
Downloading of documents/offer submission start date	12/07/2023 (04:00 PM)
Last date of submission of e-tender.	27/07/2023 (1:00 PM)
Technical opening	27/07/2023 (2:00 PM)
Financial opening	27/07/2023 (2:30 PM)

DIPK-496/23
DATED: 12-07-2023

Principal
GDCW Sopore

From KO Archives

Valley Rivers Swell As Glaciers Melt

Pulwama Areas Under Laar Waters

Observer News service

SRINAGAR Rivers and streams in the valley have registered an alarming increase in water levels due to the intense spell of heat gripping the region.

Several government departments have been put on alert to deal with an imminent threat of floods, even as over two hundred households have been displaced in Pulwama due to waters from the swollen Laar nullah entering inhabited areas.

Glaciers melting under the abnormally high temperatures have raised levels in the Jhelum and other rivers and streams of the valley.

In Pulwama a sudden surge in the Laar stream has inundated a large area in Jora village displacing 250 of its six hundred households, a KNS report said.

Scores of houses have come under water and hundreds of kanals of land have been submerged, the report said. People have fled their homes seeking higher ground for safety.

The Aribal area, located on the banks of the Laar too has been inundated. Water has entered dozens of residential houses the report said.

A delegation from the affected areas has met the additional deputy commissioner Pulwama to apprise him of the situation.

The ADC has directed the tehsildar concerned to dispatch a team to review the situation and organise relief for the flood-hit population.

Water has entered paddy fields in several places in the utile) because of rivers over-flowing their banks.

Experts fear that a flood situation is imminent if the heat spell persists with its present intensity. The govt has ordered the departments concerned at the district level to be on alert to deal with any eventuality.

The metrological department says that although the maximum temperature is 5 degrees Celsius above normal and the minimum temperature 7 degrees Celsius above normal, the present situation cannot be characterised as an intense or extraordinary heat wave.

The rest of the Country is experiencing normal monsoons and rainfall can be expected in the valley within the next two to three days, a spokesman of the metrological department said.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 July, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 13-07-2023

Article 370 case

The Supreme Court's decision to hear a batch of the petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 on a day-to-day basis has brought renewed hope to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Political leaders from various parties have expressed their confidence in the strength of their case and the opportunity for justice. As the proceedings unfold, the Supreme Court will ensure a fair and impartial examination of the constitutional changes that have had a profound impact on the lives of the people in the region. The verdict will be crucial in determining the future trajectory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The leaders of various political parties, including Omar Abdullah of the National Conference (NC), Mehbooba Mufti of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) have expressed their optimism about the upcoming hearings. Abdullah said that the delay in hearings reflected the strength of their case on the issue as otherwise the central government would have expedited the case. Mufti has expressed satisfaction with the Supreme Court's decision to disregard the central government's affidavit on the abrogation of Article 370. According to Mufti, this demonstrates that the government lacks a logical explanation for its actions. She also raised concerns about the sudden urgency with which the Supreme Court has taken up the case after remaining silent for four years.

However, for the central government, revocation of Article 370 is a fait accompli. Top government functionaries have made it clear that the constitutional provision will not be reversed under any circumstances. In a 20-page affidavit to the court, the centre defended its decision to abrogate Article 370 in 2019. Opposing the pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, the centre argued that stone-pelting incidents, which reached as high as 1,767 in 2018, have now ceased completely in 2023. The centre said its decision has brought "unprecedented stability and progress" to the region. The affidavit further highlighted that resolute anti-terror actions have led to the dismantling of the terrorist ecosystem, resulting in a significant drop in terrorist recruitment from 199 in 2018 to 12 in 2023.

However, the apex court has made it clear that the centre's view on life in J&K post-Article 370 will have no bearing on constitutional challenge to abrogation, something that has been welcomed by the major political parties in the union territory. The court's decision on the matter will be of momentous nature and, as such, the case will be eagerly followed not only in J&K but also across the country.

OTHER OPINION

Twitter's slow collapse poses challenges for public institutions

It was May 2009, and many streets in the city of Holly Hill were under water, the result of an unexpected, unprecedented series of thunderstorms that dumped 29 inches of water in northeast Volusia County over a five-day period. Police Chief Mark Barker was searching for ways to get the word out about roads that were unsafe, ways to get around them and the availability of emergency services.

So he fired up a relatively new social-media platform with a bird logo and a strange name. The department started Tweeting out information, and got a surprise: Holly Hill residents started responding with their own information about routes to avoid, and others who were stranded by floodwaters called out for help via tweets.

"It was a good experience," Barker said, adding that he heard from many who signed up for the app just to get his department's updates. At the time, it was revolutionary in Central Florida, but rapid communication via Twitter quickly became pro forma for fire, police and emergency operations and other governmental agencies across the nation, becoming a reliable source of breaking news and critical public safety information during dangerous, developing events and natural disasters.

So convenient and immediate was the service that many public agencies — local governments, law enforcement, fire departments — embraced Twitter as a preferred medium for citizen outreach. If a gas main ruptured, major thoroughfares were closed or criminal violence required the public to be notified, Twitter was the easiest way to get that information out quickly.

That is more precarious following the platform's purchase last year by Elon Musk, whose subsequent changes have rendered Twitter glitchy, erratic and less vigilant about removing willful, sometimes vicious misinformation. During recent hurricanes Ian and Nicole, public safety officials made heavy use of Twitter but replies were often non-sensical or political, rather than informational.

"It can take you to some dark places," Barker (who has subsequently retired from law enforcement and now runs the popular local-politics blog Barker's View) says of the service today.

That has many users scrambling for the exits and should prompt public institutions to consider their next steps.

Orlando Sentinel

Tomato Trouble

Indra Shekhar Singh

As many of our pockets bleed, paying Rs 120, 150, and in some parts Rs 250 for one kg of tomatoes, one must question what is wrong with Indian agriculture. It wasn't long ago when farmers from across the country resorted to throwing tomatoes and other vegetables on the roads and fields. Tractor loads and truckloads of healthy tomatoes were destroyed in protest, as market economics failed them once again. Many farmers were burdened with deep debts as tomato prices dropped to Rs 1-2 per kg.

Now, onion prices have also doubled in some markets, and the general price trend for most vegetables such as pumpkin, ridge gourd, bottle gourd, and ginger (Rs 250) is very high. This puts city dwellers, especially the poor, at risk of malnutrition once again. However, there is a silver lining for some off-season tomato farmers in Himachal Pradesh who are experiencing above-average returns. Unfortunately, the new spell of heavy rain raises questions about how long the winning streak will last.

Initially, city dwellers were quick to dismiss the farmers and their tactics, believing that confrontational displays would not affect the food economy. But time has proven that rural agrarian discontentment spreads rapidly to cities in the form of hyperinflation and smaller meal portions. It's not just the thalis (plates of food) affected by this crisis; McDonald's also recently announced the removal of tomatoes from their burgers and wraps due to the skyrocketing prices. Reports indicate that tomato prices have jumped 445 percent, surpassing the cost of petrol.

Economists often attribute the problem to a simple "supply and demand" issue, but there may be more underlying factors. Firstly, this year's erratic climate trends, including untimely rainfall and cyclonic storms, have disrupted tomato production in southern and coastal areas. These regions typically supply a significant portion of India's tomatoes during this time of year, but the excessive rain has wreaked havoc. Tomato plants do not thrive in waterlogged conditions during the flowering and fruiting stages. Excessive water has disrupted pollination and caused significant yield losses.

Considering the already low overall acreage under tomatoes for this season, the rapidly changing climate has resulted in a major disruption. India lacks climate contingency plans for key food crops and food security, leading to anarchy in the open markets. Consumers bear the brunt of this situation.

The supply chain and post-harvest losses are significant problems affecting our food security. The government recognises that the issue is structural, which is why they have been working on a freight subsidy scheme for the past few years. The TOP (Tomato, Onion, and Potato) program aims to create efficient supply chains and reduce post-harvest losses. Under Operation Greens, this program provides up to 50 percent

subsidies for transportation and appropriate storage facilities for eligible crops.

The erratic climate has become a real litmus test for the TOP program. At this stage, the bureaucracy responsible for this mission needs to answer to the government. Why has the scheme failed? It has been over two years, so where are the results? If there are failures and gaps, how can they be corrected? This bureaucratic blunder may lead to electoral damage, especially when tomato and onion prices are at stake. Rising onion prices previously caused the downfall of Sheila Dixit's government, serving as a reminder of the political impact of such issues.

Solution

Agriculture is not an industry and therefore requires special contingency plans and safeguards because it largely depends on nature. However, that does not mean we should not prepare plans to cope with erratic weather or plant diseases as a nation.

Firstly, the government needs to assess its TOP scheme and identify why Operation Greens has failed and what lessons can be learned from this scheme. Multi-stakeholder meetings should be conducted at the village level, involving farmers, Farmer Producer Or-

Now, onion prices have also doubled in some markets, and the general price trend for most vegetables such as pumpkin, ridge gourd, bottle gourd, and ginger (Rs 250) is very high. This puts city dwellers, especially the poor, at risk of malnutrition once again

ganisations (FPOs), Mandis (wholesale markets), traders, and freighters. Efficient transportation systems should also be included as a key aspect of the discussions.

The government should identify pre-existing tomato clusters and invest in infrastructure development in those regions. Infrastructure includes decentralised cold storages at the block or village levels, supported by solar dryers and cottage-level processing plants. Farmers should have the option to store fresh tomatoes or engage in value-addition activities. Sun-dried tomatoes present a viable and low-cost alternative to fresh tomatoes during periods of hyperinflation. There is also a healthy demand for dried tomatoes in the processing industry and potential for exports. Farmers should be encouraged to utilise drying facilities to extend the shelf life of their harvests. Reviving the tradition of using dried vegetables in off-season months can benefit farmers, consumers, and reduce the energy footprint of tomato crops.

The next crucial step is to improve connectivity

hilly areas such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kashmir, and parts of the Northeast. Train connectivity to these regions can facilitate major off-season production. By enabling farmers to shift from traditional crops to newer ones, this approach will alleviate pressure on southern vegetable farmers and provide a secondary supply of off-season vegetables, especially during the monsoon season. Increased income for farmers and price stabilisation can be achieved through this measure.

The government should consider establishing a special minimum support price (MSP) for TOP crops, supported by government-led procurement. Tomatoes, onions, and potatoes are essential staples in the Indian diet. Anticipating extreme weather events and potential supply chain disruptions, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) or another government agency should procure TOP crops. An independent agency comprising all stakeholders can be created to manage supply chain and procurement. TOP farmers should be identified and given production quotas under strict systems. Providing financial incentives for greenhouses and polyhouses can also increase tomato production.

This agency would have two primary pur-

poses. First, it would regulate internal production, supply, and storage of TOP crops. In years of excessive production, it should seek export markets worldwide, including the Indian subcontinent. Additionally, the mandate should include value-addition through small-scale processing.

At the micro-level, the government should encourage direct market links between farmers and consumers. Residential welfare associations (RWAs), housing societies, clubs, and other organisations can partner with farmers to supply their yearly quotas of tomatoes, onions, and potatoes. This arrangement would benefit farmers by providing them with stable incomes while offering consumers healthier and more affordable food options. Direct markets combined with decentralised vegetable storage facilities can help combat hyperinflation and food insecurity in India.

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 First Post

The author is an independent agri-policy analyst and former director - Policy and Outreach, National Seed Association of India. He tweets at @Indrassingh. Views are personal



OBSERVER MAIL

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

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The Vital Importance of Reducing Screen Time

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to draw attention to a matter of increasing concern in our modern society—the excessive amount of time we spend glued to screens. In an age dominated by technology and digital devices, it is imperative that we recognize the adverse effects of excessive screen time on our physical and mental well-being.

Screens have become an integral part of our daily lives, with smartphones, tablets, computers, and televisions constantly vying for our attention. While these technological advancements have undoubtedly revolutionized communication and accessibility to information, the repercussions of excessive screen time cannot be ignored.

Firstly, excessive screen time has detrimental effects on our physical health. Prolonged sitting or poor posture while engaging with screens often leads to sedentary behavior and

a host of associated health problems, including obesity, cardiovascular issues, and musculoskeletal disorders. Additionally, extended exposure to the blue light emitted by screens disrupts our sleep patterns, causing insomnia and fatigue.

Moreover, excessive screen time has profound implications for our mental well-being. Studies have shown that increased screen time is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, and stress, especially among young individuals. Continuous exposure to social media platforms can foster feelings of inadequacy, as people compare their lives to carefully curated highlight reels of others. Furthermore, excessive screen time often replaces meaningful face-to-face interactions, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

To address this growing concern, it is crucial that we advocate for reduced screen time and promote healthier alternatives. Parents, edu-

cators, and communities must work together to encourage children and young adults to engage in physical activities, explore the outdoors, and participate in creative pursuits that do not involve screens. It is essential to create a balanced environment where screen time is limited, and individuals are encouraged to focus on interpersonal relationships, hobbies, and personal development.

Furthermore, we need to educate individuals about responsible screen usage. Encouraging breaks from screens, setting boundaries, and establishing screen-free zones within households can significantly contribute to reducing screen time. Employers can also play a role by promoting digital detox initiatives, providing opportunities for physical activity during work breaks, and fostering a culture that values personal well-being over constant connectivity.

Lastly, public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and

community initiatives can play a vital role in raising awareness about the consequences of excessive screen time. By fostering a collective understanding of the importance of reducing screen time, we can work towards creating a healthier and more balanced society.

In conclusion, it is imperative that we recognize the adverse effects of excessive screen time on our physical and mental health. By promoting reduced screen time, encouraging healthier alternatives, and fostering awareness, we can mitigate these negative effects and cultivate a society that prioritizes human connection, well-being, and personal growth.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. I hope you will consider publishing this letter to engage our community in a meaningful conversation about the importance of reducing screen time.

Maliha Khan

A Case for Coaching Centres

While concerns regarding the commercialization of education are valid, it is important to recognize the invaluable role coaching centers play in the educational system

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo

I recently had the opportunity to read an insightful article titled "Education as a Business: The Dark Side of Coaching Centers." While I appreciate the concerns raised by the author regarding the commercialization of education, I believe it is crucial to acknowledge the positive contributions that coaching centers make to the academic landscape. As such, I would like to present a well-rounded perspective that highlights the benefits of coaching centers in nurturing students' educational growth.

Specialized Guidance and Expertise: Coaching centers employ highly skilled and experienced teachers who possess in-depth knowledge of the subjects they teach. These educators, including professionals like myself who hold a Master's degree in Urdu and Education, bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the classroom. With my strong foundation in Urdu and education, combined with a good understanding of computer technology, I have been working in the coaching industry for the past eight years, helping students excel in their academic pursuits. By providing personalized guidance, we assist students in navigating complex concepts and expanding their understanding of various subjects.

Supplementing Traditional Education: Coaching centers serve as valuable supplements to traditional educational institutions. They offer additional resources, study materials, and prac-

tice sessions that may not be readily available in regular schools or colleges. Drawing on my own experience, I have witnessed the positive impact of these supplementary resources on students' learning outcomes. By incorporating my knowledge of Urdu, education, and computer technology, I have contributed to the development of comprehensive study materials and digital resources that cater to students' diverse needs and enhance their educational experience.

Skill Development and Exam Preparation: Coaching centers contribute significantly to the development of essential skills such as discipline, effective study habits, and time management. Through structured study plans, mock tests, and practice sessions, students acquire valuable examination strategies and enhance their problem-solving abilities. Having worked in the coaching industry for several years, I have witnessed firsthand how students benefit from this comprehensive approach. By leveraging my expertise in Urdu, education, and computer technology, I have helped students develop the necessary skills to excel in their examinations and achieve their academic goals.

Collaborative Learning and Motivation: Coaching centers provide opportunities for students to interact with like-minded peers who share similar educational goals. These interactions foster a sense of healthy competition, collaborative learning, and personal growth. With my background in Urdu, education, and com-

puter technology, I have facilitated collaborative learning environments where students engage with motivated peers and benefit from group discussions and interactive activities. Through such experiences, students are encouraged to push their boundaries, strive for excellence, and continuously improve their academic performance.

Quality Education and Supportive Environment: Reputable coaching centers prioritize their students' success by investing in well-trained teachers and comprehensive study materials. They create a supportive learning environment that nurtures students' intellectual growth and instills a passion for knowledge. As someone who has dedicated several years to the coaching industry, I have consistently strived to provide quality education and create a supportive atmosphere for students. Drawing on my expertise in Urdu, education, and computer technology, I have developed innovative teaching methods, mentored students, and offered individualized attention to maximize their learning potential.

Job Opportunities for Educated Youth: It is worth mentioning that coaching centers also provide employment opportunities for highly educated individuals. Drawing from my own experience of working in coaching centers for the past eight years, I have witnessed how these institutes effectively utilize the knowledge and skills of professionals, including individuals with

expertise like myself, to benefit students and contribute to their educational growth. By offering job opportunities to highly educated youth, coaching centers not only empower individuals but also tap into their expertise to enhance the overall quality of education provided. With my specialization in Urdu, education, and computer technology, I have been able to actively contribute to the development of comprehensive study materials, implement innovative teaching methods, and integrate technology into the learning process. This multifaceted approach has played a vital role in enriching the educational experience for students.

In essence, while concerns regarding the commercialization of education are valid, it is important to recognize the invaluable role coaching centers play in the educational system. These centers offer specialized guidance, supplementary resources, and a supportive learning environment that significantly contribute to students' academic success. Moreover, coaching centers provide employment opportunities for highly educated individuals to utilize their knowledge and expertise in serving students' educational needs. By acknowledging the positive aspects of coaching centers and addressing the concerns raised, we can work towards a balanced and effective education system that benefits all students.

The author is a Motivational Speaker and an Associate Editor of the weekly publication 'Education Quill.' Follow the author on Instagram at @UBI9305

Have you ever wondered how you will die?

Faraz Harsini, Benny Smith & Daraius Dubash

Statistically, your most likely killers are heart disease, cancer, and infectious diseases, with 65% of the world dying from one of these.

You might be surprised to learn that a single root cause contributes to all of these killers: The way we eat. The systematic abuse of billions of farmed animals poses grave threats to human life.

For example, if the Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted you physically or economically, you should be even more concerned about future pandemics arising from industrial animal agriculture.

This year's avian flu outbreaks are a sign of what is to come. As tens of millions of birds and dozens of mammal species are infected, worries have grown that the virus could spread to humans.

Gain-of-function virology research has demonstrated that mutations enabling mammal-to-mammal transmission are possible. When humans have contracted avian flu directly from birds in the past, observed mortality rates have been as high as 60%, making it far more lethal than Covid-19.

It is only a matter of time before some new and deadlier zoonotic pathogen emerges. Bangladesh has had to contend with many zoonotic diseases in the past, from Nipah virus to pandemic H1N1 to COVID-19.

By 2050, the UN projects that antibiotic-resistant "super bugs" will kill 10 million people annually. Antibiotic resistance has grown over time due to overuse and misuse, and the rapid growth of human and animal populations over the past 80 years has accelerated the trend.

Risks from infectious diseases are intrinsically linked to the horrifying animal abuses that take place on farms worldwide. Human interactions with farmed animals on cramped and unsanitary factory farms lubricate disease transmission. Worse, the intense stress experienced by livestock weakens their immune systems. The result is dangerous mutations that allow pathogens to defeat our most reliable medications.

Huge quantities of antibiotics are used in an attempt to reduce premature livestock deaths in these cruel farming conditions. Over 70% of antibiotic sales globally go towards farmed animals rather than humans.

The cruelty that contributes to these problems is not limited to meat production. All farmed animals, including dairy cows and egg-laying chickens, are commonly kept in brutal conditions and eventually killed.

Egg-laying hens spend their lives in small, dark cages and have their beaks chopped off without anesthetic. Dairy cows, who are known to form close maternal bonds with their young, are forcibly inseminated and

then separated from their offspring in order to increase milk production. They are kept in cramped conditions where disease is rampant and veterinary care is minimal.

A simple solution
It can be hard to imagine what life would look like without meat, dairy, and eggs on the dinner table. What will everyone eat? Where will they get crucial nutrients like protein, iron, and vitamin B12?

Protein can be accessed from a variety of plants including beans, nuts, soy, and lentils. Cruciferous vegetables are rich in iron. Vitamin B12 is often added to plant-based milks and meats, and can also be accessed through dietary supplements.

Plant-based diets have been endorsed by the world's most prominent nutrition authorities, including the American Dietetic Association and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

These endorsements apply to all stages of life, from pregnancy to adulthood, and also apply to athletes. There is a wealth of information available from organizations like the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine on how to thrive on a plant-based diet.

It's important to remember that eating animal products is not as "natural" as many would like to think. Humans do not drink breast milk past their earliest years, so it is hard to claim that drinking the breast milk of other species during adulthood is "natural" by any sense of the word.

It is certainly not natural for the 68% of humans who are lactose intolerant. Perhaps this is our bodies' way of saying that we do not need to consume milk as adults.

Many thinkers across history have recognized the value of eating plants: From the Pythagoreans to Jainism to Sufism, compassionate thinkers have been taking animal welfare into consideration when making dietary choices for thousands of years.

In fact, there is abundant evidence that plant-based eating significantly improves your long-term health. Animal consumption is a major cause of top killers like heart disease and cancer.

In fact, all of the world's major cancer authorities, from the World Health Organization to the American Institute for Cancer Research, have recognized that red and processed meats cause cancer. Cancer Research UK has said that "the less processed and red meat you eat, the lower your risk."

It is no wonder that the world's longest-living populations practice plant-based eating. Feeding 10 billion

While many people's health is threatened by eating the wrong kinds of food, others face a more fundamental challenge: access to any food whatsoever. Today, over 800 million people go hungry.

Does that mean we need to raise more ani-

mals to feed the world? In fact, the exact opposite is true!

As energy travels up a food chain from plant to herbivore to carnivore, 90% of the energy is lost at each trophic level. In other words, when we feed crops to cows for consumption by humans, far more energy and resources are wasted than if we fed the crops to humans directly.

This is why 75% of global farmland that goes to animal agriculture produces only 18% of the world's calories. If the world transitions to plant-based agriculture, we could produce the same amount of food using 25% as much land.

This kind of efficiency gain could literally allow us to decrease our land use even while doubling the global human population.

Improving our land use efficiency would not only help mitigate the public health problems caused by malnutrition and hunger, but would also reduce pressure on our water supplies and countless other resources that play important roles in human health.

This is because each acre of crops requires water, fertilizer, farming equipment, and energy. Our reliance on all of these resources is reduced when we reduce our land use.

Anyone who cares about global hunger, access to water, and human health should be staunchly in favour of a global food system transformation towards plant-based eating.

Protecting the future

Change starts on your plate: Ditching animal products is an important way to contribute to a healthier, safer, and kinder world. You can also educate yourself on the impacts of animal agriculture and speak up to educate others.

But there is much more that scientists and policymakers can do. Anyone with a technical background can look into getting involved with alternative proteins research, developing meat alternatives that look and taste like the real thing.

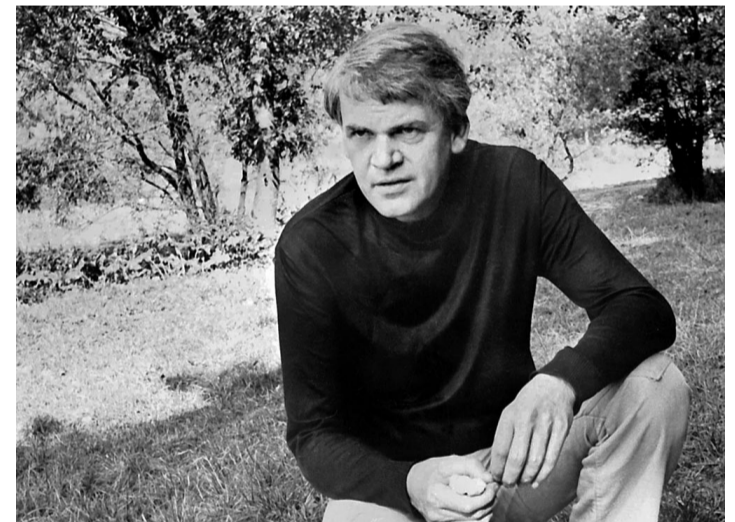
Governments should create financial incentives for sustainable food initiatives while rolling back subsidies on destructive products like meat and dairy. If you have money to spare, you can also financially support crucial advocacy work being done to preserve our world for future generations.

Everyone has something to contribute, and if we're up to the task, our grandchildren will thank us.

Dr Faraz Harsini, Benny Smith, and Daraius Dubash are affiliated with Allied Scholars, a distinguished US non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the detrimental impacts of animal consumption on human health and the environment.

The article was originally published by Dhaka Tribune

5 Key Works Of Czech Novelist Milan Kundera



Agence France-Presse

Paris: A selection of the Czech writer's key works:

- 'The Joke' (1967) -

In his first novel Mr. Kundera wrote of his problems with the authorities, weaving a story full of dark humour that was published during the ideological detente before the Prague Spring.

It both sealed his fate with the authorities, who would later strip him of his citizenship, and made him famous within Czechoslovakia.

- 'Life is Elsewhere' (1969) -

Internationally praised but unpublished in the Czech Republic until 2016, Mr. Kundera's second novel tells the story of a young poet who fails to break free from his adoring mother and dies an absurd death.

Humorously exploring the hopes and fantasies of youth through his protagonist, who seeks his freedom through art and revolution, Mr. Kundera saw parallels with his own evolution from poetry to the existential novel.

- 'Farewell Waltz' (1972) -

Considered by some critics as Mr. Kundera's lightest and most

playful major novel, this sexual farce with political overtones, set in a spa town, follows jazz musician Kilma, who pays dearly after a one-night-stand.

- 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being' (1984) -

Mr. Kundera's most famous novel "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" is a morality tale about freedom and passion, on both an individual and collective level, set against the Prague Spring and its aftermath in exile.

It was turned into a movie starring Juliette Binoche and Daniel Day Lewis, and earned Mr. Kundera a worldwide following.

- 'Slowness' (1995) -

After discovering with horror the liberties taken by the French translation of "The Joke", Mr. Kundera devotes much of his time to revising his translated works.

"Slowness", the first in a cycle of four novels all short and very dark and written directly in French, causes a stir in literary circles as it praises slowness over what Mr. Kundera charges as the West's obsession with speed.

It raises Mr. Kundera's status worldwide while also bringing him his first seriously bad reviews.

Why Your Bones Get Weaker With Age and What to Do About It Part -II

By Marygrace Taylor | LiveStrong.Com

4. Get Moving

Any activity that puts stress on your bones can help slow bone density loss and even spur the growth of new bone...



Adults under 50 need 1,000 milligrams of calcium each day; once you're 50 or older, you need 1,200 milligrams...

vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, nuts and beans.

3. Consider Asking Your Doctor About a Supplement

Calcium supplements can help you meet your needs if you're struggling to get enough of the mineral from food alone...

When to See a Doctor

It's never too early to talk to your doctor if you have concerns about your bone health, especially if you have a history of calcium or vitamin D deficiency...

5. Quit Smoking and Watch Your Alcohol Intake

As we've noted, tobacco and alcohol use can be bad for your bone health. If you're struggling with quitting smoking, talk to your doctor about ways to kick the habit.

5 Ways to Keep Your Bones Strong as You Age

Though you can't turn back the hands of time, there are plenty of things you can do to keep your bones as sturdy as possible and help prevent osteoporosis naturally.

1. Eat Calcium-Rich Foods

Your bones store roughly 98 percent of the calcium in your body. Getting your fill of bone-supporting nutrients like calcium is the number-one way to help them stay healthy and strong.

- You can find calcium in foods like: Milk or fortified soy milk, Yogurt, Cheese, Dark leafy greens like kale or spinach, Soybeans or edamame, Calcium-fortified tofu, Beans, Calcium-fortified foods like breakfast cereal and orange juice

2. Pay Attention to Other Bone-Healthy Nutrients

While calcium is the biggest bone-health player, your body also relies on vitamin D, vitamin K, potassium, and magnesium to build strong bones.

The best way to get your fill of each? Eat a variety of wholesome, nutrient-dense foods like fruits and

J&K POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, SRINAGAR Office of The Executive Engineer, Gas Turbine Division, Pampore

E-mail: xengtampore@gmail.com

NIT No: GTD/PDC/TS/06 of 2023-24 Dated: 11/07/2023

For and on behalf of the Managing Director J&K Power Development Corporation, sealed bids in two covers (Part-A: Techno-Commercial Bid & Part-B: Price Bid) valid for 180 days accompanied with Earnest Money in the shape of CDR/FDR or Bank Guarantee @ 2% of the Estimated Cost...

Table with 6 columns: S. No., Name of the Work, Estimated Cost (in Rs Lacs), Earnest Money Deposit Amount (2%) (Rs), Cost of tender documents (Rs) (Non-Refundable), Time of Completion. Row 1: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 3-Phase, 15 hp, Submersible Motor along with Pump and Allied Control Panel at Gas Turbine Pampore.

CRITICAL DATES

Table with 2 columns: S. No., Date of issue of Tender Notice / Document download Start/End Date / Bid submission Start/End Date (Online) / Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online).

- 1. The entire bidding process shall be online. 2. The bidding documents consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of Terms & Conditions and other details can be seen at & downloaded from the government website www.iktenders.gov.in or the official website of JKPDCC www.ikspdc.nic.in.

DIPK-NB-1903/23 DATED: 12-07-2023

Sd- Executive Engineer, Gas Turbine Division Pampore

Government of Jammu and Kashmir (UT) Office of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Pattan

Subject: Selection List of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of Poshan Project Pattan.

(PUBLIC NOTICE)

In pursuance to Government Order No. 103- JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023 and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar vides No. MD/Poshan/Estt/13281-94 Dated: 05-05-2023, this office advertised (11) vacant posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi workers) vide notification No. CDPO/Ptn/23/132-49 Dated: 24/05/2023. In response to said advertisement notice (97) application forms were received within stipulated time i.e. upto 09-06-2023, 04:30 pm. Accordingly, merit list of candidates has been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government order No. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022, Dated: 30-11-2023 and Provisional selection list has been framed on the basis of merit list enclosed herewith as Annexure-A comprising of 09 candidates provisionally selected as Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for Anganwadi centre shown against each. The General Merit List of applicants provisionally selected as Sanginis (Anganwadi workers) for Anganwadi centre shown against each. The General Merit List of applicants is enclosed as Annexure-B. The Provisional selection list along with merit list are hereby published for information of general public for inviting appeal/objections (if any).

The appeal/objection (if any) against the said Merit/Selection list, shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project (ICDS) Pattan against proper receipt by or before 25/7/2023 up to 4:00pm. No appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filing appeal/objections.

Annexure-I

Provisional Selection list for the posts of Sanginis (Anganwadi workers)

Table with 6 columns: S.No., Name of AW Centre, Panchayat/ ward, Name of Candidate, Parentage, W/o, Residence, D.O.B, Qualification. Lists 9 candidates with details.

NO:- CDPO/Poshan/PTN/23/ DIPK-4976/23 Dated: 12-07-2023

Sd/ Child Dev. Project Officer Poshan Project Pattan

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PATTAN

Annexure-II

General Merit List of Candidates who have applied for the post of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) for Anganwadi shown against each.

Large table with 12 columns: S. No, Index No, Name of the candidate, Parentage/W/o, Applied against AW Center, Residence, Ward No, DOB, Highest Qualification, Marks in 10+2, Marks obtained, %age, Weight-age, Whether any relation with retired AWW/AWH, Additional Merit points, Total Merit. Lists 62 candidates.

Table with 12 columns: S. No, Name of Candidate, Parentage, W/o, Residence, D.O.B, Qualification, and other details for 62 candidates.

NO:- CDPO/Poshan/PTN/23/ 282-86 DIPK-4976/23 Dated: 12-07-2023

Sd/ Child Dev. Project Officer Poshan Project Pattan



Srinagar Premier League: Two Matches On Schedule Today

Observer News Service STFC Natipora. The game will kick off at 5:30 PM. One Round 6 match of the Srinagar Premier League was played on Wednesday at Synthetic Turf TRC. J&K Police took on Jhelum FC in the matchup. The first half remained goalless, but J&K Police managed to take the lead in the second half. The Police side doubled their lead a minutes later to take the match 2-0.

WB Mountaineers Club Out To Conquer Mt. Brammah-1



Observer News Service to the team. Satyarup Siddhanta, a world record holder mountaineer and the youngest person to conquer the Seven Summits and the Volcanic Seven Summits, adds another remarkable feat to the team's credentials. Their combined expertise, along with the team's prior mountaineering experience in challenging Indian peaks, makes them a formidable force. The expedition has received overwhelming support from the local community and administration. The mountaineers from the Kishtwar region, who recently underwent training in the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering, have been instrumental in providing infrastructure and administrative assistance to the team. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Dr. Devansh Yadav and ADC, Inderjeet Singh Parihar have extended unconditional support on behalf of the local administration to ensure a hassle-free journey for the climbers.

DDRC Organises North Kashmir Inclusive Sports Event

Observer News Service officials from the District Administration Bandipora including Nodal Officer Coordination Mohammad Ashraf Hakak attended the event. The initiative aimed to promote inclusivity, unity and sportsmanship among diverse communities. The event showcased a range of activities, including Inclusive Cricket, Carrom, Chess, and Wheelchair Race captivating the participants and spectators alike.

WI Bat First; Jaiswal, Kishan Make Debuts



Press Trust of India "I want the two debutants to enjoy, they've worked hard to come here, I want to make them feel comfortable and have some good memories of their first Test," India captain Rohit Sharma said at the toss. West Indies were 68/4 after 28 overs when reports last came in. **Teams:** India: Rohit Sharma (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravindra Jadeja, Ishan Kishan (w), Ravichandran Ashwin, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadkat, Mohammed Siraj. West Indies: Kraigg Brathwaite (c), Tagenarine Chandernaul, Raymon Reifer, Jermaine Blackwood, Alick Athanaze, Joshua Da Silva (w), Jason Holder, Rahkeem Cornwall, Alzarri Joseph, Kemar Roach, Jomel Warrican.

Shah, Ashraf Finalise Asia Cup Schedule; Indo-Pak Matches In Dambulla

Press Trust of India **NEW DELHI:** The much anticipated Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be held in Sri Lanka as agreed upon by the previous dispensation of host PCB, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed on Wednesday. Dhumal, who is in Durban for the ICC Chief Executives Meet (CEC), informed that BCCI secretary Jay Shah and new PCB management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf met ahead of ICC Board meeting on Thursday to finalise the Asia Cup schedule. Ashraf, who took charge earlier this month, had expressed his displeasure over the hybrid model accepted by the previous regime under Najam Sethi. PCB has the hosting rights for the tournament to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 31-September 17. "Our secretary met PCB head Zaka Ashraf and the Asia Cup schedule was finalised and it is on course as it was discussed earlier. There will be four games of league stage in Pakistan, followed by 9 games in Sri Lanka including both India versus Pakistan game and a third game if both teams reach the final," Dhumal told PTI. Dhumal rubbished reports emerging from Pakistan media that India will travel to the neighbouring country as its sports minister Ehsan Mazari had been claiming. "There was no such discussion held. Neither India is travelling to Pakistan nor our secretary will be travelling contrary to reports that have surfaced. Only the schedule was finalised," Dhumal added. India, in all likelihood, will play Pakistan in Dambulla just like 2010 edition. Pakistan's only home match in their country will be against minnows Nepal. The other three games are Afghanistan versus Bangladesh, Bangladesh versus Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka versus Afghanistan. Recently, Pakistan sports minister Mazari was quoted as saying that unless India come to Pakistan for the Asia Cup, Pakistan will not travel to India for the ODI World Cup. A senior BCCI official said perhaps the Pakistan sports minister was "blissfully unaware" about the earlier meetings of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) where the all powerful executive committee had passed the hybrid model suggested by former chairman Najam Sethi. "We aren't concerned about the internal happenings of PCB. All that we know is that PCB is a signatory to the Hybrid Model which was proposed by their representative and passed at ACC's highest body," a senior ACC board member present during that meeting told PTI. "And just to refresh Pakistan's honourable sports minister's memory, it was PCB that had issued an official press release accepting that 4 games will be held in Pakistan and rest of the games in Sri Lanka," he added. As far as the World Cup is concerned, the PCB is bound by ICC's Members' Participation Agreement (MPA) which was signed by the full members in 2015 for an eight year period ending 2023. "Once you have signed an MPA, you are contractually bound to play an ICC event at a venue decided by the global body. Obviously security measures and other determining factors are always taken into account. But if a country pulls off even if security is not an issue, there could be legal and financial implications," the ICC member said. However, the same MPA doesn't hold for the 2025 Champions Trophy which is scheduled to be held in Pakistan.



Messi Eager To Face New Challenge At Inter Miami

Agencies **MIAMI:** Lionel Messi has no regrets about his decision to join Inter Miami and said he is eager to face a new challenge. The 36-year-old arrived in the United States on Tuesday ahead of his presentation as an Inter Miami player at a special event on Sunday. "I'm happy with the decision we made. I'm ready and eager to face the new challenge," Messi said in an interview with Argentinian TV on Tuesday. "My mentality and my head are not going to change and I will try, wherever I am, to give the maximum for myself and for the club, to continue to perform at the highest level." The club is preparing a to hold a special event for the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner's presentation at the DRV PNK Stadium in Fort Lauderdale. "Fans will be able to enjoy an exciting night of entertainment, on-the-pitch speeches and more," the club said in a statement, adding tickets would be free of charge for season ticket holders. The World Cup winner will be reunited with former Barcelona team mate Sergio Busquets at Inter Miami as well as former Argentina coach Gerardo Martino. Messi is expected to make his debut for the club on July 21 in a Leagues Cup clash against Mexican side Cruz Azul.



Barcelona Sign Brazilian Forward Vitor Roque From 2024

Agencies **BARCELONA:** Barcelona have reached an agreement to sign Vitor Roque from Club Athletico Paranaense with the Brazilian forward set to join the Spanish champions from the 2024-25 season on a contract until 2031, the LaLiga club said on Wednesday. Financial details were not disclosed but media reports said Barca agreed a 40 million euros (\$44.07 million) fee with 21 million in add-ons for the player seen as the successor to Robert Lewandowski who turns 35 next month. The 18-year-old has scored 22 goals for Paranaense in 66 appearances, helping them reach the Copa Libertadores final last season. He earned his first cap for Brazil in March, becoming the youngest ever debutant for the five-times world champions. "In footballing terms, a centre forward still in development but his adaptability means he can also play on the wing should the situation require," Barcelona said in a statement. "An excellent reader of the game he also stands out for his pace and his finishing skills in front of goal." Barcelona said they have inserted a buyout clause of 500 million euros into his contract.



Aston Villa Sign Spain Defender Pau Torres From Villarreal

Agencies **LONDON:** Aston Villa have signed Spain international centre back Pau Torres from Villarreal for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club said on Wednesday. British media reported Torres had a release clause of 70 million euros (\$77.64 million) but with a year left on his contract with Villarreal, the English side have agreed a fee in the region of 31.5 million pounds (\$40.88 million). "The 26-year-old defender, who has been capped on 23 occasions for his country, arrives at Villa for an undisclosed fee," Villa said in a statement. "A native of Villarreal, Torres came through the ranks of his hometown club and went on to become a key player for the La Liga side." Torres won the Europa League with Villarreal under current Villa boss Unai Emery when they beat Manchester United in the 2021 final. He joins Youri Tielemans among Villa's close season recruits after the midfielder joined from Leicester City as they add experience ahead of their Europa Conference League campaign.



A Significant Milestone For The Sport As Major League Cricket Begins In US

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON DC: Cricket is all set to hit a significant milestone this week with the launch of Major League Cricket in the US as Texas Super Kings face off against Los Angeles Knight Riders at America's new premier venue in Dallas on Friday. All six teams comprising some of the major cricket players and local American talents would play 18 games, leading up to the first-ever championship final on July 30. Eleven matches will take place at Grand Prairie Stadium near Dallas in Texas, while seven games are scheduled to take place at Church Street Park in North Carolina. All the tickets for the first match, at the cricket-specific stadium featuring 7,200 seats and a grass wicket meeting the highest levels of international standards, have been sold off, the organisers said. The six teams are Los Angeles Knight Riders, MI New York, San Francisco Unicorns, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington Freedom.



Most of the teams are owned by Indian Americans who are venture capitalists, in the IT and start-up sector. The inaugural season will be played in a round-robin format with the four best performing teams competing in a multi-game playoff and final round to decide a champion, to be crowned on July 30, a media release said.

Based out of Seattle Washington State, the Seattle Orcas are owned by an investor group including Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella, Soma Somasegar, Samir Bodas, Ashok Krishnamurthi, and Sanjay Parthasarathy - and the GMR Group. Los Angeles Knight Riders are based out of Los Angeles and is owned by Knight Riders Groups. San Francisco

Unicorns is owned by Anand Rajaraman and Venky Harinarayan, co-founders of Cambrian ventures. Texas Super Kings are co-owned by the Chennai Super Kings, Ross Perot Jr., and Anurag Jain; while Washington Freedom team is owned by Indian American entrepreneur Sanjay Govil. "It's not only the Indian

diaspora that is very excited, those from Australia, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, New Zealand are also excited about the start of the Major League Cricket in the United States," said an avid cricket fan, M R Rangaswami from San Francisco, who is flying to Dallas to watch the opening match. Star players set to take part

include Afghanistan T20 captain Rashid Khan, South African internationals Faf du Plessis, Quinton de Kock and David Miller, West Indians Kieron Pollard, Andre Russell and Dwayne Bravo, Australians Marcus Stoinis and Aaron Finch, England's Jason Roy and Liam Plunkett, Sri Lankan Dasun Shanaka and New Zealand's Trent Boult. Players have been drafted mainly from all major cricket playing nations except for India, because of the existing rules of the BCCI. "The US media market is the largest in the world. So, at some point, they'll realise that sending these (Indian) players is good for everybody," Rangaswami told PTI. Ahead of the start of the games, Sameer Mehta, co-founder of Major League Cricket said fans will experience an unforgettable night for cricket in America, with a full house welcoming the world's top players to Grand Prairie Stadium for the opening match. "Since we arrived in Texas, it's been incredible to see the support for the Texas Super

"We can't wait to get out on the field at Grand Prairie Stadium and represent the Lone Star State in front of a full house and be part of a special night for cricket in America," said Faf du Plessis, captain of the Texas Super Kings. "It's going to be a historic night at Grand Prairie Stadium, as the first ever Major League Cricket game unfolds in front of a packed stadium this Thursday night. I've always spoken about wanting to represent the Knight Riders wherever they play. "We've long talked about coming to the United States and I'm glad it's finally happening. "It's great to hear that the opening game has been sold out, and we can't wait to bring our exciting brand of cricket to the cricket fans in America," said Sunil Narine, captain of the Los Angeles Knight Riders. Anurag Jain, co-owner of the MLC Texas Super Kings Cricket, said, "We look forward to having a professional team in Texas for the passionate local cricket community to root for and to introduce the sport to new fans across the country.

With 735 Million People Hungry, UN Says World "Off Track" To Meet 2030 Goal



Agenceis

About 735 million people worldwide faced chronic hunger in 2022, a figure much higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic and which threatens progress towards a global goal to end hunger by 2030, said the United Nations on Wednesday.

A multi-year upward trend in hunger rates leveled off last year as many countries recovered economically from the pandemic, but the war in Ukraine and its pressure on food and energy prices offset some of those gains, the U.N. said in its annual State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report.

The result is that an estimated 122 million more people were hungry in 2022 than in 2019 and the world is "far off track" to meet the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger by 2030, said the report. Instead, the report projects that 600 million people will be undernourished in 2030.

"We are seeing that hunger is stabilizing at a high level, which

is bad news," said Maximo Torero Cullen, chief economist of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in an interview with Reuters.

The main drivers of global hunger in recent years were conflict-driven disruption to livelihoods, climate extremes that threatened agricultural production, and economic hardship exacerbated by the pandemic, the report said.

Some parts of the world have seen hunger decline, including South America and most regions in Asia. But in the Caribbean, Western Asia, and Africa, hunger is rising.

To change the trend, nations must pair humanitarian aid with strengthening local food supply chains, said Kevin Mugenya, the food systems director for Mercy Corps, an international aid group, in an interview with Reuters.

"Countries need to have localized solutions," he said.

The report was compiled by the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development, Children's Fund, World Health Organization, World Food Programme, and FAO.

Satire And Poetry: Milan Kundera Took On Life's Absurdity

Agenceis

Milan Kundera, the author of "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" whose dark, provocative novels delved into the enigma of the human condition, has died, a spokeswoman for the Milan Kundera Library in his native city of Brno said on Wednesday. He was 94.

"Unfortunately I can confirm that Mr Milan Kundera passed away yesterday (Tuesday) after a prolonged illness," she told AFP.

Kundera died at his apartment in Paris, France, his adoptive country where he had lived since his emigration from Communist-ruled Czechoslovakia in 1975.

"Not only Czech literature, but world literature as well has lost one of the greatest contemporary writers, and one of the most translated writers too," Tomas Kubicek, director of the Kundera library, told the public Czech TV.

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said Kundera was able to "appeal to whole generations of readers across all continents" with his work.

Kundera was frequently touted as a favourite to win the Nobel Prize for literature, but he never claimed the coveted honour.

Through his characteristic satire and poetic prose, Kundera had sought to express all that is compelling and absurd about life, drawing on his own experiences of being stripped of his Czech nationality to dissent.

Life, he said in his work of criticism "Art of the Novel" (1986), "is a trap we've always known: we are born without having



asked to be, locked in a body we never chose, and destined to die."

Young rebel

Kundera was born on April 1, 1929, in the town of Brno, in what was then Czechoslovakia. His father was a famous pianist.

He studied in Prague, where he joined the Communist Party, translated the French poet Apollinaire and wrote poetry of his own.

He also taught at a film school where his students included the future Oscar-winning director Milos Forman.

Although he professed faithfulness to Communism, the independent spirit of Kundera's writing soon got him into trouble. He was expelled from the

party in 1950, re-joined in 1956 and was expelled a second time in 1970 after the Prague Spring reform movement -- in which he was seen as playing a role -- was crushed.

Locked out

Kundera's first novel "The Joke", a work of dark humour about the one-party state published in 1967, led to a ban on his writing in Czechoslovakia while also making him famous in his homeland.

In 1975, he and his wife Vera went into exile in France, where he worked for four years as an assistant professor at the University of Rennes. They were stripped of their Czech nationality in 1979. In his adopted home, where

he became a citizen in 1981, his reputation and success grew as translations of his novels appeared, such as "Life is Elsewhere" (1973) set in Czechoslovakia about a poet entrapped by the Communist regime.

"The Book of Laughter and Forgetting" (1979) playfully explored through seven interlinked narratives the nature of forgetting in politics, history and daily life.

The novel was "brilliant and original," said the New York Times in 1980, "written with a purity and wit that invite us directly in; it is also strange, with a strangeness that locks us out."

Kundera was an author "fascinated by sex, and prone to sudden, if graceful, skips into autobiography, abstract rumination,

and recent Czech history," said the Times reviewer, John Updike.

By far his most famous work, "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" was published in 1984 and turned into a film starring Juliette Binoche and Daniel Day-Lewis in 1987.

The novel is a morality tale about freedom and passion, on both an individual and collective level, set against the Prague Spring and its aftermath in exile.

No going back?

Kundera's critics say he turned his back on fellow Czechs and dissidents following his exile in France and for his decision to ban the translation of his French books into Czech.

In 2008, a Czech magazine accused him of being a police informer under Communist rule, which he denied as "pure lies".

In 2013, Kundera published his first novel after a 13-year hiatus.

"The Festival of Insignificance", about five friends in Paris, received mixed reviews, with The Atlantic noting its "near-impenetrable irony" and The Guardian deeming it a "stinker".

What Kundera "has to tell us seems to have less relevance", said the New York Times. "You can't help wondering what his evolution would have been like if he had stayed, or stayed longer, in Czechoslovakia."

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In 2019, the Czech Republic restored his nationality and in 2023 the Milan Kundera Library opened in his hometown of Brno.

Quick eats for busy people





Chicken Crispy Burger



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