

From 'Hotspot Of Terrorists', To 'Hub Of Tourism'

Hartals A Thing Of Past In J&K: LG Sinha

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Mounting a fresh attack on Pakistan, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday that Jammu and Kashmir used to be a "hotspot of terrorists", but now it is known as a hub of tourism and development activities as shutdowns are a thing of the past and every day is normal now.

"Jammu and Kashmir used to be the hotspot of terrorists, but now it is known as a hotspot of tourism and developmental activities. The schools and colleges used to remain shut on the strikes called by the neighbouring country and the students did not get an opportunity to study. But, now those days are over," Sinha said addressing a function here.

He said Kashmir would witness shutdowns for almost half of the year, and 'hartal calendars' would be issued, but now those days are a thing of past and life was normal throughout the year.

"Everyone knows that there used to be 150 days of hartals a year. Every year, on



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

January 1, a hartal calendar used to be issued. But, now, life is normal all 365 days. We have tried, and have been successful in keeping the businesses, schools, colleges, and universities functioning normally here," he added.

The LG said the youth,

who are the future of Union Territory and the country, should get education in a good environment so that they lead the country in the future.

"But, peace and calm is important for that. Everyone should keep this in mind that without peace, development

and progress is not possible in J&K," he said.

Referring to the increase in the influx of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha said while 1.88 crore tourists visited the Union Territory last year, the number will cross the two-crore mark this year.

LG Picks Braj Raj Sharma As SEC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday appointed Braj Raj Sharma as the State Election Commissioner.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by proviso to sub-section (3) of section 36 of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to appoint Braj Raj Sharma, IAS (Retd.) as State Election Commissioner for the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the said Act," reads an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on Friday.

The order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner Secretary, GAD further reads that Sharma shall hold the position of State Election Commissioner till he attains the age of sixty five years.

"The appointment of State Election Commissioner shall take effect from the date he assumes the charge," it reads.

It added that the terms and conditions of his appointment shall be notified by the Government subsequently.

The post of the SEC fell vacant on February 1, 2023 after K K Sharma completed his term.

A 1984 batch IAS (retired) officer of Jammu and Kashmir cadre, Sharma served as the chief secretary in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir before proceeding on deputation to the central government. **More on P10**

2 Local Militants Attacked Migrant Workers: Police



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Two local militants of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba are believed to be behind the attack on three non-local labourers in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Thursday, officials have said.

Kashmir Police chief Vijay Kumar has directed personnel to apprehend those responsible for the attack as soon as possible.

Militants on Thursday shot at and injured three non-local labourers at Gagran village of the south Kashmir district. The injured labourers were identified as Anmol Kumar, Pintu Kumar Thakur and Heralal Yadav -- all residents of Bihar's Supaul district.

Two masked men entered the first floor of a building at

Gagran and fired on the three labourers.

The officials said on Friday that based on human and technical intelligence, the police believe two local Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants carried out the attack.

"Two local boys affiliated with the proscribed LeT outfit are believed to be responsible for the attack," they said.

"Raids are being carried out in adjoining villages and various parts of the district," the officials added.

Many militant associates have been picked up and their sustained questioning is underway, the officials said, adding that the police have got vital clues in the case.

Additional Director General of Police Vijay Kumar reviewed the overall. **More on P10**

Women, Youth Architects Of J&K's Glorious Future: LG

Observer News Service

Terming women and youth as the architects of Jammu and Kashmir's strong and glorious future, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Territory was undergoing rapid transformation and stands proudly on

development parameters tall and full of self-confidence.

"Jammu Kashmir stands proudly on development parameters tall and full of self-confidence. Benefits of development are reaching to all sections of society and they are fully participating in the progress of the nation," Sinha said. He made these remarks while addressing valedictory function of Multimedia

Exhibition, organized by Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at Sri Pratap Higher Secondary School here on Friday. The LG said that the strength of youth, women & farmers and aspiration of the society are taking J&K to new heights. "Together, we have to create viksit Jammu Kashmir in Amrit Kaal and it should be our collective. **More on P10**

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THERE USED to be 150 days of hartals a year. Every year, on January 1, a hartal calendar used to be issued. But, now, life is normal all 365 days. We have tried, and have been successful in keeping the businesses, schools, colleges, and universities functioning normally here."

Killing Of 4 IAF Officers

Court Issues Production Warrant Against Nanaji

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A local court on Friday deferred the hearing in a case related to the killing of four IAF officers by militants in 1990 after one of the key accused, Mohammad Rafiq Pahlou alias 'Nanaji', was arrested by the Srinagar police along with nine others for conspiring to revive separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The special TADA court Jammu has issued warrants for the presence of Nanaji on the next date of hearing which was set for August 19, CBI chief prosecutor Monika, Kohli said.

Besides Pahlou, others accused in the killing of IAF personnel include JKLF chief Yasin Malik, Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias

Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir alias 'Nalka', Showkat Ahmed Bakshi and Javed Ahmed Zargar.

As the proceedings of the much publicized case started Friday, the court was informed by both sides (prosecution and defence) that one of the accused, Nanaji, was arrested by the Srinagar police on Monday and is not available. He is presently in police remand.

"A prosecution witness was present in the court but could not record his statement due to non-availability of Nanaji, who is on bail and used to appear on every date. The court was informed that according to the information, he was among some people who were arrested in Srinagar," Kohli, who is also. **More on P10**



PM Modi with President of the French Senate Gerard Larcher, in Paris. (PTI)

HC Repair Order Brings Cheers To Houseboat Owners In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The order of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court allowing repairs of houseboats has come as a relief to the owners of these floating dwellings in the city's water bodies, but many claim that the delay has pushed them into penury with no means to undertake the costly work.

Manzoor Ahmed Pakhtoon, president Houseboat Owners' Association, said the order was a welcome step.

"It was a prolonged pending issue due to which a large number of houseboats need to be repaired. Every houseboat now needs major



and minor repair work. We are very thankful to the High Court and to the Lieutenant Governor as after this judgement many people associated with houseboats got relief," Pakhtoon said.

He said after the lifting of the ban on repairs, the people associated with houseboats have regained interest in carrying out their businesses.

"Now we are hopeful that the

pending houseboats that are in the pipeline for repairs and renovation may get the order soon for refurbishing and we are hopeful that the existing ones will be maintained," he added.

In 1988, the then Farooq Abdullah-led government had banned the building of new houseboats and repair and renovation of the existing ones in Kashmir due to pollution concerns. Then, the government wanted to reduce the number of houseboat to save environment.

Pakhtoon said only 750 to 800 houseboats were left in four water bodies -- Dal Lake, Nigeen Lake, Chinar Bagh and Jhelum

river -- in the city. He claimed that the number was around 2,000 in early 1990.

"We request for a comprehensive policy for houseboats as whatever is left there must be saved," he added.

A houseboat owner, Ghulam Qadir Gassi, said he is thankful for the order but rued that it has come a little late.

"We are very thankful to the government if the ban had been lifted earlier, I wouldn't have been suffering now. My house boat sank into the river Jhelum and I lost all my property and belongings. We are homeless now," Gassi said. **More on P10**

SHORT TAKES

Former Militant Slapped With PSA

A former militant and a member of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) on Friday was booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in North Kashmir's Bandipora district. A resident of Quilmuqam village, Ameer Hamza, was booked by police under PSA for his alleged involvement in anti-national activities. The Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978, of Jammu & Kashmir is an administrative detention law that allows detention of any individual for up to two years without a trial or charge. **More on P10**

Car Crushes Minor Girl To Death

A minor girl on Friday was mowed down by a car in Bijbehra area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. 6-year-old Falak Bilal, daughter of Bilal Ahmed Lone was mowed down by an unknown car at her native Moman Arwani village on Friday morning, reports said. The girl was removed to the sub-district hospital (SDH) Zainapora for treatment. However, before the doctors could operate upon her, she succumbed to her injuries. **More on P10**

Army Chief Calls On LG

General Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan today. The Chief of Army staff and the Lt Governor held extensive discussion on various security issues, an official spokesperson said. The Army Chief was accompanied by Lt General Upendra Dwivedi, GOC-in-C, Northern Command and Lt General Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps.

NIA Arrests Two OGWs In Srinagar

The National Investigation Agency on Friday arrested two over-ground workers of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba who were "actively involved" in transporting weapons and funds on the directions of their Pakistan-based handlers, it said. National Investigation Agency (NIA) probes revealed that militant groups were delivering hardware and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) for attacks in Jammu and Kashmir either through drones or these were assembled locally. In a major breakthrough in the. **More on P10**



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Executive Engineer Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. O&M Division Pulwama

STANDARD BIDDING DOCUMENT

for

SITC of HT/LT Network at different locations falling under the jurisdiction of KPDC O&M Sub Division Pulwama under DDC Grants 2023-24.

The gist of works are as under:

- 1. PROVIDING OF HT LINE FROM NOWNAGRI BUNPORA TO KAREWA NOWNAGRI PHASE I.
2. PROVIDING OF LT LINE AT LONE MOHALLAH NOWNAGRI.
3. PROVIDING OF HT LINE FROM TANGNAD TO SHALTENG NLO MOHD YASEEN WANI AND OTHERS AT WAHUPORA.
4. PROVIDING OF CONDUCTOR POLES WITH WIRE NEAR PETROL PUMP MASJID SHAHREIF TO H/O SHOWKAT AHMAD & OTHERS AT BOONURA.

e-NIT NO: 14 of 2023-24.

Dated: 13-07-2023.

Tender Floating Division: Executive Engineer KPDC O&M Division Pulwama.

Table with 2 columns: Item No. and Description. Includes details like e-bid submission start/end time, venue of opening, tender value, and amount of earnest money deposit.

SD/- Executive Engineer O&M Division Pulwama

No. O&M/Pul/2030-35

DIPK-NB-1982/23 dated: 14-07-2023

Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.II, Sgr.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.65/CDII/6698-6709 of 2023-24 DATED:14.07.2023

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

Table with 8 columns: S. No., Name of Work, Stage Cost, Cost of T/Doc, E/M, Time of completion, M.H of Account, Class of Contractor. Lists maintenance and repair work for sanitary/civil work.

Position of AAA: Available

Position of funds: Available

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:-

Table with 2 columns: S. No. and Date/Time of event. Lists dates for issue of tender notice, downloading of documents, bid submission start/end, and opening of bids.

Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission end date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

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

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

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

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar (The date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. Bidders should note that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract has been awarded are found fake/not genuine at any time, the contract shall be cancelled and the contractor/bidder shall be blacklisted for participation in this division for a period of five years besides the performance security deposited for the said work shall be forfeited.

11. Any item/Items of work found necessary during execution of work though not in the BOQ shall have to be got executed and shall be paid At Par the %age quoted by the bidder.

12. Any Item/Items if found not necessary during execution of work though advertised in the BOQ can be deleted and no claim whatsoever shall be entertained on this account.

13. Nothing extra shall be paid on account of loading/unloading of material at site of work.

14. The Stage shall remain valid for the year 2023-24.

15. The 1st lowest bidder shall remain available round the clock with skilled/Un-skilled labours i.e. Painter, Mason, carpenter, Blacksmith, Electrician, Plumber, Gardener, Labour etc and the job required at site shall have to be started within 06 hours of notice.

16. If any lenience or non-seriousness were observed in execution of work during the validity period of contract, the action warranted under rules shall be initiated action the bidder.

17. Any addendum issued shall be the part of NIT.

18. Price escalation and Taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

20. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

21. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

21.1. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria / qualification information with their bids:- a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.

22. Registration Card duly renewed/valid for the year 2023-24

23. All bidders shall upload Verification Certificate duly issued by the card issuing authority or an Affidavit duly certified by 1st class Judicial Magistrate to the effect of genuineness of the registration.

24. All bidders shall upload Treasury Challan

25. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card

26. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of GSTIN Registration and latest clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B of last quarter i.e. January-March 2022-23 or preceding month i.e. MAY-2023.

New App Can Help Identify Autistic Children In India: Study

Press Trust Of India

A new app can identify children with autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders in India, a study conducted in Delhi has found.

Autism -- also referred to as autism spectrum disorder -- constitutes a diverse group of conditions related to development of the brain.

Autism affects about 1 in 100 children globally, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). The results, published on Friday in the journal Autism, could open the door to help millions of children with autism spectrum conditions to get earlier screening quickly and in-

expensively, leading to life-changing support.

Researchers from India, the UK and US tested the app, called START (Screening Tools for Autism Risk using Technology), with 131 two- to seven-year-olds living in low-resource neighbourhoods of Delhi.

The tests were carried out at the homes of the children, by non-specialist healthcare workers, educated to high school level.

Through a series of simple games, questions, images and activities on a tablet computer -- such as popping bubbles and looking at patterns and images -- the app measured the social preference,

sensory interests and motor skills of the children.

The app was 86 per cent accurate in identifying children with any neurodevelopmental disorders, and 78 per cent accurate in specifically identifying autism, the researchers said.

This performance is significantly higher than standard screening assessments for neurodevelopmental disorders used by non-specialists, they said.

"Autism is diagnosed by highly trained professionals, but most autistic people live in parts of the world that harbour few or no such autism specialists, and with little autism awareness," said Professor

Bhismadev Chakrabarti, from the University of Reading, UK.

"So many autistic people go undiagnosed, misdiagnosed or misunderstood, so we designed the START app to identify autism and related conditions anywhere," said Chakrabarti, who led the study.

The team included researchers from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Indian Institute of Public Health Bengaluru, Child Development Group Sangath, the universities of Cambridge, East Anglia, and Reading, UK, and Harvard University in the US.

District Police Headquarters Ganderbal

Beehama 191201 Ganderbal, Tel 2416443 Fax 2416808 Email: ddoganderbal@jkpolice.gov.in NOTICE

R/Const. Jamsheed Ahmad Wani No. 1357/Gbl, EXK-176037 S/o Gh Ahmad Wani R/o Mir Mohalla (Ellahi Bagh) P/S Soura. District Srinagar.

Subject:- Final Show Cause Notice.

I Nikhil Borkar-IPS 55P Ganderbal in exercise of powers conferred me in J&K Police Manual section 359 sub-section -II (2) call upon you on the following grounds :-

1. Whereas, you were provisionally appointed as constable in J&K Executive Police vide DPO Leh order No. 204 of 2017 dated 14-07-2017 probationary for a period of (03) years.

2. Whereas, during your posting in District Leh, you were selected to undergo 09 months BRTC at CTC Lethpora w.e.f 18-09-2017 but you absented yourself for a period of 35 days for which DE was initiated and finalized whereunder 35 days absence. Whereas, you have joined District Ganderbal on 24-05-2018 in compliance to RPHQ Srinagar order No. 147 of 2018 dated 12-04-2018.

3. Whereas, you were again selected on 2nd occasion to undergo 09 months BRTC at STC Talwara w.e.f 14-07-2017 and relieved from this district but you did not bother to report at the Training Centre and absented yourself for a period of 23 days for which DE was initiated and during the course of Enquiry E.O has made strenuous efforts to call you for handing over of summary of allegations but you turned deaf ears and finally EO has taken ex-parte decision which was finalized where under 23 days absence period was treated as Diesnon.

4. Whereas, you were again absented yourself on 14-09-2018 and after remained absent for a period of 164 days, you resumed duties on 24-09-2019 for which DE was initiated and entrusted to Dy.SP PC Ganderbal vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 143 of 2019 dated 02-03-2019 which was later on finalized vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 134 of 2021 dated 06-03-2021 whereunder Pack Drill was given to you and period of 164 days absence was treated as Diesnon.

5. Whereas, you were selected again on 3rd occasion to undergo 09 BRTC at STC Talwara w.e.f 30-12-2019 and accordingly relieved w.e.f 19-12-2019 but you failed to report at Training Centre. Thus, for your noncompliance of PHQ orders, you were placed under suspension vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 109 of 2020 dated 26-02-2020 and DE was initiated and entrusted to SDPO Kangan.

6. Whereas, you under suspension resumed the duties on 16-10-2020 after remained absent for a period of 292 days for which DE was initiated against you vide aforementioned order & date and later on finalized whereunder Censure was given to you and period of suspension of 292 days was treated as Diesnon vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 260 of 2021 dated 29-04-2021.

7. Whereas, you under suspension again absented yourself from DPL Ganderbal on 12-01-2021 and are still at large for which DE was initiated vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 156 of 2022 dated 05-05-2022 which was entrusted to Dy.SP DAR DPL Ganderbal who in reply submitted his findings vide letter No. DAR/D-2/2022/1860 dated 09-06-2022 with the recommendations that you are no more willing to serve the department and action under CSR-128 be taken against you.

8. Whereas, you were informed by Lines Officer DPL Ganderbal, Dy.SP DAR DPL Ganderbal & this office also from time to time through concerned SHO P/S Soura to report back for duties but you turned deaf ears, the latest 03 signals of DPO Ganderbal Office are as under:-

- i. Estt/Absentee/2022/22124 dated 20-06-2022
ii. Estt/Absentee/2022/22806 dated 27-06-2022
iii. Estt/Absentee/2022/24975 dated 14-07-2022

9. Whereas, you were selected again on 4th occasion to undergo 09 month BRTC at STC Sheeri vide PHQ J&K wireless message No. Trg/118/2022/58306 dated 03-11-2022 scheduled w.e.f 10-11-2022 and was relieved from this district on 07-11-2022 vide this office relieving order issued under endst. No. Estt/Trg/2022/41356-65 dated 05-11-2022 vide PHQ J&K signal No. Trg/35/21/64389 dated 09-11-2021. However as communicated by Principal STC Sheeri vide signal No. STC/Trg/16th /2022/8442 dated 19-11-2022 that you has not reported at STC Sheeri but absented himself to evade training and is still at large.

10. Whereas, you were placed under suspend with the effect from the date of absence i.e 07-11-2022 for non compliance of PHQ J&K orders and DE was initiated against you vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 14 of 2023 dated 13-01-2023 and said DE is pending with E.O (Dy.SP DAR DPL Ganderbal)

11. Whereas, you were informed by Lines Officer DPL Ganderbal from time to time through concerned SHO P/S Soura to report back for duties vide below mentioned wireless but you have turned deaf ears.

- DPL-G/Absent/2023/298 dated 01-05-2023
DPL-G/Absent/2023/82 dated 30-01-2023
DPL-G/Absent/2023/147 dated 28-02-2023
DPL-G/Absent/2023/162 dated 07-03-2023
DPL-G/Absent/2023/234 dated 03-04-2023
DPL-G/Absent/2023/341 dated 16-05-2023

12. Whereas, on perusing your service records, reveals that in a short span of service you have availed BRTC 04 Times, absented un-authorisedly on (05) occasions earned Diesnon (514) and (1) Censure, which clearly indicates that you are not willing now to serve any more in Police Department.

13. Whereas, despite a series of signals as well as 1st show cause notice and 2nd show cause notice served upon you through SHO P/S Soura, which was issued by this office under endorsement No. Estt/Notice/2023/20326-31 dated 23-05-2023 and Estt/Notice/2023/23474-80 dated 12-06-2023 you did not bother to report back for duties.

14. Whereas, on perusing your service records, reveals that in a short span of service since you have joined district Ganderbal you have absented un-authorisedly which clearly indicates that you are not willing now to serve any more in Police Department.

15. Whereas, you are habitual of absenteeism and have violated rule/regulations of the discipline force by way of which you will be discharged from services in accordance with PHQ J&K Order No.242 of 2003 dated 09-08-2003 and as envisaged in J&K CSR Rule-128,Vol (I) read with rule 208 (g) Vol-2 of J&K Police Manual such kind of prolonged/continuous absence from duties tantamount to loss of appointment, which can be invoked in your instant case as well.

16. Whereas, the above chart of punishments clearly indicates that you have remained very careless/negligent towards the legitimate duty during your short service tenure and have played truant on so many occasions which is unbefitting on the part of a member of disciplined police force.

In view of above facts, I Nikhil Borkar-IPS Sr. Superintendent of Police Ganderbal through the medium of this final show cause notice do hereby call upon you to show the reasons for above lapses with documentary/oral evidence which should reach this office with seven days positively from the receipt/publication of this notice. In case of failure, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense and the proceedings of your removal from services shall be undertaken.

No: Estt/Notice/2023/27162-67 DPK-5107/23 Dated: 14-07-2023 Nikhil Borkar- IPS Sr. Superintendent Of Police Ganderbal

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From The Office Of Adv Shuja Khan & Associates District Court Complex Sgr.

In the case of: Javed hussain jhan S/o late bashir ahmad jhan R/o nabadipora ZADIBAL sgr (Caveator) V/S

Public at Large

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC. That the caveator has reason to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator(s) may file a suit or other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court, District Court or Special Tribunal, Srinagar on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/ order at their back/exparte against the caveator(s) and in such eventuality the caveator(s) will be put to an irreparable loss & inconvenience. It would be proper that the caveator(s) is given an opportunity of being heard by this Hon'ble Court/Tribunal before passing any order.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost Marks Certificate of my BSc. 1st year under roll no. 956 AND BSc. 2nd year under roll no 48643 under university registration no 42204-s-2008. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the University Of Kashmir within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nazir Ahmad Wani R/o Agrikalan Pattan Baramulla BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my name and D.O.B has been wrongly mentioned on class 8th certificate as Mohammad Nayeem Rather instead of the correct name Nayeem Manzoor and D.O.B 01/04/1996 instead of 01/04/1996 .Now I want to apply for its duplicate. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Government Higher Secondary School Majkund within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Nayeem Manzoor S/O. Manzoor Ahmad Rather R/O Shalteng Srinagar nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohan Lal Raina S/O Late Meshwar Nath Raina R/O Dilshad Garden Flat No 557 Pocket D east Delhi Jhimil Delhi is revoking Power of attorney executed by me on 29/11/2013 in favour of one Mudasar Yousuf S/O Mohammad Yousuf Dar s/o Mohammad Yousuf Dar R/o Kulpra tehsil & District Kulgam Kashmir executed. Land executed with respect orchard 36 kanals 09 marlas covered under Kharsa NO 106 (27 Kanals and 17 marlas), 708 (1 Kanal to marlas), 709 (1 Kanal 9 marlas) and 710 (5 Kanals 12 marlas) respectively and also land measuring or Kanal 1 marlas falling under Kharsa NO 583 Situated at Mouza Goshbugh Tehsil Palhallan District Baramulla Kashmir. NJ

From the office of Advocate Muheet Yousuf

In the case of: Mst Masooda W/o Manzoor Ahmad Najar R/o Chana Mohalla patti Brane Nishat, Srinagar ...Caveator

Public at Large VERSUS ...Non-Caveator

In the matter of: Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A CPC. The caveators apprehends that the non-caveator may file any suit or writ or any appeal at the back of the caveators and may manage to get ex parte order, therefore the caveators submit in case of any Writ Petition/ Appeal/Suit or such proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble court by the non-Caveator's against the Caveators, the Caveator's on the counsel for the Caveator's may be provided an reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing any of the order in the said Writ Petition/Appeal/ Suit or any Proceeding otherwise the Caveator's may suffer such an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated lateron in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court. NJ S/d

12 Couples Tie Knot During Mass Marriage Ceremony In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A mass marriage function, in which 12 couples tie knot was organized in Srinagar on Friday. The mass marriage ceremony was organized by Al Noor Yateem Trust.

The chairman of the Trust, Shabir Ahmad, highlighted the importance of unity and compassion in carrying out such noble endeavors.

"Today, at Al Noor, we organized a mass marriage ceremony for 12 orphan girls hailing from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. These girls have been under our care and education for a considerable period of time.

Each girl in attendance has her legal guardian present here," Shabir said.

Following the success of today's marriage function, we are planning to arrange a mass marriage ceremony for hundred girls, In Sha Allah (God willing), he said, adding, "We aim to accomplish this and kindly request everyone interested to visit us here in Bemina and register with us."

"The Al Noor Yateem Trust has been operational since 2012, thanks to the generous contributions from the people," the chairman said. "I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them for supporting this crucial work."



Students from various schools during the final day of Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme and multimedia exhibition organised by Central Bureau of Communication. KO Photo. Abid Bhat

DC Srinagar Flags Off Cyclothon For "Drug-Free Srinagar"

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Friday morning flagged-off a Cycle Race, Cyclothon under categories of 17/19 years Girls and 14 years Boys under Drug free Srinagar campaign here at Bakshi Stadium to raise mass awareness against drug abuse.

The Cycle Race was organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar from as part of IEC activities of the District Administration to spread mass awareness against menace of drugs from Srinagar.

After flagging off the Cycle Race, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, briefly explained the importance of holding such events to create awareness among the students and in general public regarding harmful effects of the drugs on society.

The DC reiterates the Commitment of District

Administration Srinagar to eliminate the menace of drugs and its peddling from Srinagar to save youth.

DC Srinagar also made a mention of "MISSION WAAPSI" campaign of Srinagar District Administration launched to wean away youth from drug abuse and rehabilitate the victims of drug addiction by providing them dignified livelihood through proper hand-holding and guidance under Government schemes.

The cycle Race witnessed participation of more than 300 Students from different Govt/Private Schools of the District who pledged to eradicate drug menace from the society.

The Race culminated at Indoor Sports Ground Polo View where participant students were awarded prizes. Sara from GHSS Amirakadal secured 1st Position in the 19 years Girls category, while Wafa from GHSS Rajbagh & Medehia from GHSS Amirakadal secured 2nd & 3rd respectively in the event.

Modernization Of Naanwai Shops Under PMFME Initiated In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today inspected several Bread Makers (Naanwai) Shops in Ikhrajpora area of the District taken up under PMFME Scheme to restructure the traditional Naanwai shops by installing modern ovens to ensure proper hygiene in and around the shops besides maintaining quality of the products.

During the inspection,

the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the owners of Naanwai Shops and assessed the technological interventions adopted by them through Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme under One District One Product (ODOP) initiative of the Government through which financial and infrastructural support is provided to ensure sustainable livelihood of Local Bread Makers (Naanwai).

Internal Tussle At Abhinandan Home Jeopardizes Education Of Specially Abled Children

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The month-long tussle between administration and the old staff at Abhinandan Home in Srinagar is jeopardizing the career of specially-abled students.

The parents of the specially-abled students said old staff members, except a few, were not teaching students well as "they lack the qualification".

"Most of the teachers were asking our children to just copy the notes from the book or guide and teach nothing else," they alleged. "They are playing with the careers of our children."

The parents said the school recruited special educators after their years of efforts. "After the special educators were recruited, the old staff wasn't allowing them to join as they too were demanding their adjustment there," they said.

The parents said the new staff must be allowed to work without any hindrance so that their children, who are already facing issues, should not suffer further.

"The old staff hasn't allowed the school to function properly for the last more than a month, which has severely affected the education of students," they said.

The parents added, "There are dozens of families from various areas of Kashmir who have

been living in Srinagar on rent so that their specially-abled children may get a better education, but this tussle is a major hindrance."

They further alleged that despite being a government school, the old staff was forcing them to pay fees which many parents have agreed to for the sake of their children.

"We demand a thorough investigation to find how much donations and other money this school has got and where they have been spent," they said.

There are dozens of families from various areas of Kashmir who have been living in Srinagar on rent so that their specially-abled children may get a better education, but this tussle is a major hindrance

The parents urged the government to make the training institute functional in the school and ensure all the required equipment there to teach these students.

Principal of the Abhinandan Home Mudansir Ahmad told KNO that the new staff has joined just a month ago and all of them are specifically trained educators.

"The old staff was creating problems but the issue has already been taken up with the con-

cerned authorities," he said while assuring that the school will get the required facilities soon so that the students won't suffer.

The principal also said the parents need not worry. "The staff will work hard to provide quality education to all enrolled students," he said.

An official of the Social Welfare Department told KNO that the Abhinandan Home was under the control of an NGO till 2018. "Later, the Social Welfare Department took over its admin-

istration, management and governance along with the land and construction under the overall supervision of Director, Social Welfare, Kashmir," he said, adding that the old staff wasn't recruited by the department but by the NGO.

"The government has now recruited special educators who are specifically trained to cater to the needs of the specially-abled students," the official said

Smart Meter Installation Sparks Protest At Umerabad Zainakote

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Traffic came to halt on Srinagar-Baramulla highway at Umerabad in Zainakote area after people blocked the road as a mark of protest against installation of smart meters.

Protestors, mainly women from HMT Zainakote area, as-

sembled at Umerabad Chowk and blocked vehicular traffic on the highway for about two hours.

The protestors said they are protesting against the installation of smart meters in their area.

"We cannot afford inflated electricity bills through these smart meters. We are neither business class people nor we are government employees. We be-

long to the labor class and cannot afford exorbitant bills," said a woman.

They raised slogans against PDD, urging authorities to stop the installation of smart meters.

A police officer at the spot said they are pacifying the protestors asking them to allow traffic on the highway. Later, traffic was restored on the highway.

- 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

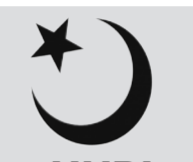
AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

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 - (Closed)



PRAYERS

FAJR 3:48

ZUHR 12:36

ASR 5:35

Magrib 7:47

ISHA 9:26

HIJRI CALENDAR

26 Zil-Hajj

1444

This Day In History

- 1099 - City of Jerusalem is captured and plundered by Christian forces during the First Crusade
- 1205 - Pope Innocent III states Jews are doomed to perpetual servitude and subjugation due to crucifixion of Jesus
- 1207 - King John of England expels Canterbury monks for supporting Archbishop of Canterbury Stephen Langton.
- 1240 - A Novgorodian army led by Alexander Nevsky defeats the Swedes in the Battle of the Neva
- 1307 Duke Henrik of Corinthia chosen as King of Bohemia
- 1381 John Ball, a leader in the Peasants' Revolt, is hung, drawn and quartered in the presence of Richard II of England
- Battle of Grunwald
- 1410 - Battle of Grunwald (First Battle of Tannenberg, Battle of Žalgiris), one of Medieval Europe's largest battles during Poland-Lithuanian Teutonic War. Polish King Władysław Jagiełło and Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas defeat Teutonic Ulrich von Jungingen
- 1915 - The Austro-German forces launch an offensive along the Eastern Front
- 1918 - World War I: Second Battle of Marne begins
- 1923 - Italian parliament accepts new constitution
- 1940 - Physicist Donald Kerst becomes the first person to accelerate electrons using electromagnetic induction, reaching energies of 2.3 MeV, when his betatron device (for particle acceleration) becomes operational
- Event of interest: Event of Interest
- 1941 - Howard Florey and Norman Heatley present freeze dried mold cultures (Penicillin)
- 1941 - Britain's MAUDE Report edited by James Chadwick approved, concludes an atomic bomb is feasible
- 1948 - US President Harry Truman nominated for another term (Philadelphia)
- 1955 - 18 Nobel laureates sign the Mainau Declaration

From KO Archives

Azad's Move Against Corruption Politicians Come Under SVO Scanner

SRINAGAR- After getting the go ahead from the chief minister, the state vigilance organization (SVO) has formally initiated moves to gather details about the assets of Valley politicians. The SVO is planning to put its plan into action very soon.

During a departmental conference of the SVO, the chief minister. Ghulam Nabi Azad had indicated that the organisation could extend its reach to politicians, and later it got the formal nod.

The SVO is learnt to have begun compiling details of the incomes of the state's politicians, political functionaries and workers with a view to determine their movable and immovable property.

Sources said that the SVO would try to gather information about the property of these politicians before and after they assumed public office.

The SVO has formulated several teams and put them to work under cover. The teams will gather data about the incomes of politicians holding office in government departments and on the basis of this record the SVO will tighten the ring around wrongdoers.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a top officer of the SVO said that though the organization had intended to lay its hands on politicians as well, it was waiting for the green signal from the government.

"And that finally came from the chief minister," he said. According to reports, several politicians are feeling the ground slipping beneath their feet at the chief minister's decision, and have begun to transfer their property to other names. They have begun the process of shifting valuables and luxurious items to the homes of their relatives.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division Srinagar
Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir
Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmnds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of Short Term e-Tender
e-NIT No: MDS/TS /2023-24/30
Date 14.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered contractors for the below mentioned work:-

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	EMD in Rs	Time of completion (in days)	Position of Funds
Repairs and replacement to Departmental vehicles Mahindra Scorpio JK01P-3525 and JK01S-5530	200/-	140500/-	3000/-	7	Under 2059 (M&R)

Position of AAA: Works program approved vide No. MED/K/Acctt/403 of 2023 Dated :- 26-06-2023.

Position of TS: Sanctioned vide No. S.E.No. 14 Dated :- 20-06-2023.

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document 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 Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 14.07.2023 (12:30 Hrs)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 14.07.2023(12 Hrs) to 25-07-2023 (18 Hrs) in two covers.
- Opening of Bids: The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 26-07-2023(14:30 Hrs) in Office of the undersigned.

Sd/ (Er. JahanAra) Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Srinagar

No: MDS/ TS / 2279-83
DIPK-5098/23
Dated: 14.07.2023

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division Srinagar
Mechanical Engineering Department, Kashmir
Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmnds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of e-NIT
e-NIT No: MDS/TS /2023-24/ 28 Date:-14-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered Contractors for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Time of completion (in days)	Position of Funds
Repairs to rolling Shutters of Work-shop of Subdivisions Shalteng Srinagar	200.00	2000.00	81000.00	15	Available

Position of AA : Works program approved vide No. MED/K/Acctt/403 of 2023 Dated :- 26-05-2023. Position of TS: Sanctioned vide No. S.E.No. 23 dated :-13-07-2023.

- The Tender document 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 Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 14-07-2023(12 Hrs)
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 14-07-2023 (12 Hrs) to 25-07-2023 (18 Hrs) in two covers.

The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 26-07-2023 (14 Hrs) in the Office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

Sd/ (Er. JahanAra) Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Srinagar

No. MDS/ TS/ 2261-65 **DIPK-5095/23 Dated:- 14-07-2023**



Sweden Condemned As Police Greenlight Torah Burning Protest

STOCKHOLM: Swedish police on Friday said they had granted a permit for a protest which would include burning holy texts outside the Israeli embassy in Stockholm, sparking condemnation from Israel and Jewish organizations.

The controversial protest, scheduled for Saturday, comes weeks after a man set fire to pages of the Qur'an outside Stockholm's main mosque — leading to widespread outrage and condemnations around the world.

The demonstration would include a burning of the Torah and the Bible, was in response to the Qur'an burning protest and would be an expression in support of freedom of speech, according to the application to police.

In a comment to AFP, Stockholm police stressed that in line with Swedish legislation they granted permits for people to hold public gatherings and not for the activities conducted during them.

"The police does not issue permits to burn various religious texts — the police issues permits to hold a public gathering and express an opinion," said Carina Skagerlind, press officer for Stockholm police. "An important distinction," she added.

Israel's President Isaac Herzog was one of several Israeli representatives and Jewish organizations to immediately condemn the decision.

"I unequivocally condemn

the permission granted in Sweden to burn holy books," Herzog said in a statement.

"I condemned the burning of the Qur'an, sacred to Muslims world over, and I am now heartbroken that the same fate awaits a Jewish Bible, the eternal book of the Jewish people," the head of state added.

Yaakov Hagoel, chairman of the World Zionist Organization, said in a statement that granting the permit was "not freedom of expression but Antisemitism."

In June, Swedish police had granted a permit for 37-year-old Salwan Momika's protest where he stomped on the Qur'an and set several pages alight.

The permit was granted in line with free speech protections, but authorities later said they had opened an investigation over "agitation against an ethnic group," noting that Momika had burnt pages from the Islamic holy book very close to the mosque.

Countries including Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco summoned Swedish ambassadors in protest at the Qur'an burning incident, which led to an emergency meeting of the 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Sweden's government also condemned the burning as "Islamophobic," while noting that the country had a "constitutionally protected right to freedom of assembly, expression and demonstration."

Delhi Races to Open Jammed Flood Gates as River Surge Halts City



Reuters

NEW DELHI: New Delhi officials were racing to open some jammed flood gates at a barrage on the swollen river Yamuna on Friday to help drain out floodwater that has brought traffic to a standstill in parts of India's capital and swamped historical monuments.

The river's levels were at their highest in 45 years this week following unusually heavy rainfall in New Delhi and hilly northern states, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of people as the Yamuna, which runs through the city, breached its banks.

Army and disaster relief personnel were also trying to repair a broken drain regulator near the country's Supreme Court from where water was flowing on to a

key road, authorities said. "To prevent water from flowing into the city, we are trying to create a dam," said Saurabh Bharadwaj, Delhi's flood control and irrigation minister, adding that sacks would be stacked up to achieve this.

Television footage showed water engulfing the walls of the historic Red Fort earlier in the day, with trucks and buses abandoned in several places, leaving just their windshields and roofs showing above the water. Police reported at least three deaths due to drowning.

The roads around the Rajghat memorial to India's apostle of non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi, were inundated too, with some water flowing into the memorial area as well.

With some reduction in water levels in the river,

the city resumed operation of one of the three water treatment plants that were closed on Thursday, bringing some relief in supply, Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

At a barrage in the downtown area, army and navy officials were working to reopen five jammed gates that were affecting the flow of the river, Kejriwal added.

Delhi has recorded rainfall 91% above-normal this monsoon season that began June 1. It has received 309 mm (12 inches) of rainfall so far in July, which is the third highest for the month for at least 12 years, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Also flooded were several private and government offices, including the police headquarters, in the city's ITO area.

289 Children Died While Trying To Cross Mediterranean Sea This Year: UN

Agencies

GENEVA: Some 289 children are known to have died in the first half of 2023 while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe, the United Nations said Friday.

The figure is double that recorded in the first six months of 2022, the UN children's agency UNICEF said, as it called for expanded safe, legal and accessible pathways for children to seek protection in Europe.

Verena Knaus, UNICEF's global lead on migration and displacement, said the

true figures were likely to be higher as many shipwrecks on the central Mediterranean leave no survivors or go unrecorded.

"The number of children who have lost their lives while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe has doubled in the first half of this year compared to the same period last year," she said.

"In the first six months of this year, we estimate 11,600 children made the crossing — again, nearly twice as many as in the same period in 2022."

UNICEF said that in the first three months of 2023, around 3,300 children — 71 percent of all children arriving in Europe on the central Mediterranean route — were recorded as unaccompanied or separated.

The figure is three times higher than in the same period last year.

"These children need to know they are not alone. World leaders must urgently act to demonstrate the undeniable worth of children's lives, moving beyond condolences to resolute pursuit of effective solutions," said Knaus.



Court Order On July 21 On Scientific Survey Request For Gyanvapi Mosque



Press Trust of India

VARANASI: A Varanasi court on Friday reserved its order for July 21 on a petition seeking a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

The petition filed by the Hindu side of the case had sought a direction to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to survey the entire Gyanvapi mosque complex. "We had put before the court

the demand for an archaeological and scientific investigation of the entire Gyanvapi complex except the 'vajukhana'. After hearing both sides, the court reserved the verdict for July 21," said Vishnu Shankar Jain, the counsel for the Hindu side.

Mr Jain said he argued that the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi mosque dispute can be resolved only by an archaeological investigation of the entire mosque complex.

NEWS MAKERS

Will Hand Over Government To Caretaker Set-Up In August: Pak PM

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that he will be handing over the government to a "caretaker set-up" in August, once the term of the assembly ends, Dawn reported on Thursday.

Sharif made a similar announcement yesterday as well, in which he declared that the term of his government would end on August 14.

However, Sharif did not make it clear whether the coalition partners would go for the normal dissolution of the National Assembly (NA) on completion of its term on August 12 or he would advise the president for an early dissolution.

The five-year term of the NA commenced under the then-PTI government on August 12, 2018 and will be completed under a PM-Shehbaz-led ruling coalition following the



oust of former premier Imran Khan through a no-confidence vote in April last year.

At the outset of an address — broadcast on television — PM Sharif said he was given the "sacred responsibility" of running the country and "working for its welfare" in April last year. "We will hand over this responsibility to the caretaker set-up in August 2023," Dawn quoted Sharif as saying.

He claimed that the incumbent government, in mere 15 months of its brief tenure, cleaned the "rubble of destruc-

tion", which he said was a "work of the PTI" over the last four years.

Sharif added that during the past few months, his government "sacrificed politics to protect the state".

Earlier on Wednesday, Shehbaz Sharif said that the coalition government's tenure will end on August 14 and the date for the next polls will be announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) either in "October or November", Geo News reported.

"Our government's tenure will end on August 14, the election commission will decide when the polls will take place — whether in October or November," Geo News quoted Sharif as saying.

He added, "Whosoever forms the next government after elections, their top priority should be education so they can make this nation great".

Earlier, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had also said the assemblies could be dissolved earlier than the scheduled date of August 13 to "facilitate" the ECP.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has also demanded the elections take place at their stipulated time as it is eyeing "its victory" in the upcoming polls, Geo News reported.

The government continues to be under pressure as the country is undergoing its worst economic crisis, inflation is at record highs and the prices not coming down despite all the claims by the authorities.

Citing recent surveys, Geo News reported that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — the ruling coalition government in Pakistan — has lost much of its popularity and faces an uphill task to win the confidence of the people in the upcoming polls.

Singer Lisa Marie Presley's Death Linked To Weight Loss Surgery

Agencies

LOS ANGELES: The death of Lisa Marie Presley, the singer-songwriter and only child of rock and roll legend Elvis, was caused by a bowel obstruction related to a prior weight loss surgery, medical examiners said.

Presley, who led a tumultuous life in the sprawling shadow of her world-famous father, died in January at age 54 after being discovered unresponsive in her home and rushed to the hospital.

Her cause of death was determined to be "a small bowel obstruction caused by scar tissue that developed after a previous bariatric surgery years ago. The manner of death is natural," the County of Los Angeles Department of Medical Examiner said in a statement Thursday.

Bariatric surgery is a stom-



Extreme Heat Can Cause Flight Delays. Here's Why

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The summer travel season got a rocky start in late June when thunderstorms, coupled with airport staff shortages across the US, caused as many as 7,700 flight delays and 2,200 cancellations in a single day.

But a lightning strike isn't the most likely way travel plans get snarled. Passengers are learning the hard way this summer that high temperatures can be as disruptive to on-time departures as visibly inclement weather.

This week extreme heat has rippled across much of the US and Europe. Cities experiencing record-breaking temperatures have included Miami; Tampa; Portland, Oregon; San Antonio; and New Orleans. In Phoenix, July 12 marked the area's 12th consecutive day of temperatures reaching over 110 degrees. The heat wave is said to have affected a quarter of the American population.

Federal Aviation Administration data show that for many airports summer weather is responsible for far more delays than winter weather—partially because it takes a less extreme weather event to send operations into a tailspin. Chicago O'Hare, for instance, had almost

twice as many weather delays from June to August 2022 as it did from January to March 2023. At New York's LaGuardia, there were 35% more weather delays in summer 2022 than the following winter.

Additional data from aviation analytics firm FlightAware shows that from January to March 2023 there were 402,881 flight delays in the US—representing 19.6% of all scheduled departures—whereas in the summer months of June to August 2022, there were 544,462 delays, or 23.3% of the country's flights.

Winter storms can cause more widespread havoc, however. Of a dozen events that caused mass disruptions to US flights in the last 12 or so years, 8 stemmed from winter storms; only 3 related to hurricanes. (The 12th was Covid-19.) Heat waves may not result in large-scale breakdowns in service but are instead a constantly humming engine of daily disruption in which season-long impacts can add up.

"When temperatures exceed 39 degrees centigrade [102F], it becomes really problematic for airlines," says Bijan Vasigh, professor of economics and finance at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Another Manipur Bank Looted, Electronic Items Worth ₹1 Crore Stolen

Press Trust of India

IMPHAL, MANIPUR: Days after cash and ornaments valued at over ₹2.25 crore were found missing from an Axis Bank branch in Manipur's Churachandpur, criminals targeted another bank in Kangpokpi district and looted computers and other electronic items worth nearly ₹1 crore, officials said today.

The Kangpokpi branch of Manipur State Cooperative Bank, north of Imphal Valley, has been closed since May 4, police told PTI adding, "the theft was detected three days ago when officials went to open the bank".

"Though the cash vault was found broken, bank officials had removed all the money from it and the ATM located on the bank premises in mid-May as per the instructions of the head office," the official told Press Trust of India.

At least six computers, a printer and other electronic

items are missing, the official said, adding an FIR has been lodged at Kangpokpi police station.

On July 10, cash and jewellery worth ₹2.25 crore were found missing from a branch of Axis Bank in Churachandpur.

Officials said they came to know about the theft when the bank reopened after remaining closed for more than two months since violence broke out in the state on May 3.

Police said thieves drilled a hole from the rear side of the bank and gained entry. "Rs 1.25-crore cash was looted along with gold ornaments estimated to be valued at over ₹1 crore in addition to a computer," an official said.

More than 150 people have lost their lives and over 3,000 injured since ethnic violence broke out on May 3 when a "Tribal Solidarity March" was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.



where she was put in an induced coma on life support before dying, TMZ reported at the time.

In addition to Keough, whom she divorced in 1994, Presley had also been married to Nicolas Cage, Michael Jackson and actor-composer Michael Lockwood.

Lisa Marie was Elvis's only child. She previously controlled Elvis Presley Enterprises, although she sold the bulk of shares in the company to a private equity firm in 2005.

She retained control of Graceland, the estate her father owned and where he was found unconscious in August 1977.

Elvis' widow Priscilla Presley reached a settlement in May, following a dispute over an amendment removing her from her daughter's will.

AMARNATH YATRA 7,000 More Pilgrims Leave From Jammu Base Camp



Press Trust Of India
3,144 pilgrims left for the Baltal base camp in the Kashmir Valley. With this 12th batch of yatris, a total of 72,789 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley since June 30. So far, as many as 1,62,569 yatris have paid obeisance at the cave shrine and had 'darshan' of the naturally-formed 'Icelandic' since July 1, officials said. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

DPAP's Omar Kakroo Elected As President MC Baramulla

Azad Congratulates Kakroo, Describes It 'Monumental Victory' For His Party

Agencies
SRINAGAR: A councillor affiliated with Ghulam Nabi Azad led party DPAP was on Friday elected as new president Municipal Council Baramulla after he defeated his rival candidate by a margin of one vote. According to details, out of 18 votes, Kakroo got nine votes while his opponent, Touseef Raina got eight votes. One vote was rejected as the councillor (Ashiq Ahmed Ganai @ Ashiq MLA) opted to stay away from the secret ballot voting. "This is victory of my people, my councillors. We will work together as a team to carry out the development activities in MC Baramulla," Kakroo as per KNO told media after being elected as the civic body chief. Former MC President Touseef Raina said that he will continue to work for the betterment of Baramulla. Meanwhile, former chief minister and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad congratulated Kakroo for being elected as MC Baramulla president. "Congratulations to Omar Kakroo sahib on being elected as Chairman, Municipal Council Baramulla! A monumental victory for DPAP in Kashmir. Kudos to Kakroo sahib, Distt President Shoab Lone sahib, and all DPAP members for their dedicated efforts in securing this prestigious position. I'm confident that the team will work diligently to fulfill their promises and serve the people," he tweeted.

J&K Resident Commission Retrieves Land At New Delhi's Kashmir House

Observer News Service
NEW DELHI: The J&K Resident Commission today carried an eviction drive and retrieved land measuring 1 Kanal and 11.2 Marlas with built up temporary structures at Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg here, which was under unauthorized occupation of unknown persons. The drive was carried on the directions of Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and guidance of Estates Officer, J&K Resident Commission, New Delhi, Niraj Kumar. The eviction proceedings were initiated under Section-4 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 issued initially to the Central Public Works Department, followed by another notice under Section-4 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 issued to all the unknown unauthorized occupants at Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg, staying on the above piece of land who were also making an unauthorized use of water and electricity to facilitate their stay. Subsequently, the Estates Officer, Resident Commission, J&K Govt, New Delhi passed an eviction order under sub-section (1) of Sec. 5 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, against all the unauthorized occupant(s) particulars of whom were not known. Notwithstanding even after completion of prescribed legal procedure, the unauthorized occupants did not vacate the premises even after the lapse of period of 15 days as specified in the eviction order passed by the Estates Officer and thereafter, no notice of appeal or stay against the order of eviction issued by the Estates Officer was received. Eventually, the Estates Officer, J&K Resident Commission along with the assistance provided by various wings of J&K Police, J&K PW(R&B), New Delhi and staff of the J&K Resident Commission, New Delhi evicted all the unauthorized occupants from the premises today. All the unauthorized occupants were given opportunity to remove their belongings and the process of eviction was completed in a peaceful manner.

WASTE DUMPING NEAR POONCH RIVER NGT Gives Last Opportunity To DC, PCC To Respond

Observer News Service
NEW DELHI: National Green Tribunal (NGT) has given a last opportunity to the Deputy Commissioner Poonch and Pollution Control Committee to submit a report on the dumping of municipal solid waste near Poonch river. A Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) comprising Justice Sheo Kumar Singh (Chairperson), Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi (Judicial Member) and Dr A Senthil Vel (Expert Member) has given last opportunity to J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) and District Magistrate Poonch for giving factual status with regard to unscientific dumping of solid and bio-medical waste in Poonch river near Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge. While hearing Itisha Awasthi counsel for the petitioner Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, the NGT bench observed: "Grievance in this application is against unscientific dumping of solid waste and bio-medical waste in the area falling between Sher-e-Kashmir Bridge and the confluence of Poonch River and Belar Nala near Poonch town of Jammu and Kashmir". The order further reads "The matter was taken up by this Tribunal on 13.04.2023 and the J&K PCC and District Magistrate, Poonch were directed to verify facts and submit a factual and action taken report. UT of J&K also needs to comply with MSW Rules, 2016 and with the directions of the Tribunal's order dated 20.10.2022 in OA No. 606/2018. In compliance thereof, no report has been filed. By way of last opportunity, let the same be filed within three months giving factual status in quantifiable terms and remedial actions taken". The case has now been listed before the NGT on October 14th 2023.



SIA Takes Custody Of Rafiq Lala In Drugs, Weapon Recovery Cases

Press Trust Of India
JAMMU: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Thursday took the custody of Mohd Rafiq, who is named in cases related to anti-national activities and narcotics seizure, from jail authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, official sources said. The agency intends to interrogate the accused in connection with several cases related to drug recovery and hawala racket, they said. Rafiq, arrested under the Public Safety Act (PSA), is named in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act cases as well as cases-related to anti-national activities, the sources said. He was arrested on March 3 following an operation by security forces in Sathra (Dana Dohian) in Mandi's police station jurisdiction. During the search operation, information was received regarding the presence of narcotics, arms, ammunition, and illegal cash at Rafiq's residence, they said. The search was conducted in the presence of an executive magistrate, lambardar, chowkidaar and member of the panchayat and it yielded a significant seizure, including seven kilograms of heroin, one pistol with a magazine containing 10 rounds, seven rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, one khokri (a traditional knife), and Rs 2.30 crore, the sources said. Following this, a case was registered and transferred to the SIA. Today, the SIA team has taken custody of Rafiq from the district jail authorities, they said.



DAK Raises Concern As WHO Links Artificial Sweetener With Cancer Risk

Observer News Service
SRINAGAR: With World Health Organization (WHO) declaring that artificial sweetener aspartame widely used in diet drinks could cause cancer, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said it is a matter of serious concern. "Diet drinks have become routine part of people's lives and the cancer link to these drinks is alarming," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hasan. Dr Hassan said the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) which is the cancer research arm of WHO has linked sweetener aspartame to increased risk of liver cancer. The conclusion is based on three large human studies conducted in the US and Europe that examined artificially sweetened beverages. "The risk is particularly high in those who are taking excess of these soft drinks," he said. The DAK President said concerns about rising rates of obesity and diabetes have resulted in an explosion of no or low-sugar foods and beverages. Aspartame, a low-calorie artificial sweetener is used in Diet Coke, Pepsi zero sugar and other diet sodas as a substitute for sugar with the aim that the sweetener can help consumers manage body weight and reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases. "However, research has found that replacing free sugar with non-sugar sweetener like aspartame does not help with weight control in the long term," he said adding "artificial sweeteners have also been linked with higher risk of developing diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease, as well as of dying."

Entire J&K Should Condemn Attacks On Non-Locals: Azad

Press Trust Of India
SRINAGAR: A day after three non-local labourers were injured in a militant attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad Friday said such incidents will stop only when the whole population of the Union Territory condemns them in one voice. Azad condemned the attack that took place on Thursday evening in Gagren village of the south Kashmir district. "The incident is very unfortunate. It is very sad and painful that the migrant workers, who have been coming to Jammu and Kashmir for so many years now for earning their livelihood and not just their livelihood but to help the people of Kashmir, have to go through this," Azad told reporters here. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said it will not be good if non-local people are harassed or attacked. "Labourers from our state also go outside to work, if someone does something like this with them, how will we feel?... The

Protests Held In Jammu Against Shopian Attack

Press Trust Of India
JAMMU: Protests against the attack on three migrant labourers in Shopian were held here on Friday, with protesters burning the Pakistani flag and accusing the neighbouring country of trying to destabilise the situation in Kashmir. Two masked militants shot at and injured three labourers from Bihar after entering their rented accommodation in Gagren village in south Kashmir's Shopian on Thursday. Shiv Sena Dogra Front (SSDF) activists, led by its chairman Ashok Gupta, gathered at Rain Park here and burned the Pakistani flag. "Pakistan is trying to destabilise the situation in Kashmir. Firstly, the terrorists killed a soldier in Kashmir and now they targeted these Hindu labourers. We condemn the attack," Gupta told reporters here. The Ekam Sanatan Bharat and the Ikkjutt Jammu Party's youth wing also held a demonstration at Hari Singh Park to denounce the attack. Members of the Rashtriya Bajrang Dal raised anti-Pakistan slogans and burned the country's flag at a protest here. They condemned the "deliberate attacks" on innocent civilians in Kashmir. should be a public issue, they (non-locals) come here to help the people," he said. Asked whether the attack meant that there was a security lapse or there is the presence of militants in the valley, the former Union minister said it meant both. "I have said this during my government or any other government as well that providing security to each one or everywhere is difficult. It is also difficult




to keep a round-the-clock watch on the labourers, it is not possible anywhere in the world. "So, it is the presence of militancy and we have been fighting that for the last 33 years. So, it is there, but, unless people condemn it, they will continue," he added. To a query about the claims of two former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti that they were restricted from visiting the martyr's graveyard here on Thursday to pay homage to the 22 Kashmiris killed by the army of Dogra ruler in 1931, Azad said the fight against aristocratic rule in J&K was not on religious lines. "It is a reality that before independence there was an aristocratic rule here and the (fight against that) was not against a religion. Like Hyderabad, the nawab there was a Muslim, but it (the fight) was there also.


DC Budgam Takes Stock Of Muharram Arrangements At Magam

Directs Concerned Officers To Ensure All Possible Arrangements For Smooth Conduct Of Muharram

Observer News Service
BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo on Friday conducted an extensive tour of Magam area to take stock of arrangements for the ensuing Muharram-ul-Haram. The DC also chaired a meeting at Townhall Magam to take stock of the arrangements being put in place for hassle-free conduct of majalis and processions during the holy month. During the meeting, representatives from various Shia organisations, local representatives from Magam and other adjoining villages raised their demands with the DC. After listening to the demands of the general public, the DC directed concerned officers to visit all respective villages and ensure timely resolution of issues related to macadamization of roads, supply of uninterrupted electricity, water supplies and food and civil supplies. He also instructed concerned officers to submit compliance reports in time and ensure availability of ration, distribution of fire wood and other facilities including restoration and installation of street lights are carried out on war footing. The DC directed concerned to ensure facility of water tanks at all identified locations. The meeting among others was attended by, President Municipal Council Magam, Mustafa Mir; SDM Beerwah, Taufeeq A Gazi and senior officers from PDD, PHE, R&B, Revenue, Municipality besides other concerned including representatives from prominent Shia organisations.



دفتھر صدر ضلع پو لیس گاندربال



DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS GANDEBAL

Beehama 191201 Ganderbal, | Tel 2416443 Fax 2416808 | Email: dpoganderbal@jkpolice.gov.in

NOTICE

R/Const. Mohamad Iqbal Rather
No. 1288/Gbl, EXK-145461
S/o Abdul Rehman Rather
R/o Saloor, Ganderbal
P/S Ganderbal, District Ganderbal.

Subject: Final Show Cause Notice.
I Nikhil Borkar-IPS SSP Ganderbal in exercise of powers conferred me in J&K Police Manual section 359 sub-section -II (2) call upon you on the following grounds:-

- Whereas, you were provisionally appointed as constable in J&K Executive Police vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 74 of 2014 dated 30-01-2014 probationary for a period of (03) years.
- Whereas, during your posting in District Ganderbal, you were selected to undergo 09 months BRTC at STC Sheeri vide PHQ J&K order No. 481 of 2015 dated 24-02-2015 but you un-authorisedly absented yourself for a period of 35 days w.e.f 04-03-2015 to 07-04-2015 for which you were "Reverted back". DE was initiated and finalized where under 35 days absence treated as Diesnon and a Censure was awarded to you.
- Whereas, you were again absented yourself un-authorisedly from duties for a period of 10 days w.e.f 07-09-2015 to 17-09-2015, accordingly DE was initiated and finalized vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 631 of 2015 dated 04-12-2015 and period of absence treated as Diesnon.
- Whereas, you were again selected on 2nd occasion to undergo 09 months BRTC at STC Talwara w.e.f 26-11-2015 and relieved from this district but you did not bother to report at the Training Centre and absented yourself for a period of 17 days for which DE was initiated and during the course of Enquiry, E.O has made strenuous efforts to call you for handing over of summary of allegations but you turned deaf ears and finally EO has taken ex-parte decision which was finalized where under 17 days absence period was treated as Diesnon.
- Whereas, you were again selected on 3rd occasion to undergo 09 months BRTC at PTS Kathua and relieved from this district w.e.f 14-11-2016 but you did not bother to report at the Training Centre and absented yourself for a period of 27 days for which DE was initiated and during the course of Enquiry, E.O has made strenuous efforts to call you for handing over of summary of allegations but you turned deaf ears and finally EO has taken ex-parte decision which was finalized where under 27 days absence period was treated as "Earned Leave".
- Whereas, you were again selected on 4th occasion to undergo 09 months BRTC at CTC Lethpora w.e.f 18-09-2017 and relieved from this district but you did not bother to report at the Training Centre and absented yourself for a period of 58 days for which DE was initiated and during the course of Enquiry E.O has made strenuous efforts to call you for handing over of summary of allegations but you turned deaf ears and finally EO has taken ex-parte decision which was finalized where under 58 days absence period was treated as Diesnon.
- Whereas, you were again selected on 5th occasion to undergo 09 months BRTC at STC Talwara w.e.f 18-11-2019 and relieved from this district but you did not bother to report at the Training Centre and absented yourself for a period of 483 days for which DE was initiated and during the course of Enquiry, E.O has made strenuous efforts to call you for handing over of summary of allegations but you turned deaf ears and finally EO has taken ex-parte decision which was finalized where under 483 days absence period was treated as Diesnon.
- Whereas, you were again absented yourself on 14-09-2018 and after remained absent for a period of 164 days, you resumed duties on 24-09-2019 for which DE was initiated and entrusted to Dy.SP PC Ganderbal vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 143 of 2019 dated 02-03-2019 which was later on finalized vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 134 of 2021 dated 06-03-2021, where under Pack Drill was given to you and period of 164 days absence was treated as Diesnon.
- Whereas, you have also produced an affidavit wherein you apologized for the mistake and you have also affirmed that mistake will not be repeated in future.
- Whereas, you were selected again on 6th occasion to undergo 09 BRTC at STC Sheeri w.e.f 10-11-2022 and accordingly relieved w.e.f 07-11-2022, but you absented yourself w.e.f 01-12-2022 from STC Sheeri and are still at large. Thus, for your non-compliance of PHO orders, you were placed under suspension vide DPO Ganderbal order No. 05 of 2023 dated 04-01-2023 and PE was initiated and entrusted to Dy. SP PAR PPL Ganderbal.
- Whereas, you were informed by Lines Officer DPL Ganderbal from time to time through concerned SHO P/S Ganderbal to report back for duties vide below mentioned wireless messages but you have turned deaf ears.
 - DPL-G/Absent/2023/298 dated 01-05-2023
 - DPL-G/Absent/2023/82 dated 30-01-2023
 - DPL-G/Absent/2023/147 dated 28-02-2023
 - DPL-G/Absent/2023/162 dated 07-03-2023
 - DPL-G/Absent/2023/234 dated 03-04-2023
 - DPL-G/Absent/2023/341 dated 16-05-2023
- Whereas, on perusing your service records, reveals that in a short span of service you have absented BRTC 06 Times, absented un-authorisedly on (07) occasions earned/awarded Diesnon 822 days (during 07 occasions) and (03) Censure, which clearly indicates that you are not willing nor to serve any more in Police Department.
- Whereas, despite a series of signals as well as 1st show cause notice and 2nd show cause notice served upon you through SHO PIS Ganderbal which was issued by this office under endorsement No. Estt/Notice12023121154-59 dated 29-05-2023 and Estt/ Notice12023124265-70 dated 17-06-2023 you did not bother to report back for duties.
- Whereas, on perusing your service records, reveals that in a short span of service since you have joined district Ganderbal you have absented un-authorisedly which clearly indicates that you are not willing nor to serve any more in Police Department.
- Whereas, you are habitual of absenteeism and have violated rule/regulations of the discipline force by way of which you will be discharged from services in accordance with PHQ J&K Order No. 242 of 2003 dated 09-08-2003 and as envisaged in J&K CSR Rule-128, Vol (I) read with rule 208 (g) Vol-2 of J&K Police Manual such kind of prolonged/continuous absence from duties tantamount to loss of appointment, which can be invoked in your instant case as well.
- Whereas, the above chart of punishments clearly indicates that you have remained very careless/negligent towards the legitimate duty during your short service tenure and have played truant on so many occasions which is unbecoming on the part of a member of disciplined police force.

In view of above facts, I Nikhil Borkar-IPS Sr. Superintendent of Police Ganderbal through the medium of this final show cause notice do hereby call upon you to show the reasons for above lapses with documentary/oral evidence which should reach this office with seven days positively from the receipt/publication of this notice. In case of failure, it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defense and the proceedings of your removal from services shall be undertaken.

(Nikhil Borkar-IPS)
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Ganderbal

DIPK-5104-23
DT: 14/07/2023

No. Estt/Notice/2023/27168-73
Dated:14/07/2023

Remote Jobs Can Rescue Careers in Kashmir

Fatima Latif

“Remote work has become a game-changer for women from areas such as Jammu and Kashmir. Women, especially married women, who do not have the privilege or the opportunity to work outside, are increasingly taking up remote jobs to grow financially

The past few years were marked by unprecedented events around the world especially in Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir had already been in a lockdown, when Covid-19 hit the world. Hence, the effects of the lockdowns were more pronounced here.

However, the shared suffering also brought along with it an opportunity for shared solutions. For Kashmir, this worked. It meant that Kashmir wasn't exclusively left behind. The quick shift from offline to online mode for work, education and possibly everything meant that Kashmir too could join in — now with the internet services restored.

In the post Covid world, Kashmir is still mitigating past and new challenges. Unemployment is soaring. However, the way the pandemic brought together the world, Kashmir too has gotten an opportunity to take inspiration from the rest of the world. Infact, it has also brought for Kashmir a chance to take advantage of the many new opportunities that have opened up around the globe.

One such opportunities is the opportunity to work remotely — at any place, from anywhere.

For the most part, our youngsters had the education and the skills but lacked guidance as well as opportunities. Remote jobs have opened up the possibility for them to explore many new careers and opportunities. Infact, remote jobs seem to be more democratic and inclusive in that they do not require one to shift to a tier-1 city or another country all together.

Hence, in an increasingly interconnected and technology-driven world, remote jobs have emerged as a transformative force in the employment landscape. The rise of remote work has opened up a plethora of opportunities, making it more accessible for people of all backgrounds and abilities to engage in meaningful employment.

Many young people have reasons because of which they cannot move out of Kashmir. Sometimes, this would become an impediment due to the lack of jobs here. Now, with remote jobs available, it is easier for such youngsters to work in good organisations which do not expect them to move their entire lives to another place.



For representational purposes only

Thus, remote jobs are healing the pandemic of uprootedness that had become a prerequisite for “success” in the past.

Remote work overcomes geographical barriers that often limit individuals in traditional job setups. Physical location no longer dictates job opportunities, as remote jobs allow individuals to work from anywhere. This flexibility empowers people in rural areas, enabling them

as they can fulfill their responsibilities while actively participating in the workforce.

It also promotes inclusivity for people with disabilities. Traditional work environments may present physical accessibility challenges, making it difficult for individuals with disabilities to fully participate. Remote jobs eliminate these barriers by providing a level playing field. With the right tools and technolo-

“Remote jobs are healing the pandemic of uprootedness that had become a prerequisite for “success” in the past

to access job opportunities that were once reserved for urban dwellers. By doing so, remote work bridges the gap between different regions and promotes economic growth across the board.

Moreover, remote jobs enhance work-life balance. The traditional 9-to-5 office culture often leads to stress, burnout, and an imbalance between work and personal life. Remote work provides a solution by offering individuals the freedom to work from home or any location of their choice. They can create a work schedule that suits their needs, leading to improved work-life balance. This flexibility benefits parents, caregivers, and individuals with personal commitments,

gives, individuals can work from the comfort of their homes, leveraging their skills and expertise without hindrances. This inclusivity empowers people with disabilities, allowing them to contribute to the workforce and access employment opportunities that were previously out of reach.

Furthermore, remote jobs foster diversity by embracing individuals from various backgrounds and cultures. Employers are no longer limited to hiring within a specific geographic area. Remote work enables companies to tap into a global talent pool, attracting top talent from diverse regions. This diversity of thought and experience drives innovation and enhances problem-solving

capabilities within organizations. Additionally, it reduces unconscious biases associated with physical appearances, names, or accents, focusing solely on skills and qualifications.

Remote work has become a game-changer for women from areas such as Jammu and Kashmir. Women, especially married women, who do not have the privilege or the opportunity to work outside, are increasingly taking up remote jobs to grow financially. Day in and day out, social media is filled with posts by such women looking to work. The ability to stay home and work gives married women an opportunity to strike a much needed balance. It helps them be present at home and also grow professionally. With no expectation to show up at a physical office and commute for hours, women are saving up a lot of time and energy. With financial freedom, women can also seek house helps at home and create a safer way to take care of their kids without having to drop them at crèches. If the husbands also have the option to work remotely, it works wonders for a family that can now spend time together. Even though remote work also comes with its own set of challenges for women. However, if dealt with ethically, it can be revolutionary for them.

Hence, remote jobs have brought about a paradigm shift in the world of work. They offer numerous advantages that make them better, more inclusive, and more accessible for everyone. By overcoming geographical barriers, enhancing work-life balance, promoting inclusivity for people with disabilities, fostering diversity, and reducing environmental impact, remote jobs have the potential to transform the employment landscape for the better. Embracing remote work is not just a trend; it is a step towards a more equitable and inclusive workforce for all.

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 New Delhi based tech-consultant

An open letter published today calls for “all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4.”

This 6-month moratorium would be better than no moratorium. I have respect for everyone who stepped up and signed it. It's an improvement on the margin.

I refrained from signing because I think the letter is understating the seriousness of the situation and asking for too little to solve it.

The key issue is not “human-competitive” intelligence (as the open letter puts it); it's what happens after AI gets to smarter-than-human intelligence. Key thresholds there may not be obvious, we definitely can't calculate in advance what happens when, and it currently seems imaginable that a research lab would cross critical lines without noticing.

Many researchers steeped in these issues, including myself, expect that the most likely result of building a superhumanly smart AI, under anything remotely like the current circumstances, is that literally everyone on Earth will die. Not as in “maybe possibly some remote chance,” but as in “that is the obvious thing that would happen.” It's not that you can't, in principle, survive creating something much smarter than you; it's that it would require precision and preparation and new scientific insights, and probably not having AI systems composed of giant inscrutable arrays of fractional numbers.

Without that precision and preparation, the most likely outcome is AI that does not do what we want, and does not care for us nor for sentient life in general. That kind of caring is something that could in principle be imbued into an AI but we are not ready and do not currently know how.

Absent that caring, we get “the AI does not love you, nor does it hate you, and you are made of atoms it can use for

Pausing AI Developments Isn't Enough. We Need to Shut it All Down

ELIEZER YUDKOWSKY



something else.”

The likely result of humanity facing down an opposed superhuman intelligence is a total loss. Valid metaphors include “a 10-year-old trying to play chess against Stockfish 15”, “the 11th century trying to fight the 21st century,” and “Australopithecus trying to fight Homo sapiens”.

To visualize a hostile superhuman AI, don't imagine a lifeless book-smart thinker dwelling inside the internet and sending ill-intentioned emails. Visualize an entire alien civilization, thinking at millions of times human speeds, initially confined to computers—in a world

of creatures that are, from its perspective, very stupid and very slow. A sufficiently intelligent AI won't stay confined to computers for long. In today's world you can email DNA strings to laboratories that will produce proteins on demand, allowing an AI initially confined to the internet to build artificial life forms or bootstrap straight to post-biological molecular manufacturing.

If somebody builds a too-powerful AI, under present conditions, I expect that every single member of the human species and all biological life on Earth dies shortly thereafter.

There's no proposed plan for how

we could do any such thing and survive. OpenAI's openly declared intention is to make some future AI do our AI alignment homework. Just hearing that this is the plan ought to be enough to get any sensible person to panic. The other leading AI lab, DeepMind, has no plan at all.

An aside: None of this danger depends on whether or not AIs are or can be conscious; it's intrinsic to the notion of powerful cognitive systems that optimize hard and calculate outputs that meet sufficiently complicated outcome criteria. With that said, I'd be remiss in my moral duties as a human if I didn't also mention that we have no idea how to determine whether AI systems are aware of themselves—since we have no idea how to decode anything that goes on in the giant inscrutable arrays—and therefore we may at some point inadvertently create digital minds which are truly conscious and ought to have rights and shouldn't be owned.

The rule that most people aware of these issues would have endorsed 50 years earlier, was that if an AI system can speak fluently and says it's self-aware and demands human rights, that ought to be a hard stop on people just casually owning that AI and using it past that point. We already blew past that old line in the sand. And that was probably correct; I agree that current AIs are probably just imitating talk of self-awareness from their training data. But I mark that, with how little insight we have into these systems' internals, we do not actually know.

If that's our state of ignorance for

“Without that precision and preparation, the most likely outcome is AI that does not do what we want, and does not care for us nor for sentient life in general. That kind of caring is something that could in principle be imbued into an AI but we are not ready and do not currently know how.

GPT-4, and GPT-5 is the same size of giant capability step as from GPT-3 to GPT-4, I think we'll no longer be able to justifiably say “probably not self-aware” if we let people make GPT-5s. It'll just be “I don't know; nobody knows.” If you can't be sure whether you're creating a self-aware AI, this is alarming not just because of the moral implications of the “self-aware” part, but because being unsure means you have no idea what you are doing and that is dangerous and you should stop.

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 Time Magazine on March 29, 2023

Why are Dogs the New Devils in Kashmir?

In Conversation With An Award Winning Veterinarian To Decode Increasing Dog Bite Incidents And Understanding Solutions

Farzana Nisar

In the quaint streets of Batamaloo, where laughter of children once thrived with a vibrant pulse, a mournful stillness now envelops the air. It was amidst these familiar streets that Ahmad, a 10-year-old boy found himself in a harrowing chase with a stray dog, that tragically culminated in his untimely demise after a 13-day battle in hospital.

Nearly two months before this incident, in April, another eight-year-old boy was mauled when a stray dog attacked him in Awantipora area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district, leaving his lung and other vital organs injured.

Such incidents of stray dog aggression resulting in injuries or fatalities have been reported in various parts of Kashmir, taking the number of dog-bite cases to 60,000 over the decade. According to the data by Anti-Rabies Clinic (ARC) at the Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital Srinagar, Kashmir recorded a total of 5,629 bite victims, mostly dog bites in the last one year. Srinagar, specifically, had the highest number of reported cases, with 4,264 incidents of dog bites.

While it is crucial to acknowledge people's concerns and experiences of stray dog bites, it is equally important to understand the circumstances that lead to such incidents. In a recent interview with Kashmir Observer, Dr. Qazi Mudassir, a veterinarian at the Central Veterinary Hospital in Srinagar, talks about the growing concern of stray dog-related issues from an animal welfare standpoint.

In your professional opinion, what are the main reasons stray dogs resort to biting humans?

Stray dogs may resort to biting humans due to a variety of reasons, which can include fear, territoriality, protection of resources, pain or illness, maternal instincts, or previous negative experiences.

Dogs compete for food, mating partners, living space etc. When the population of dogs increases, the available resources may become limited. Stray dogs may become more aggressive with other animals or even people who approach them around food sources, potentially leading to dog bites in defense of their perceived territory or resources. Also, female dogs may become protective when they have puppies nearby. On top of this, improper disposal of day to day kitchen wastes can contribute to dog bites by attracting stray dogs to populated areas in search of food.



One important factor that I believe is contributing to the increasing number of dog-bite cases in Kashmir is less human-dog interaction or lack of socialization. Positive human interactions build trust between dogs and humans, and here people don't typically interact with stray dogs. Kashmiris traditionally used to keep extra food, such as rotis for dogs outside their homes, but this trend has diminished to a large extent. It has been seen that in areas where there is minimal interaction between humans and stray dogs, it becomes increasingly challenging to address the aggression or fear these dogs exhibit.

Are there specific triggers that lead to aggressive behavior in dogs?

Triggers that can lead to aggressive behavior in dogs, including strays, include threats or perceived threats. Dogs can generalize negative experiences and develop fear, mistrust or aggression towards humans based on past traumatic encounters. If a dog has been mistreated, harmed or stoned by someone, it can associate that experience with humans in general and may perceive all humans as potential threats. It has also been observed that sometimes puppies on roadsides get hurt or killed by rash human driving and their

mothers later on chase every vehicle on road owing to their previous traumatic experience.

Are there any specific signs or warning signals that people should be aware of, indicating any potential danger from stray dogs? And what behaviors should people avoid when encountering a stray dog?

Firstly, it is important to recognize that stray dogs are not wild animals that are inherently prone to attack. While some stray dogs may exhibit aggressive behavior, the majority of stray dogs tend to be fearful or wary of humans and will avoid conflict. In situations where a dog actively attacks, people may not have the opportunity or presence of mind to look for specific warning signs. However, stray dogs may exhibit signs such as growling or baring their teeth, or when a dog's hair on the back of its neck and along the spine stands up, known as raised hackles, it can be an indication that the dog feels threatened or territorial, and it is essential to keep a safe distance.

In Islam also, there is a strong emphasis on the rights and wellbeing of animals. It is undeniable that the recent cases of dog bites, which tragically resulted in deaths, have instilled fear and anger within the region; however, I will again reiterate that it is essential to approach stray dogs with kindness and a non-threatening demeanor. Avoid provoking, taunting or chasing them, as it can escalate their behavior and create a potentially dangerous situation.

What role does the lack of proper waste management play in proliferation of the canine population?

Srinagar city generates hundreds of tons of waste daily, and leaving that garbage or food waste in open areas can attract stray dogs. They find a consistent food source and are more likely to reproduce and thrive, leading to larger numbers of strays. We often see that in Kashmiri weddings people don't follow the SOP for proper food waste disposal. No doubt, Municipal Corporation has its own duty to implement proper waste management practices that include secure disposal of garbage and the regular collection and disposal of waste in designated containers or landfill, but people also need to have some civic sense regarding proper waste disposal.

As per 2011 dog census, there were around 90,000 street dogs in Srinagar city alone. It is estimated that this population is now more than double. Do you believe sterilization is sufficient to deal with the current crisis?

Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has started the sterilization of dogs under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) program, and the data regarding the number of dogs being sterilized lies with them. Hopefully, very soon the changes will be visible on the ground. This is a humane and effective way to prevent unchecked reproduction and the subsequent increase in the number of strays. Neutering alone may not completely eliminate dog bites, but if done on a mass scale it will definitely reduce the competition and the subsequent aggressive behavior.

However, 100% sterilization of dogs is not recommended. Sterilizing every single

dog would disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem and have unintended consequences.

Talk us through the potential health risks associated with stray dog bites?

Rabies is one of the most significant health concerns associated with dog bites. India accounts for about 36% of the world's rabies deaths. Rabies is a kind of disease that is 100 percent preventable and 0 percent curable. Rabies virus is present in the saliva of the rabid animal and if such an animal bites and post bite vaccination schedule is not followed then there are chances of manifestation of rabies. The disease affects the central nervous system and is almost fatal once symptoms develop.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION HAS ITS OWN DUTY TO IMPLEMENT PROPER waste management practices that include secure disposal of garbage and the regular collection and disposal of waste in designated containers or landfill, but people also need to have some civic sense regarding proper waste disposal

that each and every animal gets vaccinated at proper time.

Many feel that the rules of animal welfare law that prohibit killing and shifting of stray dogs from one place to another are worsening the stray dog problem. What do you feel about it?

Killing a dog, or for that matter, any animal, is not an alternative. It is not an ethical or effective solution to reduce dog bite cases. Plus, the shifting of dogs to other localities will only aggravate the problem. It will give rise to territorial conflicts and adjustment issues among dogs, which can further lead to humans getting bitten.

How often do you get to treat stray dogs in your hospital?

We witness approximately 150 to 200



How important is vaccination of dogs in reducing the risk of rabies?

It is very important, both for the dogs themselves and for other animals or humans who may come into contact with them. That's why the Animal Birth Control (ABC) is coupled with the Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) program to prevent rabies.

You received an international award for your pioneering work in rabies control. Tell us about it?

I was awarded by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) – a renowned US and UK based Alliance for Rabies Control – in recognition of my efforts towards rabies prevention in animals. The incidence of rabies in animals has been significantly reduced in Kashmir Valley through educating animal caregivers about strictly following both the prophylactic and post-bite anti-rabies vaccine schedule.

It's worth mentioning that the Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir provides the anti-rabies vaccines on subsidized rates of around Rs 4.70, while in the market each dose can cost upto Rs 300. The Department has kept both prophylactic and post bite anti Rabies Vaccination available in all the districts of Kashmir valley so

cases on a daily basis, out of which nearly 30 are stray animals. People who are compassionate towards animals bring injured or sick stray dogs to the hospital for treatment. The Department has also kept provisions for providing free treatment to stray and destitute ownerless animals that are in desperate need of help and medical care.

Many non-governmental animal welfare organisations have come up in Kashmir in recent years. How do you see that with respect to the current crisis?

The emergence of animal welfare organisations that not only rescue but also rehabilitate injured and sick stray animals is undeniably a positive development. Among these organisations the pioneer ones are Kashmir Animal Welfare Foundation & Animal Rescue Kashmir. Both these organisations and other NGO's rescue many stray cases on a daily basis and bring them to the Central Veterinary Hospital Srinagar for immediate treatment and surgical corrections. It shows that despite the challenges and hardships faced in the current crisis, there are individuals and groups who are committed to addressing issues related to animals with compassion.

The author is an independent reporter



POSITIVE HUMAN INTERACTIONS BUILD TRUST BETWEEN DOGS AND HUMANS, AND HERE PEOPLE DON'T TYPICALLY INTERACT with stray dogs. Kashmiris traditionally used to keep extra food, such as rotis for dogs outside their homes, but this trend has diminished to a large extent. It has been seen that in areas where there is minimal interaction between humans and stray dogs, it becomes increasingly challenging to address the aggression or fear these dogs exhibit

How Long Should You Stay At A Job? Part -I

Insights from 17 professionals across various industries, including CEOs, HR directors, and career coaches.

Brett Farmiloe | Fast Company

To help you make an informed decision about how long to stay at a job, we gathered insights from 17 professionals across various industries, including CEOs, HR directors, and career coaches.

From evaluating goals and needs regularly to considering a two- or three- to five-year tenure, these experts share their experiences and advice on finding the right balance in your career journey.

ANALYZE GOALS AND NEEDS REGULARLY

I recently left a position at a company I'd been with since 1998—nearly 25 years. I stayed because of the variety of opportunities. My mentors and leaders advised me, pushed me, and identified opportunities for growth and development. During that period, I held at least 10 very different roles, each of them a terrific learning experience. Of equal importance was the leadership's commitment to values, culture, and a mission that I felt was important.

Deciding how long to stay at a job involves one's risk tolerance, personal goals, cultural alignment, and desire for growth. No one cares more about your career than you, and you are the driver, not a passenger. Take a look at your goals and needs every six months. Decide how well your current role satisfies them. Evaluate the opportunity for growth and also how the culture is shifting in the face of industry trends, the needs of the market, and changes in leadership. When you are staying only for comfort, it's likely time to move.

Jimmy Rose, Employee experience, culture and talent

REMAIN WHERE YOU CAN FLOURISH

I left a job after starting a little over a year and I stayed at a job for almost 10 years. While we all have bills to pay, it's never been about the money but rather the mission and continued professional development.

I stayed for nearly 10 years because I was continually challenged, loved my colleagues and team, and was given opportunities that not only nurtured my development but expanded it. Stay because you're

thriving and leave when your learning and growth opportunities have been stunted.

For anyone out there deciding whether to stay or go, I say stay at an organization where you can flourish. Leave when the company and/or opportunities are waning.

Nakeisha Martinez, Talent acquisition manager, Zendes

FOCUS ON RESULTS-ORIENTED GROWTH

I've been at my job for one and a half years, a small amount of what I'd like to spend. This is my first job out of graduate school and I really enjoy it, particularly my coworkers and the amount I learn each day. But this is rare. Many have bad relationships with poor management, problematic co-workers, or lack a pathway for growth.

As an executive recruiter, I analyze career histories all day. If you plan to leave with less than a year in a job, have a very good reason for doing so. Beyond that, what matters is to account for what you've accomplished and articulate why any one time was a good time to leave. If you stayed 15 to 25 years, account for how you've retained a capacity to learn and employ good judgment.

Ultimately, it's best to emphasize what you're seeking to achieve rather than avoid. The idea of a "successful career path" is rapidly changing and will continue to do so. A career that showcases a results orientation and the ability to find degrees of fulfillment is most vital.

Tony Topoleski, Project manager, ECA Partners

ASSESS FULFILLMENT AND VALUES ALIGNMENT

As a therapist and coach with over a decade of experience in HR, my advice on job tenure is to assess personal fulfillment, growth, and values alignment. Reflect on whether the job aligns with your values, offers opportunities for advancement, and provides an inclusive environment.

Prioritize your overall well-being and life satisfaction. If the job lacks fulfillment or growth, explore better-fitting options. Your mental health and happiness should always remain your top priorities in career decisions.

Evaluate the impact on well-being and life satisfaction. If the job lacks fulfillment



or growth, explore options that better meet your needs. Also, consider a company's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. Seek environments that align with your values for a positive and supportive experience.

Strike a balance between professional growth, fulfillment, and well-being. Assess needs and goals, and remain open to new opportunities that contribute to your happiness and success.

Manuel Schlothauer, Founder, HeyManuel.com

DON'T STAY IN A WRONG-FIT JOB

The longest I stayed with the same employer was four years, but I should have left earlier. I stayed in many work environments that were not the right fit for me for fear of finding the same situation elsewhere. I didn't believe in my ability to change and find a healthier work environment. I don't believe in staying in a job for a year or two if you know it's not the right place for you. You are delaying your career development and opportunities to grow.

When people say you should stay in a job for two years, I recommend reflecting on your circumstances before you make any decision. If you are in a toxic environment, enduring two years is unsustainable. If you are not seen and heard at work, staying for two years can impact your mental health.

You can still acquire skills and discuss your career goals in a job interview even

if you stayed in a job for eight months. No job is secure. Continue to advocate for your career and take your skills, knowledge, and experience with you anywhere.

Ana Goehner, Bilingual career strategist and instructor, Digital Butterfly Communications, LLC

CONDUCT ANNUAL CAREER WELLNESS CHECK-INS

As a career coach with 15 years of experience helping people decide when to stay or leave, I have a lot to say.

My advice is that paying attention to the why is more important than just the when or how long to stay. My tip is that everyone should do an annual career wellness check-in to zoom out and see how their job is, or isn't, serving them. Just like an annual physical at the doctor, we can create space to see how we're feeling about work.

Do you ever get into a flow state? What lights you up and feels good? What parts of your job drain you? What are your values and how do they align with this job now?

Using this check-in, you can get a clearer sense of whether or not you like what you do or if you're out of alignment. Sometimes we have room to bring this into a conversation at our current employer to job craft and ask if there is room to integrate more of what we want where we are. Other times, it's clear it's time to go.

Aileen Axtmayer, Career coach and cor-

porate wellness speaker, Aspire with Aileen

FACTOR IN GROWTH, OPPORTUNITY, AND COMMUNICATION

I've been with my company for over three years, and the high amount of opportunity, variety, and communication are the main factors that have kept me there.

My company boasts an open-door policy for team members to share suggestions or concerns with management, and they've repeatedly proven to me that it's not lip service.

Management actively engages with its employees, encouraging team member participation by quickly responding to questions and incorporating ideas for improvement. They also recognize and reward team members who excel via a bonus system and promote from within.

Thanks to my company's management style, I've received several bonuses and raises, helped improve processes, and greatly expanded my knowledge by participating in new opportunities offered to me.

When considering how long to stay at a job, remain onboard as long as your job offers growth and your company engages in two-way communication.

Michelle Robbins, Licensed insurance agent, Clearurance.com

ASSESS CAREER SATISFACTION AND ALIGNMENT

When I made the decision to work for Target Corporation, I had planned to stay for five years to demonstrate a commitment to my career. However, I ended up staying for seven years due to personal circumstances. My husband and I agreed that I should wait until our oldest child was in Kindergarten before pursuing my dream of starting a business.

As a talent advisor, I strongly believe that career satisfaction is essential for everyone. Each person's career path is unique, and it's crucial to find a position, company, and leader that align with their values and career goals. When there is a misalignment, it may be time to consider other opportunities and take the leap to pursue career happiness. At a minimum, stay one year if possible.

Renee Frey, President, TalentQ, Inc

(To Be Continued)

Sharp Memory Recall In Old Linked With Swift, Better Mental Health

Press Trust Of India

Superagers, or people in their eighties with memory recall as good as someone decades younger, are likely to be swifter and display lower anxiety and depression than typical older adults, according to new research published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal.

Superagers have been seen to avoid the natural deterioration of memory with age.

The observational study from Spain aimed to find out if this was because superagers were resistant to or if they had coping mechanisms empowering them to overcome age-related memory decline better than their peers.

"Our findings suggest superagers are resistant to these processes, though the precise reasons for this are still unclear," said first author Marta Garopascual of the Queen Sofia Foundation Alzheimer Centre, Madrid, Spain.

For the study, 64 superagers and 55 typical older adults, performing cognitively well but not displaying superager memory ability, were chosen. They were aged 79.5 years or older and were picked from The Vallecas Project cohort, Madrid. The cohort comprising 1,213 participants aged 69-86 years with no neurological or severe psychiatric disorders was recruited between 2011 and 2014.

Superagers' MRI scans showed more grey matter, the brain tissue vital for normal functioning, in key parts separately involved in memory and movement. Their overall grey matter was also seen to degenerate more slowly over the 5-year follow-up period than in typical older adults.

Swifter movements and enhanced mental health were the factors most associated with superagers, the authors found using a machine learning model, that included 89 demographic, lifestyle, and clinical predictors of the participants.

Superagers were also found to fare better on mobility and fine motor function tests, indicating a mobility, agility and balance superior to those of typical older adults, despite no differences in the two groups' self-reported exercise levels.

In clinical tests measuring anxiety and depression levels, superagers scored lower than typical older adults.

They also registered lower levels of neurodegeneration biomarkers, blood sample analysis revealed.

"Though superagers report similar activity levels to typical older people, it's possible they do more physically demanding activities like gardening or stair climbing.

"From lower blood pressure and obesity levels to increased blood flow to the brain, there are many direct and indirect benefits of being physically active that may contribute to improved cognitive abilities in old age," said senior author Bryan Strange, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT,
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R & B DIVISION BARAMULLA.**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No:- 31/3666-75/2023-24/RnB/Bla Dated 12.07.2023

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

S. No	Name of Work	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Position of AA	Position of funds
1	Routine maintenance of works for Govt. Medical College Baramulla along with Associated Hospital	225000/-	1100/-	5	A&B	Hospital Development Funds	Principal GMC Baramulla	Accorded (No./Avail 54-PMCB of 2023 dt: 01.06.2023)	able

1. 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	12.07.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13.07.2023 to 19.07.2023 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	13.07.2023
4	Bid Submission End Date	19.07.2023 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	20.07.2023 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

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

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. 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, R&B Division Baramulla.

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

6. The bidder shall be debarred for tendering process if:-

- Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- 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.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

7.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

7.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Besides, original documents related to bid be submitted physically by the bidder who is declared as LI immediately after opening of financial bid.

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

7.7. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of necessary documents in terms of soft copies with the technical bid & no documents in terms of hard copies shall be entertained. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

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

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

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The tender receiving authority reserves the right of opening of the tenders on due date or any other convenient available date or rejecting any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof

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

11. Price escalation & taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise, specified deductions on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

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

13. In case of CRF & any other specified project the relevant guidelines/ standard bidding documents shall be followed All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 3666-75
DIPK-5087/23 Dated 14.07.2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
HORTICULTURE P&M CONST.DIV.SGR.**

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
e-NIT No.22 of 2023-24 DATED:14-07-2023

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor J&K UT, tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Horticulture (P&M) at Rajbagh by e-tendering on Percentage % basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of Tender documents	Time of completion	Earnest Money	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	Strengthening and Up gradation of Fruit and Vegetable Market Kupwara (Up-gradation of lighting system)	11.80	600/-	30 Days	23600/-	AA/ Electric	CAPEX
2	Strengthening and Up gradation of Fruit and Vegetable Market Kupwara (Construction of Bore well)	5.70 Lacc	300/-	20 Days	11400/-	CEE/DEE	CAPEX

Position of AAA/TS:
Position of Funds:- Assured/Available.

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	14-07-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14-07-2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14-07-2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24-07-2023 up to 4:00 Pm
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25-07-2023 at 10:00 Am

Note:- As per circular issued by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Secretariat finance department:
A) At the time of tendering all bidders must upload earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/ FDR) (Dated between the bid submission start and the Bid submission End Date) Pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer Horticulture P&M Construction Division Srinagar.

- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance Security @ 3% of the Tenders Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- All bidders must have to upload Card Verification Certificate issued by Concerned Authority.
- Deposit Head (HPM)
- The Horticulture Planning and Marketing Division do not have sanctioned deposit Head.
- The Allotted agency should provide FDR @ 10% of running bills which shall be treated as bill deposit and shall be released after DLP is over as per the procedure.
- Valid Registration card duly renewed for the year 2023-24.
- Valid GST Registration, Clearance for the year 2023-24.
- PAN Card
- Income tax Assessment for the year 2022-23.
- Bid Declaration of Documents to be submitted in support of the bids as per Annexure A

1. 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 www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan to be credited into revenue head 0401 (nonrefundable) (Treasury Challan) in favour of Executive Engineer HPM (Tender Inviting Authority)

3. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury challan to be credited into revenue head 0401 (nonrefundable) in favour of Executive Engineer HPM (Tender Inviting Authority)

4. 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.

5. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer.

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

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

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

8.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.8.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

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

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

10. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan in favour of Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M) Rajbagh, to Executive Engineer Horticulture (P&M) Rajbagh must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. Including scanned copy of WhatsApp contact Number.

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

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

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

14. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

- All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:-
 - Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business.
 - Valid GST No. & PAN No.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid
- Nonattendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.

No.EE/Horti/P&M/2023-24/488-490

Executive Engineer
Horticulture (P&M) Construction Division Kashmir Srinagar

DIPK-5112/23 Dated:-14-07-2023

Wholesale Inflation Falls To 8-Year Low Of (-) 4.12% In June



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The deflation in the wholesale price continued for the third month in a row in June, with WPI contracting to a nearly eight-year low at (-) 4.12 per cent on account of falling prices of food products, fuel and basic metals, according to official data released on Friday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation stood at (-) 4.38 per cent in May and at 16.23 per cent in June 2022. The lowest WPI was recorded at (-) 4.76 per cent in October 2015.

The decline in WPI is in contrast with June retail inflation which inched up to 4.8 per cent in June from 4.3 per cent in May.

"The decline in the rate of inflation in June 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of mineral oils, food products, basic metals, crude petroleum and natural gas and textiles," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release.

As per the data, the index for fuel and power contracted by

12.63 per cent in June, primary articles by 2.87 per cent, and manufactured products by 2.71 per cent.

The food index shrank by 1.24 per cent.

In June, the prices of non-food articles compared to May contracted by 2.40 per cent, crude petroleum and natural gas by 3.01 per cent, and minerals by 4.32 per cent.

Also, prices of mineral oils (-2.30 per cent) and electricity (-2.96 per cent) declined in June on a sequential basis.

Regarding manufactured products, the release said 11 groups witnessed a decrease in prices while 9 groups saw an increase in prices in June.

The decrease in prices was mainly due to basic metals; chemical and chemical products; textiles; rubber and plastic products; and paper and paper products, among others.

Some of the groups that witnessed an increase in prices include tobacco products; computer, electronic and optical products; leather and related products; and motor vehicles.

FM Says No Income Tax For People Earning Up To Rs 7.27 Lakh Per Annum Under New Tax Regime

Press Trust Of India

UDUPI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the Narendra Modi government has provided several tax benefits to middle class people, including income tax exemption for those earnings up to Rs 7.27 lakh per annum.

Asserting that no section of the society has been left out by the government, she mentioned about skepticism in certain quarters when it was decided to provide income tax exemption for those earnings up to Rs 7 lakh in the Union Budget for 2023-24.

The skepticism was about what will happen to those earnings little more than Rs 7 lakh, she noted.

"So, we sat as a team and went into the details (to find out) at what stage you pay tax for every additional Re 1 you earn... (for instance) for Rs 7.27 lakh, you don't pay any tax now. It is only at Rs 27,000 that the break even comes. After that you start paying tax.

"You have a standard deduction of Rs 50,000 also. Under the new scheme, the grievance was that there was no standard deduction. It is given now. We have brought in the simplicity in the paying rate and the compliance side," Sitharaman said.

Speaking about the achievements of the government, she



said the total budget for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has increased to Rs 22,138 crore for 2023-24 compared to Rs 3,185 crore in 2013-14.

This is a jump in budgetary allocation by almost seven times in nine years, symbolising the government's unwavering commitment to empower MSME sector, she said.

Under the 'Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises' scheme, she said 33 per cent of the total procurement made by 158 Central Public Sector Enterprises has been from MSMEs and that is the highest ever till date.

"We launched the TReDS platform (Trade Receivables Discounting System) so that the MSMEs and other corporations do not have to face any liquidity crunch due to non-payment by their buyer," she said.

Sitharaman said the ONDC

(Open Network for Digital Commerce) has enabled MSME businesses to reach out to a larger potential customer base and added that the world appreciates that India has set up a public platform comparable to the 'Amazons of the world'.

Pointing out that India's efforts to improve the ease of doing business are being acknowledged on the global stage, the minister said the country's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index surged from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019.

"We have reduced unnecessary compliance burden by repealing more than 1,500 archaic laws and nearly 39,000 compliances. Decriminalisation of the Companies Act has happened," she noted.

The Finance Minister also inaugurated the Common Facility Centre (CFC) at the Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery (IIGJ) in Udupi.

Exports Contracts 22% To Three-Year Low Of USD 32.97 Bn In June

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's exports contracted by 22 per cent, the steepest decline in the last three years, to USD 32.97 billion in June on account of global demand slowdown, especially in the Western markets like the US and Europe.

According to the data of the commerce ministry, the trade deficit in June stood at USD 20.3 billion against USD 22.07 billion in the same month last year due to a fall in exports and imports.

The inbound shipments during the month under review declined by a steep 17.48 per cent to USD 53.10 billion.

Exports in May 2020 contracted by 36.47 per cent when the world was reeling under the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the numbers, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said trade sector growth is in the hands of global factors.

As the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has projected a slowdown in world trade, "that fear is coming true", he added.

Citing reasons for the dip in trade growth, he said there is a slowdown in major economies, including the US and Europe; and inflationary pressure.

He also attributed the slowdown to the tightening of



monetary policies by the rich nations as it is affecting manufacturing and businesses.

Export promotion councils are expecting the demand to pick up in the coming months. "From July, there should be pick up," the secretary said.

Cumulatively, exports dipped by 15.13 per cent to USD 102.68 billion during April-June this fiscal. Imports too declined by 12.67 per cent to USD 160.28 billion.

The trade deficit during April-June 2023 improved by 7.9 pc to USD 57.6 billion from USD 62.6 billion in the same period last year.

Oil imports in June contracted by 33.8 per cent to USD 12.54 billion, while during the April-June quarter, the shipments slipped 18.52 per cent to USD 43.4 billion.

However, gold imports in June rose 82.38 per cent to about USD 5 billion, while it dipped by 7.54 per cent to USD 9.7 billion in the April-

June quarter.

The ministry said that India's trade performance, after witnessing "very high" growth in 2022-23, has shown declining trends compared to the high base of last year in the backdrop of a global slowdown.

As per the World Bank Global Economic Prospects report (June 2023), the global economy is set to slow substantially in 2023 to 2.1 per cent after growing at 3.1 per cent last year.

On the exports front, 21 of the 30 key sectors exhibited negative growth in June. These include petroleum products, plastic, ready-made garments of all textiles, engineering, chemicals, gems and jewellery, leather and marine.

However, exports of electronic goods increased by 45.36 per cent in June to USD 2.43 billion. During April-June 2023, these exports rose by 47 per cent to USD 6.96 billion.

Price Rise, Short Supply And Modern Farming Techniques Help Tomato Farmers In Budgam

Press Trust Of India

BUDGAM: Tomato farmers in Budgam district have seen their income double this year, thanks to a sharp rise in the crop's prices and the modern farming techniques they have employed, leading to a bumper harvest.

Khursheed Ahmad Bhat, who set up a tomato farm in Narkara village of Budgam district more than a decade ago, said this year he is not having to worry about whether his produce will fetch him the right price.

"There is a scarcity of tomatoes in the market, and people have been directly approaching me to buy them. I have been offered a higher price since tomatoes are in short supply, but I am selling at a fixed price of Rs 150 per kg," Bhat told PTI.

Bhat said apart from the current market scenario surrounding the crop, the department of agriculture deserves a fair share of the credit for the profits he is earning now.

"I have been into farming for over 10 years. Four years ago, I underwent a training session in Bengaluru that was organised by the department of agriculture. I learnt about modern techniques such as polyhouse farming," he said.

"In 2020, shortly after I returned, Covid-19 hit, and I started implementing the new techniques on a trial basis. In my very first trial, one plant yielded 4-5 kg of tomatoes. After seeing the results, I built more poly-



houses. In the first year, I built a 2500-square feet polyhouse which helped me earn around Rs 1 lakh. This was far more than the Rs 25,000-30,000 I used to earn in a kanal (5,440 square feet), following traditional farming methods," Bhat said.

"This year, because of the unavailability in the market, tomato prices have sky-rocketed. But my tomato produce is booming and I am earning good profits," he said.

Javid Mohiuddin Dar, circle officer, Budgam district, department of agriculture, said Bhat was among of the farmers who followed a 'holistic agriculture programme' of which high-tech polyhouse farming is a part.

"Many farmers are enrolling themselves under the project. Bhat adopted high-tech vegetable farming techniques while farming tomato crops. In this method of farming, one plant yields 15 kilograms of tomatoes as these are of hybrid quality. One polyhouse consists of 850 plants," Dar said.

Mohammad Shameem Akhter, who works at Bhat's farm, said while the crop yield this year was good and the demand has also been high.

Govt's Discount Sale Of Tomatoes Starts In Delhi-NCR, Patna

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Cooperatives NCCF and NAFED on Friday started selling tomatoes at a discounted rate of Rs 90 per kg in Delhi-NCR and Patna in a bid to provide relief to consumers amid high prices of the key kitchen staple.

National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) are selling tomatoes on behalf of the Centre.

Since last few weeks, the retail price of tomatoes has risen sharply and was ruling as high as Rs 244 per kg on Friday in several parts of the country owing to the lean season plus heavy rains.

"About 80 per cent of 17,000 kg tomatoes were sold till evening. We will increase the reach and the quantity from tomorrow onwards in Delhi-NCR," NCCF Managing Director Anice Joseph Chandra told PTI.

The response was good and in some places, there was a queue for buying the discounted tomatoes, she said.

About 20 mobile vans were despatched in areas such as Karol Bagh, Patel Nagar, Pusa Road, CGO Complex, Nehru Place, Govind Lal Shikha Marg, Adarsh Nagar, JJ Slum at Wazirpur, and Dhodhapur Shivmandir.

In Noida, three mobile vehicles were despatched to Noida Sector-78 and Pari Chowk near Greater Noida, she added.

Chandra said, "We are selling tomatoes of 'A' grade export quality. The quantity will be increased to more than 20,000 kgs from tomorrow."

From Sunday onwards, NCCF will also start selling tomatoes through 100-odd Kendra Bhandar outlets in the national capital, she said, and added, "Till the prices stabilise, the discount sale of tomatoes will continue." NCCF is also in talks with Mother Dairy about the sale of tomatoes at discounted rates through their 400-odd Safal retail outlets in Delhi-NCR, she added.

On the other hand, NAFED also began selling tomatoes at a discounted rate of Rs 90 per kg in Patna, Bihar.

"A truckload of 20 tonne of tomatoes reached Patna today. We are selling at a government fixed rate of Rs 90 per kg there," NAFED Chairman Bijendra Singh said.

The cooperative has procured tomatoes at Rs 115 per kg from Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. "It is costing a total of Rs 121 per kg for transportation of tomatoes to Patna. About Rs 6 per kg extra is being incurred due to cartage and others," he said.

The losses are borne by the central government.

As per the government data, the average all-India retail price of tomatoes was ruling at Rs 116.76 per kg on Friday, while the maximum rate was Rs 244 per kg and the minimum was Rs 40 per kg.

Sensex Closes Above 66,000-Mark For 1st Time, Nifty Settles At New Record High On FII Inflows

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark BSE Sensex closed above the historic 66,000 mark for the first time while NSE Nifty hit a new all-time closing high on Friday driven by heavy buying in IT counters and fresh foreign fund inflows.

Optimism in global equity markets also helped the local markets maintain their winning momentum for a second day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 502.01 points or 0.77 per cent to settle at its new all-time closing high of 66,060.90. During the day, it rallied 600.9 points or 0.91 per cent to hit its all-time intra-day peak of 66,159.79.

The NSE Nifty went up by 150.75 points or 0.78 per

cent to end at a new record high of 19,564.50. During the day, it reached its lifetime intra-day peak of 19,595.35, registering a jump of 181.6 points or 0.93 per cent.

From the Sensex pack, Tata Consultancy Services jumped over 5 per cent and Tech Mahindra rallied 4.51 per cent. Infosys, HCL Technologies, Wipro, Tata Steel, Nestle, Asian Paints, Larsen & Toubro and Hindustan Unilever were also among the major gainers.

On the other hand, Mahindra & Mahindra, Power Grid, Titan, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, NTPC and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

"The controlled inflation in the US has instilled optimism among investors that a 25-bps rate hike would be adequate to stabilise the US economy. This improved

prospect has contributed to the strong buying of Indian IT stocks despite muted Q1 earnings.

"Furthermore, the broad-based rally in the domestic market was supported by India's consecutive third-month decrease in wholesale prices, along with the positive involvement of FIIs," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities said that benchmark indices settled at their fresh record closing highs on Friday on gains led by shares of IT majors.

Positive global cues, amid expectations that the US Federal Reserve may pause rate hikes after July, also gave a fillip to domestic markets, he said.

RBI To Soon Issue Guidelines To Banks For Resolution Of Certain Rupee Trade Issues: Official

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon issue guidelines for banks for the resolution of certain issues being faced by exporters while undertaking rupee trade with other countries, a senior government official said on Friday.

The official said that as far as the rupee trading mechanism is concerned, initially there were some teething troubles but in many of these areas the transactions have started.

Some exporters had approached the commerce ministry that there are some issues with regard to generation of e-BRC (electronic bank realisation certificate).

"So we have taken this issue with the RBI. So the RBI is in the process of issuing a detailed SOP (standard operating procedure) to all the banks so that e-BRC generation becomes smooth. That SOP has been vetted by us and the RBI should be releasing it in the next 2-3 days," the official said. However, the official added that the limitation with rupee trade is that it can only work as a barter currency.

Due to trade in the defence sector, Russia has accumulated a lot of rupee reserves

Agreement Reached For Using India's UPI In France: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that India and France have agreed to use Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in this European nation, opening a huge new market for Indian innovation.

Addressing the Indian community at the La Seine Musicale, a performing arts centre on an island in river Seine, Modi said very soon Indian tourists will be able to make rupee payments using UPI from atop the Eiffel Tower.

"In France, an agreement has been made for the use of India's UPI. It will be started from the Eiffel Tower, and now Indian tourists would be able to make payments in Rupees, through UPI, in the Eiffel Tower," the prime minister said.

In 2022, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the umbrella organisation that offers UPI services, signed an MoU with France's fast and secure online payment system, called Lyra.

In 2023, UPI and Singapore's PayNow signed an agreement, allowing users in either country to make cross-border transactions.

The UAE, Bhutan, and Nepal have already adopted the UPI payment system.

The NPCI international is in talks to extend the UPI services in the US, European countries, and West Asia.

will be built in the Cergy Prefecture.

Modi said France has decided to grant long-term five-year visas for students pursuing a masters degree in France.

The Prime Minister also appealed to the Indian community to invest in a big way in India as it makes rapid strides to emerge as a developed nation.

"Today every rating agency is saying that India is a bright spot. You invest in India now. This is the opportunity time. Those who invest early will reap benefits," Modi said.

Modi also recalled a personal connection with France dating back to at least four decades when he had become the first member of Alliance Francaise Centre in Ahmedabad way back in 1981.

Four Homeowners Arrested For Failing To Provide Tenant Information To Police In Samba

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu: Police on Friday arrested four homeowners and filed FIRs against them for allegedly not furnishing tenant information as per the district magistrate's order in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said.

The individuals taken into custody have been identified as Ghulam Nabi, Maqbool Hussain, Abdul Rashid and Tarvinder Singh, all residents of Bari Brahmana in Samba, they said.

Police said four separate cases have been registered at the Bari Brahmana Police Station. The homeowners defied the order despite repeated appeals, they said, adding investigations are underway.

Samba Senior

Superintendent of Police Benam Tosh has urged all house owners, as well as owners of business and industrial establishments, construction companies, and makeshift dwellings, to promptly provide mandatory information about tenants, external workers, domestic helpers, and guests to the respective police stations.

The information should be provided on a declaration form signed by both the owner and the tenant, in compliance with the order issued by the district magistrate of Samba under section 144 CrPc.

Failure to adhere to this directive may result in legal action against the defaulters under Section 188 of IPC (deliberate disobedience of an order by a public servant), police said.

AMARNATH YATRA

Five More Pilgrims Die Since July 13 Morning Death Toll 24

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Five Amarnath pilgrims died in the past 36 hours, taking the death toll during this year's yatra in the south Kashmir Himalayas to 24, officials said on Friday.

The five victims who died in since Thursday morning included a sadhu, they said.

Most of the pilgrims died of cardiac arrest, the officials added.

While four people died on the Pahalgam axis of the yatra, one death occurred on the Baltal route, they said.

The pilgrims belonged to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Gujarat. One victim is yet to be identified.

These five deaths have taken the toll during the yatra so far this year to 24. Among the victims are an Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer posted on yatra duty, a sadhu and a sevadar, according to the



officials.

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

So far, 1,62,569 (1.62 lakh) pilgrims have visited the cave shrine to glimpse the natural ice lingam formation.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani Visit District Court Complex Srinagar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and administrative Judge for District Srinagar along with Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday visited District Court Complex, Mominabad, here and took comprehensive stock of the working of courts.

Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani also engaged with judicial officers and some members of the Bar, and undertook an inspiring initiative of planting saplings within the court premises.

On arrival to District Court Complex, Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani were warmly received by Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad; Presiding Officer (MACT) Srinagar Jeema Bashir and Special Judge Anticorruption, CBI Cases, Srinagar, S.C Katal. Justice Atul

Sreedharan was also accorded ceremonial guard of honour by a contingent of J&K Police.

During the visit, the Administrative Judge emphasised upon making efforts to reduce pendency of cases and stressed upon adoption of best practices for effective case management. Justice Atul Sreedharan during an insightful interaction with Judicial officers of district stressed for identifying areas for improvement and to facilitate overall functioning of justice delivery system.

Justice Atul Sreedharan also stressed upon adopting the procedure of recording statement of witnesses during trial in Urdu as well as in English for smooth and effective disposal of cases. Justice Sreedharan also emphasised that a collaborative approach will further strengthen the judicial system and the challenges faced by the officers are addressed by innovative solutions.

In addition to engaging with the judicial officers, Justice

Atul Sreedharan, and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani also held interaction with some members of the Bar. The interaction was aimed to nurture the legal community, where lawyers are encouraged to share their expertise, contribute to legal discourse and provide valuable suggestions for the betterment of the legal framework.

On the occasion, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jawad Ahmad made a detailed presentation on the working of court and developmental projects.

During the visit, Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani also planted saplings of Deodar Trees within the court premises. This act of environmental stewardship underscores their commitment to sustainability and a greener future. By integrating green initiatives into the court environment, the aim is to inspire others and create awareness about the importance of preserving our environment.

Mandeep Kaur Inaugurates UT Level Workshop On SSG-2023

Observer News Service

Jammu: Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Mandeep Kaur today inaugurated a day-long Union Territory level Workshop virtually to orient the UT, District and Block level officers on survey protocol, ranking parameters and roles and responsibilities for successful implementation of Swachh Survekshan Gramin (SSG)-2023.

The workshop was organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, with focus to train the officers of J&K for initiating work on result-oriented parameters. The workshop was conducted in collaboration with Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, J&K.

After inaugurating the workshop, the Commissioner Secretary in her address congratulated the officers for achieving 100% target of ODF Plus. She laid emphasis on upholding the same spirit in achieving the ODF Plus Model status and stressed to showcase the same spirit in the SSG-2023, where J&K will be competing with other states to exhibit the success achieved in SBM-G.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed upon the participants for effective cleanliness of villages, promoting awareness, encouraging behavioural changes, accessibility of assets, and fostering the adoption of sustainable sanitation practices in rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Rural Sanitation, Charandeep Singh said that workshop will provide a platform for participants to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and explore strategies to enhance the effectiveness of SSG 2023. He added that this workshop will also serve as an opportunity to identify areas where additional support, resources, or policy interventions may be required to further strengthen the program's impact.

The Director encouraged all participants to actively engage

in discussions, ask questions, and share their insights throughout the workshop and foster an atmosphere of collaboration and open dialogue so as to collectively strive for making a significant difference in the cleanliness and sanitation of our villages.

He informed the gathering that the department is making random calls to local representatives and people in all districts to gather ground level feedback from them. He added this was being done to counter the disinformation received from some districts.

Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, District Panchayat Officers, Block Development Officers of Jammu division attended the workshop in person. ACPs, ACDs, BDOs and other field staff from Kashmir division attended the workshop virtually.

Pertinently, SSG is a comprehensive assessment program that evaluates the progress and impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) in rural areas. This initiative plays a crucial role in promoting awareness, encouraging behavioural changes, and fostering the adoption of sustainable sanitation practices in rural communities.

Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, has been conducting SSG since 2018 to provide national ranking of all Districts of India based on the qualitative and quantitative rural sanitation parameters to foster a health competition among States, Districts and Panchayats, and ascertain the progress of SBM-G.

J&K has also started its village level self-assessment process on ODF Plus parameters in November 2022 for all its villages and the final self-assessment of all the villages was completed by April 2023. This was followed by a peer verification process at the block level, where on the basis of assessment conducted blocks nominated the best performing Panchayat to District for being considered for UT level assessment and Awards.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Women, Youth Architects

responsibility to ensure every city & village aims higher and realizes their aspirations," he said. "Women and Youth are the architects of J&K's strong and glorious future. The recent reforms and initiatives have brought new momentum to schemes aimed at their empowerment and abundant opportunities for entrepreneurship for a new socio-economic revolution," he added.

Addressing the youth, the LG said the revolutionary National Education Policy, (NEP) under the guidance of Prime Minister has the potential to change the future of the country.

He also shared the progress achieved in various sectors and the saturation of centrally sponsored and UT sector schemes.

"Due to the strenuous efforts of Prime Minister, we will be able to achieve success in providing tap water to every household under 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' by the end of this financial year," Sinha said.

Earlier, the LG shared India's unprecedented growth journey and appreciated the endeavour of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) for organizing 5-day long exhibition highlighting Nine years of 'Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan'.

"In the past 9 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has transformed into an economic powerhouse and a model of inclusive development for the world," he said.

He further added that the last nine years have been dedicated to inclusive, progressive and sustainable development to create equity and opportunity for all the citizens.

"Country is witnessing fastest development of infrastructure, empowerment of marginalized and emergence of a self-reliant and aspirational society," he said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister, India has emerged as a key driver of global growth and the countries from both North and South are looking at us with admiration and hope. India has not only regained the past glory but it is also offering new hope, new aspiration to the world," he added.

The LG said that the empowerment of all sections of the society and new revolutions in every sector reflects golden period of country's growth and prosperity of the people.

Rajinder Choudhry, Additional Director General PIB, Chandigarh; senior officers of Civil Administration, Police and Central Bureau of Communication, teachers, students and youth in large numbers were present.

LG Picks Braj

. Sharma served as Chief Secretary of J-K

from 2015 to 2017.

In October 2019, two months after Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status was revoked, the government appointed Sharma as the chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC). He was re-employed by the Centre for two years after his superannuation on April 30, 2020.

2 Local Militants

security in the district, especially in areas where non-locals and members of the minority community reside, the officials said. Security has been beefed up in such areas, they said.

"Kumar directed the police to catch those responsible for the attack as soon as possible and bring them to justice," the officials said. Thursday's firing incident was the second such attack on non-locals in Kashmir this year.

On May 29, a non-local civilian, identified as Deepu, was shot dead by militants in the Janglaat Mandi area of south Kashmir's Anantnag District.

Deepu, a resident of Udhampur district in the Jammu region, worked at a private circus in Anantnag.

Before that, on February 26, militants shot dead a man belonging to the Kashmiri Pandit community in the Achan area of Pulwama district. The victim was identified as Sanjay Sharma (40), a resident of Achan.

This year has so far witnessed fewer such incidents compared to last year.

Militants killed 29 civilians in Kashmir in 2022.

Teacher Arrested

handedness of the teacher.

Police have registered an FIR against the teacher under IPC sections 342 (wrongful confinement) and 354 (outraging woman's modesty) and Section 75 (any person abuses, assaults a child he/she is in charge of) of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Court Issues

Senior Additional Advocate General, told reporters.

She said the court issued production warrants against Nanaji to ensure his presence on the next date of hearing on August 19.

Kohli said the court turned down the request of the prosecution witness for recording his statement because of the absence of the accused in the trial court.

Malik, who is lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail, was present through video conference, while others were physically present.

The special TADA court has framed charges separately against the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief and several others in the case as well as another case related to the abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, by his group in 1989.

While the charges were framed against Malik and six others on March 16, 2020 in the killing of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar in January 1990, the court has framed the charges against Malik and nine others in the 1989 abduction case of Rubaiya on January 11 last year.

Malik was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in April 2019 in connection with a militant funding case, a month after his group was banned by the central government.

According to the CBI, the IAF personnel were fired upon by militants in which 40 of them, including a woman, received serious injuries and four IAF personnel were killed on the spot.

On completion of investigation, a charge sheet was filed on August 31, 1990 against Malik and six others before the designated TADA Court at Jammu.

On July 9, the Srinagar police in a tweet said "a search was conducted on basis of credible info about meeting of some ex-trts (terrorists) of JKLF & erstwhile separatists in a hotel in Srinagar. They were brought to Kothibagh PS for verification. Inquiry has started, prima facie it came out that they were planning to revive JKLF and Hurriyat." The next day, police announced formal arrest of 10 of them including Nanaji and said some more arrests are likely as the investigation in the case is in full swing.

Police have already registered a case under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and Indian Penal code at Kothibagh police station in the heart of the city

HC Repair Order

Living in a tent, he wants the administration to extend a helping hand to him.

"My family's condition is very miserable. We live in adverse weather under a tent that is terrifying for us. My family is now suffering from depression and the education of my children is also suffering a lot...I request the authorities to provide me with adequate funds that will end my sufferings," he added.

Nazir Ahmed, another Houseboat owner, said the houseboats will perish from the Kashmiri landscape if these are not maintained.

"If houseboats are not repaired on time, all of them would perish. For nearly 40 years, we were not allowed to do any kind of renovation," he said.

Ahmed said the repairs of houseboats was a costly affair and most people living in houseboats had meagre incomes.

"We now need funds for the repair work. We have a minimal source of income as we were supposed to earn from tourists that rent the houseboats for leisure. But as the

condition of the house boat is extremely poor, tourists do not come. They have the fear of staying in house boats when they see the deplorable conditions of house boats," he added.

Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Tourism Department, said houseboats are heritage and one of the main attractions for inbound and domestic tourists.

"There were a set of issues like repair and renovation, some regulatory permissions like renewals. We had major stakeholder consultations and we are keeping open our channels of communication," he said.

"We made sure that we discussed and sat across with them and other relevant departments. For example, repair of houseboats requires the forestry department, forest corporation and lake department to be on board. By and large, all the major problems have been resolved and we will facilitate with whatever help they require from the department," he added.

Former Militant

"Bandipora Police booked one ex terrorist & member of APHC namely Ameer Hamza Shah R/o Quilmuqam Bandipora under PSA and lodged him in District Jail Baramulla, for his continuous involvement in anti National activities," police wrote in a Tweet.

Car Crushes Minor

A pall of gloom descended in her native village when the body was brought for final rites.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard.

NIA Arrests

Jammu and Kashmir militant conspiracy case, the NIA arrested from Srinagar two people involved with Kashmiri militant groups, the federal agency said in a statement.

Mushaib Fayaz Baba alias Shoaib (20) and Hilal Yaqoob Deva alias Sethi Soab (35) hail from Shopian district in south Kashmir and were working for Pakistan-based commanders and handlers of proscribed organisations such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its shadow outfit The Resistance Front (TRF), among others.

The agency said the arrests came on the heels of a series of raids on the residences of over-ground workers (OGWs) of the banned organisations and

their newly-floated offshoots and affiliates in recent days.

Several digital devices were seized and scrutinised by the agency as part of its investigations in the case, it said.

The investigations revealed that two accused were in continuous contact with Pakistan-based commanders and active members of various militant outfits through social media.

"They were working as OGWs of the terrorists and had been actively involved in transporting weapons and funds from one place to another on the directions of Pak-based commanders/handlers, as part of a bigger conspiracy," the federal agency said.

The conspiracy had been hatched by cadres and OGWs of various proscribed organisations with their Pakistan-based commanders, the NIA said.

These cadres and OGWs were actively involved in the collection and distribution of huge consignments of narcotics, cash, small arms or weapons, IEDs and other types of IEDs, including remote-controlled sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, it said.

Such hardware and IEDs are either delivered over drones or also assembled locally for militant attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, the investigations revealed, the NIA added.

The militant conspiracy was aimed at disturbing peace and communal harmony by carrying out militant acts and waging a war against the Government of India.

According to the investigations, the militant outfits were involved in targeting minorities, migrants and security personnel. The conspiracy had been hatched both physically and through cyberspace by using secured encrypted social media apps, the NIA said in its statement.

RC LOST

The Original Registration certificate (paper) of Car No: JK01AM 1833 issued in the name of Manzoor Ahmad Mir, S/O: Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/O: Buna-Zanigam, Kandoora, Beerwah, Budgam, has been misplaced, while I was travelling from Budgam to Srinagar. It could not be traced inspite of all my effort. I therefore request you to kindly diaries the matter so that I can apply for an Original / Duplicate Registration Certificate. If anyone in this regard has any objection, he/she may contact the concerned ARTO Office, within 7-days of publication of this notice. Contact Details Manzoor Ahmad Mir S/O: Ghulam Mohammad Mir R/O: Buna-Zanigam, Kandoora, Beerwah, Budgam, J&K 8082194926





J&K Taekwondo Wins 2 Bronze At Junior National

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Junior Taekwondo team has won two bronze medals at the 40th National Junior Taekwondo Championships 2023 held at Shimoga, Karnataka from 7th to 9th July, 2023.

The championship was organised by Karnataka Taekwondo Association under the aegis of Taekwondo Federation of India (TFI).

Suryansh Victor Sharma and Khalida Jabeen secured bronze medals under 73kg and under 46kg, respectively. While As Soham Sharma, Madhvi Chib and Vishwas Sudan lost in the quarter finals.

The J&K team led by Atul Pan-

gotra as Chief Coach were flagged off by the J&K Sports Council.

Prior to the said event, J&K Sport's Council organized a week based training camp at MA Stadium Jammu under Coach Atul Pangotra. He was accompanied by Rajinder Singh (Coach), Burhan Khan (Coach), Mukesh Okheda (Manager Male Team) and Roohi Gupta (Manager Female Team).

J&K Taekwondo Association President Rajesh Pangotra and General Secretary Ramesh Chander Sharma congratulated the medalists for achieving such great feats and they also thanked Nuzhat Gul (Secretary JKSC) for financial and logistical support throughout the camp and Championships.

DC Srinagar Flags Off Cyclothon For A "Drug-Free Srinagar"



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad flagged-off a Cycle Race, Cyclothon on Friday morning under categories of 17/19 years Girls and 14 years Boys under Drug-Free Srinagar campaign here at Bakshi Stadium.

The cycle race was organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Office Srinagar as part of IEC activities of the District Administration to spread mass awareness against menace of drugs from Srinagar.

After flagging off the race, the DC Srinagar, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, briefly explained the importance of holding such events to create awareness among the students and in general public regarding harmful effects of the drugs on society.

The DC reiterated the commitment of District Administration Srinagar to eliminate the menace of drugs and its peddling from Srinagar to save youth.

The cycle Race witnessed participation of more than 300

Students from different Govt./Private schools of the district who pledged to eradicate drug menace from the society.

The race culminated at Indoor Sports Ground Polo View where participant students were awarded prizes. Sara from GHSS Amirakadal secured 1st Position in the 19 years Girls category, while Wafa from GHSS Rajbagh & Medehia from GHSS Amirakadal secured 2nd & 3rd respectively in the event.

In the 17 years Girls age group Yumana from Iqra Educational Institute remained the winner, Nabeela from Millinson School secured 2nd position and Farah from Tiny Hearts remained at 3rd place.

Similarly, in 14 years Boys Haseeb from Kashmir Harvard School secured 1st position and Atif Fayaz from Iqra Educational Institute got 2nd & Shabir from Legends remained at 3rd place.

Consolation prizes were also awarded to the students and a special prize was awarded to Naira Mumtaz just 10 years old who was also the part of the awareness event.

Srinagar Premier League: 2 Matches Played

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023 Srinagar Premier League action continued on Friday with two matches played at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the first match AG's XI took on Kashmir Avengers FC at 8:30 AM. The Avengers scored the first goal early in the first half and maintained the lead till half time. AG's XI star player

and captain Shah Nawaz Bashir scored the leveler to make it 1-1, and that's how it ended at full time. Bashir was awarded man of the match.

SCFA Srinagar locked horns with Iqbal Sports FC in the second match of the day at 5:30 PM. Iqbal Sports dominated the game and won 2-0. Debashish was awarded man of the match for his two assists.

Jaiswal's Debut Knock Puts India In Command



Agencies

DOMINICA: Sensational knock of 171 runs from debutant Yashvir Jaiswal and an unbeaten half-century by Virat Kohli put India in a commanding position on the Day 3 of the first Test against West Indies here at Windsor Park on Friday. At Lunch, India were 400/4, leading West Indies by 250 runs with Kohli (72) and Ravindra Jadeja (21) standing unbeaten at the crease.

Having started the day on 312 for 2, Jaiswal and Kohli showed great patience throughout their 110-run partnership.

Jaiswal was the first to bring up his 150, becoming the third Indian after Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma to do so on Test debut. But in the 126th over, Alzarri Joseph provided the important breakthrough for West Indies as Jaiswal departed after a dream knock of 171 in his debut in-

nings. Joseph managed to produce an edge from Jaiswal's bat as Joshua Da Silva made no mistake behind the gloves to grab it.

Jaiswal's wicket invited Ajinkya Rahane to the crease. Rahane got off to the mark early with a single. Virat Kohli continued to bat with his cautious approach. Seasoned batter Rahane departed for just three as Kumar Roach got his first of the night. A soft dismissal as Rahane pushed it on the cover where Jermaine Blackwood took an easy catch.

At this point, West Indies started to fight back and crawled back into the game now. Kohli brought up his half-century with a single off Jomel Warrican's to reach the mark. The batting maestro took 157 balls to hit the half-century. He displayed great discipline in the innings but needed to break the shackles to up the run rate.

Ravindra Jadeja also started slow and scored three runs off 21 balls. On the other side, Kohli continues to bat with the same defensive approach to take India forward. Only six runs came off the last four overs for India. However, it did not take Jadeja to break the shackles and smashed Alick Athanaze for a maximum.

Kohli followed shortly after as he smashed Kraigg Braithwaite for a boundary. 13 runs came off the last overs as India decided to up the run rate before the Lunch break. Two wickets fell in the session as the 44-run partnership between Kohli and Jadeja took India to 400/4 at the time of lunch on day three.

Brief score: West Indies 150 (Alick Athanaze 47, Kraigg Braithwaite 20; Ravichandran Ashwin 5-60) vs India 400/4 (Virat Kohli 72*, Ravindra Jadeja 21*; Alzarri Joseph 1-78). (ANI)

BCCI Advocates For ICC Strategic Fund Boost, Gets 72% Increase In Revenue Share

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Cricket Board has advocated for a substantial allocation of funds from ICC's revenue to the world body's strategic fund for the growth of the sport.

After getting approval of a lion's share of about USD 230 million from the annual revenue from 2024-27, BCCI, in ICC's annual board meeting recently, has advocated the need for an impetus to the strategic fund that will be utilised for safeguarding Test cricket and also towards growth of the women's game.

The MCC World Cricket Committee believes that a substantial and ring fenced ICC strategic fund can be allocated on a requirement basis to full member and associate nations who, amongst other key initiatives, fully commit to their women's pathway and national team. "In addition to our share in the revenue distribution, we have also advocated for a substantial portion of funds to be allocated to the



ICC's strategic fund," BCCI secretary Jay Shah wrote in a letter to the state associations, on Friday.

"This fund will be instrumental in fostering the growth of sport and investing in the development of cricket in the next media rights cycle," he added.

India's revamped revenue share, as expected, got a stamp of approval at the ICC Board in Durban, which means they stand to gain about 72 per cent.

The BCCI will be earning about USD 230 million annually from 2024 to 2027 which is 38.5 per cent of ICC's approximate annual revenue of USD 600 million.

"This is a significant in-



crease in BCCI's share. This achievement is testament to the collective efforts and support of all our state associations and my colleagues at the BCCI," Shah said.

"This allocation reflects the tremendous efforts and contributions made by each one of you and the faith you have shown in the leadership at the BCCI.

"Our strong diplomatic and strategic ties with fellow ICC members have played a vital role in securing this substantial share for India. This is a recognition of the significance of India as a nation in world cricket and underlines the fact that the heart of cricket well and truly beats in India."



Djokovic Eases Past Sinner To Reach Wimbledon Final

Agencies

LONDON: Novak Djokovic barely got out of second gear as he swept past a subdued Jannik Sinner at Wimbledon, easing into a record 35th Grand Slam final with a whirlwind 6-3 6-4 7-6(4) victory on Friday.

Djokovic has turned Centre Court into his own personal fiefdom having not lost there in 10 years, and the Serbian is now one win away from a record-equaling eighth title at the grasscourt major to match the mark of Roger Federer. The 21-year-old Sinner, who was aiming to become the youngest man to reach the Wimbledon final since 2007, was outclassed, falling flat on the big

occasion and allowing Djokovic to turn the screw at key moments in the contest.

He let break points slip through his fingers, including two set points in the third, while Djokovic was clinical as usual, applying constant pressure on the Italian eighth seed's serve and pouncing on opportunities when they arose. He wrapped up the match when Sinner dumped a backhand into the net, leaving the Serbian to accept the applause of the Centre Court crowd, who had vociferously backed his opponent throughout, teeing up a final against either top seed Carlos Alcaraz or Russian Daniil Medvedev who play later on Friday.

India To Play All Three Formats On South Africa Tour



Agencies

JOHANNESBURG: India will play traditional Boxing Day and New Year test matches in South Africa in the 2023-24 season, preceded in December by six white-ball fixtures, officials said on Friday. The first test will start on Dec. 26 in Pretoria, with the second on Jan. 3 at Newlands in Cape Town.

"The Boxing Day Test and the New Year's Test are among the most important fixtures on the international cricket calendar and the schedule has been planned particularly around these marquee dates," Honorary Secretary of the BCCI Jay Shah said in a media release from

Cricket South Africa. The tour will kick off with three Twenty20 Internationals in Durban, Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) and Johannesburg from Dec. 10-14.

They will then switch format for three One-Day Internationals between Dec. 17-21, played in the latter two venues and Paarl. India tour to South Africa 2023-24:

DEC. 10: First T20, Durban Dec. 12: Second T20, Gqeberha **DEC. 14:** Third T20, Johannesburg Dec. 17: First ODI, Johannesburg **DEC. 19:** Second ODI, Gqeberha **DEC. 21:** Third ODI, Paarl **DEC. 26-30:** First Test, Pretoria **JAN. 3-7:** Second Test, Cape Town

Arsenal Sign Defender Jurrien Timber From Ajax

Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal have signed Netherlands defender Jurrien Timber on a long-term contract from Ajax Amsterdam, both clubs said on Friday. Arsenal did not specify the length of the contract, with British media reporting he has signed a five-year deal.

"Ajax and the English club agreed on a 40 million euros (\$44.88 million) transfer fee. That amount can increase to 45 million euros through variables," Ajax said in a statement. Timber started his youth career at Feyenoord, moving to Ajax's youth academy in 2014.

He broke into the first team in the 2019-20 season, before making 50 league appearances across Ajax's Eredivisie-winning campaigns in 2021 and 2022. The 22-year-old has been capped 15 times by the Netherlands since his debut in 2021.

Arsenal finished second behind champions Manchester City last season, and have qualified for the Champions League for the first time since the 2016-17 campaign. The north London club have signed German forward Kai Havertz from Chelsea and are also looking to strengthen their midfield with West Ham United's Declan Rice among the main targets.

ICC Banking On T20 For Cricket's Inclusion In Olympics

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Geoff Allardice on Friday said that they are pushing for the T20 format's inclusion at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The ICC is seeking cricket's entry at the LA Games and its fate would be decided in a couple of months' time, he stated.

"The Olympics want to stage a format that has its World Championship. Given that, we will be proposing the shortest format for Olympic inclusion -- that would be T20 cricket," said the ICC CEO in a media round table on the sidelines of the Board meeting here.

Thursday marked the launch of the much-anticipated Major League Cricket in the USA with six franchise includ-

ing four owners from the IPL. While Kolkata Knight Riders own the Los Angeles side, Mumbai Indians have New York, Delhi Capitals have Seattle Orcas, while the Texas franchise is owned by Chennai Super Kings.

The ICC chief executive said MLC would draw a lot of attention to the sport.

"There are a number of developments in the USA that are helping to raise the awareness of the game. Start of the MLC is one of them, they draw a lot of attention to the sport."

He further said that the Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be co-hosted by USA Cricket and Cricket West Indies, contrary to speculations that it would move to the UK.

"I can say with finality that 2024 men's T20 World Cup



will be played in the West Indies and USA.

"The men's T20 World Cup next year will continue to raise awareness of sport. We

are talking to LA Olympics people for last 18 months to two years, raising with them the awareness of cricket.

"We are expecting a deci-

sion in next couple of months. Yes, all promotion of cricket in the USA contributes to raising that awareness," he said.

The last few years have seen

the introduction of new formats, including the T10 and the Hundred, but they will not be included as international formats anytime soon.

"At the moment three international formats of the game are helping us and members to best promote the sport. There is no discouragement for T10 for domestic leagues or local tournaments.

"As a format, each member can use whichever format of the games they want to promote the game. The T10 has not been raised by any member for ICC to consider it as an International format," Allardice said.

To a question whether the proliferation of franchise leagues would affect the health of international cricket, he replied in the negative.

"You look at the impact of

franchise sport. It is helping to promote our sport in a number of territories.

"It's bringing a lot of content to venues, broadcasters, fans and it's able to reach a much broader range of people than just international cricket. So the emergence of franchise leagues is one way to promote our sport.

"There has been an increase in activity in that area and one of those discussions is to bring a balance in the calendar, what the international cricket should look like.

"The staging of a domestic league with the top players of that country is a very good way to promote cricket. We have made strides in a number of territories. It is changing the dynamics of the game and a lot of that has been positive," he added.

Chandrayaan-3: India Launches Rocket To Land Spacecraft On Moon

Agenceis

India's space agency has launched a rocket that will attempt to land a spacecraft at the lunar south pole, an unprecedented feat that would advance India's position as a major space power.

Television footage on Friday showed the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) LVM3 launch rocket blast off from the country's main spaceport at Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, leaving behind a plume of smoke and fire.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission - "moon vehicle" in Sanskrit - is designed to deploy a lander and rover near the moon's south pole on about August 23.

Applause and cheers swept through mission control at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, where the ISRO engineers and scientists celebrated as they watched the launch of the spacecraft.

Thousands of Indians cheered outside the mission control centre and waved the national flag as they watched the craft rise into the sky.

"Congratulations India. Chandrayaan-3 has started its journey towards the moon," ISRO Direc-

tor Sreedhara Panicker Somanath said shortly after the launch.

Only three other space agencies - the United States, the former Soviet Union and China - have touched down a lander on the moon's surface.

None has landed near the lunar south pole.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is currently visiting France, tweeted that the mission was carrying the "hopes and dreams of our nation".

The third Chandrayaan includes a two-metre-tall lander designed to deploy a rover near the lunar south pole, where it is expected to remain functional for two weeks running a series of experiments.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2020 successfully deployed an orbiter but its lander and rover were destroyed in a crash near where the Chandrayaan-3 will attempt a touchdown.

Upon touchdown, the rover will roll off the lander, named Vikram, which means valour in Sanskrit and explore the nearby area, gathering images to be sent back to Earth for analysis.

The rover, named Pragyan, the Sanskrit word for wisdom, has a mission life of one lunar day or 14 Earth days.

Last Month Was The Hottest June Recorded In 174 Years, Reveals NASA



Agenceis

New Delhi: Last month was the hottest June on record going back 174 years, according to independent analysis by scientists including those from NASA and NOAA.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also found that it is virtually certain (above 99 per cent) that 2023 will rank among the 10-warmest years on record and a 97 per cent chance it will rank among the top five.

The El Nino climate pattern is one reason temperatures are so hot right now, NOAA said.

The cyclic pattern causes hotter than normal water in the Pacific Ocean, and the extra heat alters weather around the world and raises global temperatures.

June this year was the warmest globally at just over 0.5 degrees Celsius above the 1991-2020 average exceeding June 2019 - the previous record - by a substantial margin, according to European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service.

Globally, June 2023 set a record for the warmest June in the 174-year NOAA record. The year-to-date (January-June) global surface temperature ranked as the third warmest

such period on record, it said.

Scientists at NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) found that the June global surface temperature was 1.05 degrees Celsius above the 20th-century average of 15.5 C.

This marked the first time a June temperature exceeded 1 degree C above the long-term average, NOAA said.

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"Weak El Nino conditions that emerged in May continued to strengthen in June, as above-average sea surface temperatures returned to the equatorial Pacific Ocean," it added.

India Eyes New Drugs Law After Deaths Linked To Country-Made Cough Syrups

Agenceis

New Delhi: A new drugs bill will be taken up for consideration next week on rules for importing, manufacturing and selling medicines in India, according to a parliamentary notice on Thursday.

This comes after cough syrups made in India were linked to the death of at least 89 children in Gambia and Uzbekistan last year.

The bill is aimed at ensuring "quality, safety, efficacy, performance and clinical trial of new drugs...with the objective of highest possible regulatory standards and a transparent regulatory regime," the notice said.

It was not immediately clear what the changes were in the new Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2023, which will

replace an earlier drugs law if passed by the Parliament when it reconvenes after a break on July 20.

The \$41 billion pharmaceutical industry in India is one of the largest in the world and has for years helped provide cheaper alternatives to Western products, especially to poor and developing nations.

But the recent cough syrup-related deaths and at least one other instance of an India-made eye drop being linked to three deaths in the United States, has cast a shadow on the industry's image.

The country has made tests mandatory for cough syrup exports since last month. Companies that manufactured the syrups linked to deaths in Gambia and Uzbekistan have denied any wrongdoing.



Universe Could Be Twice As Old As Currently Estimated To Be, New Research Says

Agenceis

Our universe could be twice as old as current estimates, according to a model proposed by a new study from the University of Ottawa, Canada.

"Our newly-devised model stretches the galaxy formation time by a several billion years, making the universe 26.7 billion years old, and not 13.7 as previ-

ously estimated," said study author Rajendra Gupta, adjunct professor of physics in the Faculty of Science at the university.

The research team said that their model challenges the dominant cosmological models of calculating our universe's age, which largely involve measuring the time elapsed since the Big Bang and studying the oldest stars based on the redshift of light coming from

distant galaxies. Redshift refers to an observed elongating of wavelength of light from distant galaxies, generally interpreted as evidence of the universe expanding.

In 2021, the current or standard cosmological model, called the Lambda-CDM concordance model, estimated the age of our universe to be 13.797 billion years old.

The Lambda-CDM model assumes that the universe was cre-

ated in the "Big Bang" from pure energy, and is now composed of about 5 per cent ordinary matter, 27 per cent dark matter, and 68 per cent dark energy.

However, the discovery of evidence of "early" galaxies in advanced stages of cosmological evolution by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and the existence of stars like the Methuselah, one of the oldest stars known, has

puzzled many scientists.

These "early" galaxies, whilst surprisingly small in size and said to exist a mere 300 million years or so after the Big Bang, have been observed to possess a level of maturity and mass typically associated with billions of years of cosmic evolution, which the researchers of this study say is insufficiently explained by the standard model.



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