

Himalayan Brown Bear Roams Kashmir Villages As Habitats Shrink

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Highlighting the escalating conflict between humans and wildlife, the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department in an incident in May successfully captured a Himalayan brown bear in a village in North Kashmir. The bear's behavior had become increasingly weird as the bear raided graveyards possibly in search of human carcasses and venturing into residential areas of Handwara, posing a threat to lives and livestock.



Similar encounters have been reported in villages such as Behnipora, Budshungi, and Shatigam, where residents

Woman Injured In Bear Attack

A woman was attacked and injured on Saturday by a bear in Khag area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. The woman identified as Khatija, wife of Abdul Gani Naik was attacked by a black bear near her house in her native Kokerbagh village of Khag on Saturday, reports said. The woman sustained serious injuries in the surprise beast attack. She was removed to SK institute

Pix: Syed Rashid Bukhari

feared the presence of multiple bears in search of food. To protect the graveyards, villagers took turns to stand guard, but the situation remained

challenging. Experts believe that the unusual behavior of the bears can be attributed to insufficient food in their natural habitat.

Wildlife Warden, north Kashmir Mohammad Maqbool Baba told Kashmir Observer that brown bears venture into human habitations in search of food and their presence, at times, prove lethal.

Baba also said that growing urbanization and transformation of forest areas into tourist places besides using agricultural land for residential purposes are the primary causes of wild bears venturing into human habitations, resulting in encounters.

"Efforts to **More on P10**

Army Chief Visits Areas Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande visited the forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir to review the operational preparedness, officials said on Saturday.

The Army also tweeted pictures from his visit and interaction with some of the troops deployed in the forward areas.

"General Manoj Pande COAS visited forward areas along the Line of Control to review the operational preparedness. COAS was briefed by commanders on ground about the anti-infiltration grid," the Army tweeted.

"General Manoj Pande COAS also interacted with troops deployed in the forward areas and lauded them," it said.

PMAY SCHEME FOR HOMELESS

No Outsider Being Given Land In J&K: LG Inaugurates Multipurpose Cinema Halls In Baramulla, Handwara



Observer News Service

Baramulla: Launching a scathing attack on his critics for opposing the recently announced land for homeless scheme, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that no outsider was being given land in Jammu and Kashmir and the people were being misled by those who grabbed state land and raised huge bungalows over it.

"Is there even one eligible beneficiary in Baramulla district under the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) from outside? Those who mislead the people should give up this habit," Sinha said.

He made these remarks during the inauguration of the 100-seater multipurpose cinema halls in the twin towns of Baramulla **More on P10**

NC, PDP Misleading Public: BJP

Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Saturday accused the National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party of trying to incite people on the issue of allocation of land under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Gupta's remarks came hours after the Peoples Democratic Party staged a protest against **More on P10**

SOCIETY SHOULD STAND united with the government against those who have misguided our youth for decades."

Detention Based On 'Stale' Incident Invalid: HC Quashes PSA Detention Orders Against Shopian Youth, Srinagar Man

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that the detention based on stale incident is vitiated in law, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh quashed an order under Public Safety Act against youth from Shopian and ordered his release forthwith if not needed in any other case.

A bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar passed the order on a petition filed by the detainee, Shafayat Amin Shah, through his father seeking quashing of his detention order (no.113/DMS/PSA of 2022) passed by the Deputy Commissioner Shopian on 9

April 2022 "to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the UT/Country."

Shah had challenged the order on the ground that the detaining authority provided no explanation in the grounds of detention as to why he was not been arrested for long two years if the disclosures were available to them two years before.

He had also challenged the order on the ground that the relevant material including dossier, FIR,

statements of witnesses, disclosure statement etc. relied upon by the detaining authority was never served to him which disabled him

to make an effective and meaningful representation against his detention. He had contended that single belated allegation concerning a case registered two years before cannot be the basis for detention of the detainee after the lapse of two years.

"The impugned order of detention is quashed. Direction is issued to the respondents (authorities) **More on P10**

ATC Faces Probe For Graft, Misconduct

MAJID NABI

Srinagar: J&K government has ordered departmental enquiry and subsequent attachment of the then Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Baramulla with the office of Divisional Commissioner (DIV-Com) Kashmir, following alleged charges of corruption and official misconduct against the official.

The directions were passed following registration of FIR No 14 of 2022 under sections 5(1)(e) r/w 5(2) of the J&K PC act and FIR No 3 of 2022 under sections 7 of PC Act, 1988, 120-B IPC registered against the then ARTO Baramulla, Mubashir Jan Bhat son of Bashir Ahmad of Gulburg Colony, Hyderpora Srinagar at police station Anti Corruption Bureau.

The General Administrative Department (GAD) has directed the Administrative Secretary Transport Department to immediately attach the accused with Div Com Kashmir office and also initiate official enquiry against him.

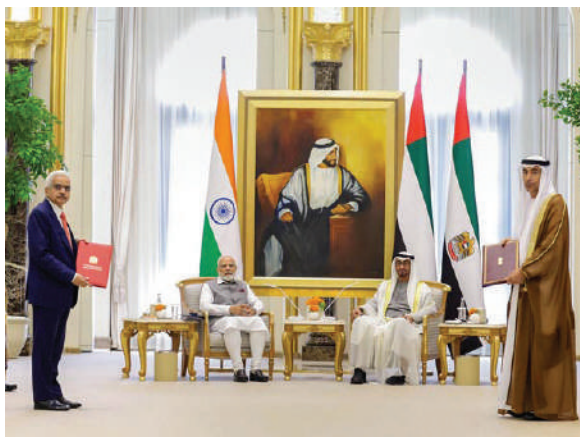
The accused officer according to the order is presently looking **More on P10**

India, UAE Sign Pact To Settle Trade In Rupee

Press Trust Of India

Abu Dhabi: India and the UAE on Saturday agreed to start trade settlement in their currencies and link the Indian Unified Payments Interface with the Gulf country's Instant Payment Platform (IPP) as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held comprehensive talks with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan here.

In his remarks after meeting the UAE President, Modi said India-UAE trade witnessed a 20 per cent increase since the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement last year.



Modi said the agreement signed on Saturday for trade settlement in the currencies of the two countries shows the strong

economic cooperation and mutual trust between the two nations.

"It is always gladdening to meet **More on P10**

Kashmiri Carpet Makers Hail Modi For Global 'Advertisement'

With his one little gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has lit up hopes of hundreds of carpets makers of Kashmir, who believe his gifting a silk rug to a French dignitary will give a much needed boost to the local industry. Modi's gifting a hand-made Kashmiri silk carpet to the president of the French national Assembly during his current visit to the European nation has not lost on the local rugmakers, who see the act virtually as an advert. Shah Nawaz Ahmad Sofi, a carpet unit holder, said the move was great and may stem the decline in carpet makers fate in Kashmir. **More on P10**

Two Girls Drown In Flash Flood

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two girls drowned and two were rescued after being caught in a flash flood while crossing a mountain stream in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Saturday, police said.

The girls were returning home after attending school in the remote Nangala-Machhadi area, Billawar SHO Jatinder Singh told PTL.

The accident occurred around 4.30 pm when the four girls were swept away by a strong current following heavy rain while crossing a stream on their way home, he said. A rescue operation **More on P10**

Awaam Ki Awaaz

Dated: 15/07/2023
DIPK-5200/23

S H O R T T A K E S

Father, Son Held For Timber Smuggling

Police on Saturday arrested a father-son duo on charges of timber smuggling in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Acting on specific information about timber smuggling, a police party led by SHO Police Station Uri raided the house of Khan Mohammad at Kundi Barjala village in Kamalkote, a police spokesperson said Saturday. During the search, he said, 93 CFT illicit forest timber and 7 kilogram of poppy straw-like substance was recovered. **More on P10**

Mortar Shell Destroyed Along LoC

A mortar shell was found lying in a forward village near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a police official said. The mortar shell was noticed by some villagers at Gali-Sawjian and subsequently, a joint team of police and Army was rushed to secure the scene, the official said. He said a bomb disposal squad later safely destroyed the live mortar shell in a controlled explosion, without causing any damage.

Two Held For Assaulting Journalists

Police on Saturday arrested two youth for allegedly assaulting media persons in this capital city. The accused, according to police, were in inebriated condition when they assaulted the scribes and disturbed peace. "Two miscreants namely Sahil Bashir Sheikh S/o Bashir Ahmed Sheikh & Yasir Jabbar Sheikh S/o Ab Jabbar Sheikh, both Residents of Batmaloo arrested for assaulting media persons & disturbing peace. They were in **More on P10**

16 July, 2023 **11:00 AM**

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Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 Fresh NIT No- 52 of RnB - Sopore of 2023-2024 e-tendering DATED 15.07.2023
 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bids	Class of Contractor	M.H of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
01	upgradation of road with protection Bund at Qureshi Mohalla, adu	6.00	300/-	12000/-	5 days	04.07.2023	DEE/CEE	PRI grants

Project Authority: M.C Watergam
 Position of funds: Available
 Position of AAA/TS/Accorded
 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 schedule of dates given below:

S	Date of issue of tender Notice	15.07.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15.07.2023 to 21.07.2023 (upto 4 PM)
3	Bid Submission start date	15.07.2023
4	Bid submission End date	21.07.2023 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	22.07.2023 (12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division, Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
 3. 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 pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

- Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website 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 open on the same website in the office of the 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 bids submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on the website www.jktenders.gov.in acquainted with the submission process.
- Participants in the 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 financial 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 bid.
- Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi 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 documents in shape of Treasury Challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related documents 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 for the fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Materials) contents. In case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to 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 bills as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as required.
- In case of CRF and any other specified project there relevant guidelines/standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.
- 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.
- All bidders shall upload treasury challan.
- All bidders shall upload Bid Security Declaration form.
- All bidders shall upload GSTIN No. and PAN card.
- All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN along with latest sales tax clearance certificate Form GST-3B for the preceding month/proceeding i.e. January - March
- The bidder whose responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- All documents relating to the bids shall be in English language.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including tender documents fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid. No documents (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copy if needed.
- If the contractor/HMP quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,
 No: 4195-4214
 DIPK-5150/23
 Dated: 15.07.2023
 Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

Office Of The Executive Engineer
Electrical Division Budgam KPDCL.

Notice Inviting Tenders.
 e-NIT No.: EDB/22 of 2023-24 Date: 13-07-2023.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from Govt. approved Electrical Contractors, for works, as details below:

Name of the Items	Estt. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD	Completion Period	Status Of T.S and AAA
Improvement of LT Net Work at various Panchayat Halqas Chowdgrind, Borwah, Loolipora, Brinjan, Watakuloo, Ladden, Bugzoo & K-Sarie, Quazipora, Hayatpora-B on SITC Basis (Block Nagam), Sub-Division Charari-Sharif.	Rs. 24.182 Lacs	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 48,364/=	45 Days	Accorded, Order No. 80 DDCB of 2023 Dt: 26-06-2023

- Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examine, of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder.
- The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 14-07-2023; 3:00PM
B	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	14-07-2023; 3:00 PM
C	Sale of Bid Document (End)	27-07-2023; 3:00PM
D	Clarification start date	15-07-2023; 11:00 AM
E	Clarification End date	20-07-2023; 3:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	22-07-2023; 10:00 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	27-07-2023; 3:00PM
H	Hard Copy of e-tender fee and EMD Instrument & Affidavit that the Firm/Contractor is not Black listed by any of the Govt. Offices.	Up-to 27-07-2023; 03:00 PM in office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam
I	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	28-07-2023; 03:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	office of the Executive Engineer ED- Budgam

No: EDB/ DIPK-NB-2020/23
 Dated: 15-07-2023
 ED Budgam (KPDCL)

Office Of The Zonal
Education Officer Magam

Sub: Engagement/Hiring of Helpers/AAAYAS under support at Pre-primary (ECCE) for the year 2023-2024 reagradig ad cotiuace of existing AAYAs.
 Ref: Edu/PD/Sms/ECCE/Helpers/1975/2023-24, Dated:08.06.2023 & CEO Budgam's No.CEO/Sms/23/7297, Dated:10.07.2023.

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Applications on suggestive devised format are invited from eligible female candidate for engagement as HELPERS/AAAYAS under ECCE in the identified schools shown below, which should reach the office of u/sd. by or before 25 July 2023 (Tuesday) during working hours supported by authenticated documents. Incomplete applications or application dropped after prescribed date shall not be entertained and shall be rejected without issuing any notice.

- Eligibility Criteria:** The applicant should possess minimum qualification, 8th pass in the age group of 18-45 Years as on 1st January of that year shall be considered for selection in following preferential order:
- Window of the Jurisdictional belonging to BPL Category.
 - Divorcee of the Jurisdictional belonging to BPL Category.
 - Orphan of the Jurisdictional belonging to BPL Category.
 - Female belonging to BPL Category ad older in age that the rest of BPL Candidates.
- Honorarium:** Rs.5000=(Rupees Five Thousand Only) per month which may vary as per the approval in the subsequent year in PAB of SAMAGRA Shikha.

o.	Name of the School Approved	Village/Ward	No. of AAYA/HELPER to be Engaged
	GMS Babapora	Ward No.08	1
	GMS Adina	Adina	1
	GMS Ichihama	Ichihama	1
	GMS Kandhama	Kandhama	1
	BMS Kandhama	Kandhama	1
	PS Kralpora Magam	Ward No.11	1
	PS Wani Mohalla Kandhama	Kandhama	1
	PS Kralpora Badran	Badran	1
	PS Banderwani	Banerwani	1
	PS Chinar Colony Badran	Badran	1
	PS Hanjibugh	Hanjibugh	1
	PS Bonmpora Gumboora	Gumboora	1
	PS Manhama	Manhama	1
	PS Astanpora	Astanpora	1
	PS Jamia Mohalla Magam	Ward No.05	1

Note: The terms and conditions/nature of employment and or any other related information can be had from the office of the u/sd. during working hours. Also candidate should get the receipt of complete application, if deposited, from the office duly authenticated (Official Seal and signature) of ZEO.

No: ZEO/M/23/
 DIPK-5194/23
 dated: 15-07-2023
 Zonal Education Officer
 Magam.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
ROYAL SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 E-NIT No. 27 of 2023-24 Dated 13.07.2023
 For and on behalf of the Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar by e-tendering mode on item wise Percentage basis from approved and eligible Registered Contractors /suppliers/ Firms with J&K State UTI, PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following works:-

S	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earned Money (In Rs)	Cost of T/Doc	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
4	Procurement of New Spares for Golf Carts at RSGC Sgr for the year 2023-24	13.00 lacs	26000/-	1500/- Non Refundable in shape of Bank Challan in favour of Executive Engineer RSGC SB-0229040100012341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	60 days	Firms Registered with GST in Mechanical Or Mechanical Suppliers Or Electro Mechanical Contractors/ Firms	5452 Tourism

Position of AA: Accorded
 Position of TS: Obtained
 Special conditions:-
 I. No exemption is allowed and so all bidders must Upload Proof of EMD and Tender Processing Fee.
 II. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason at any stage.
 III. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid registration card with renewal of 2023-24 /PAN/GST registration with latest renewal for the month of June 2023 OR 1st Quarter (i.e. April 2023 to June 2023). However successful bidders shall produce the original copies of same before issuance of contract.
 IV. The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Cost of Contract pledged to Executive Engineer as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 03 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The typographical error in the BOQ like Unit of item Quantity of item etc, if any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT shall be rectified in the allotment as per the instruction. 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 per schedule of dates given below:-

S	Date of issue of Tender Notice	13.07.2023 4:00 PM
1	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 13.07.2023 to 24.07.2023 (4.00PM on wards)
2	Bid submission Start Date	13.07.2023 4:00 PM on wards
3	Bid Submission End Date	24.07.2023 upto 03:00
4	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	25.07.2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer RSGC Srinagar

- General Conditions:**
- The financial bid (BOQ) of only eligible, responsive bidders shall be opened on line on the date mentioned above in the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar. In case of any avoidable circumstances the tenders shall be opened on the next working day or any subsequent date convenient to the Authority.
 - The 1st lowest bidder (Successful) has to submit performance security @ 5% of the Contract Value in addition to EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar drawn from nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank which should reach to the office of Executive Engineer, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar within 05 days from the date of opening of on line bids. In case of failure the bid shall be treated as non responsive.
 - The bids for the works shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of opening of tenders.
 - The department shall not be responsible for any technical error or delay in submission of on line bids due to any reason.
 - The department can modify the terms and conditions, specification of work if need arises before the dead line date of receipt of tenders.
 - The bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate/ Percentage inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
 - The Contractor is bound to work/ supply the material of best quality as per specifications. Any material found Substandard/ defective shall not be entertained and contractor is bound to replace it immediately at his own cost.
 - The date of start of work shall be reckoned within 3 days from the date of issue of LOI/ Allotment.
 - In case of delay in completion of the work beyond stipulated period of completion, penalty up to 10% of the allotted cost shall be imposed. No advance payment shall be paid to the Service/ contractor.
 - The contractor shall ensure execution of an agreement with the Department within 15 days from the date of issue of LOI/allotment.
 - All disputes and differences between the parties arising out of any relating to the NIT, Letter of intent, Allotment, work done bills and agreement to be signed between the Officer of RSGC and the contractor including interpretation of its terms and conditions shall be preferable to Secretary, Royal Springs Golf Course Srinagar whose decision shall be final and binding upon all the parties.
 - The bidders are advised to quote their rates in Percentage which includes Income tax, GST, Labour cess etc
 - The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a breach of the contract.
 - The tender is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in the NIT/ Agreement
 - All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD form-25 double /FC-31.
 - Any item found to be necessary execute on site not covered by allotment the same shall be paid on in vogue rate along allotted percentage.
 - The DLP shall be reckoned from the date of successful completion of work shall be up to the period of not less than Eighteen Months.
 - No overhead/ Extra Charges or carriage of replaced spares shall be allowed to the service/ contractor or his mechanics/ Trained Service Engineers/ Labourers.
 - The replaced Spares shall at least perform satisfactory for a period of One Year from the date of its replacement/ Maintenance.
 - Rates should be quoted in INR Inclusive of all taxes / Charges/ FDR.
 - No escalation of rates shall be allowed whatsoever during the period of rate contract.
 - In case of the unsuccessful tenderer the CDR/ FDR shall be released after completion of the rate contract with successful tenderer.
 - The EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR with validity of not less than 24 months from any nationalized/ Scheduled bank preferably J&K Bank pledged to Executive Engineer RSGC and should be uploaded on the portal with tender.

No: RSGC/EE/2023-24/394-96
 DIPK-NB-2002/23 Dated: 15/07/2023
 Executive Engineer
 Royal Springs Golf Course
 Srinagar

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

Press Trust Of India

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 previously 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 created 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.

From the office of Advocate Zulkarnain & Muheet Yousuf

In the case of:
 1 Tariq Ahmad Gojri S/o Ghulam Qadir Gojri R/o Chattabal, Srinagar. Prop. Ziydaan Brick clan
 Versus
 2 Aarif Ahmad Shagoo S/o Ghulam Rasool Shagoo R/o Qamarwari, Srinagar
 ...Caveator
 1. Public at Large
 ...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 or 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 later on in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of D Class Contractor Card . If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the S.E R&B Circle Shopian / Putwama H.Q. Putwama within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Rafiq Ahmad Zargar
 S/o Gh Qadir Zargar
 R/o Batapora Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Marks Certificate of 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.
 Mohd Altaf Wani
 S/o Nazir Ahmad Wani
 R/o Agri-kalan Pattan Baramulla bmg

Office Of The Halqa Panchayat Sherabad Khore

The is to certify that Adnan Ahmad Wani was born on 10-11-2017 on SDH Keeri
 Sex : mail
 Father's name: Gh. Mohammad Wani
 Name Of Mother : Shafeeqa Begum
 Resident of village : Sherabad Khore
 Tehsil : Pattan District : Baramullah
 Gram Panchayat : Sherabad Khore
 Block : Sherabad
 bmg Panchayat Secretary

Public Notice

My name in J&K Bank account details has been wrongly written as Nisar Ahmad Para while my correct name is Nisar Hussain Para, which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the J&K Bank branch office Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Nisar Hussain Para S/o Mohammad Qasim Para
 R/o Dangarpura Qasba Maimoon Tehsil Pattan bmg

DSEK Releases 'The Cold Black Dawn' Book By Class 10 student

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dr. Tassaduq Hussain, Director School Education, Kashmir released the book "The Cold Black Dawn" written by a young writer, Baazil Zubair, here today at Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, Samandar Bagh, Srinagar.

The student author, Baazil Zubair is presently a student of Class 10th in Presentation Convent School, Srinagar. This novel is her first attempt towards writing, which she started at the age of 14. Baazil aspires to be a writer, and fiction, mystery, tragedy and romance are her genres of interest.

The young author, in this book, deftly sketches the struggles of a young

woman's life, who despite having a complicated personal life decides to earn and be independent, only to become a successful business woman. It is a story about grit, perseverance, determination, love, hatred and difficult choices in life.

On the occasion, Dr. Tassaduq Hussain while appreciating the efforts of the young author said that it is commendable to have such an insight and understanding of struggles of life at this age. He added that Baazil's work of creative expression at such a young age can be an inspiration for many budding writers and these kinds of works will encourage and motivate many such students to explore their skill sets and bring them to the fore.

Zareef's Poetry Collection 'Bouzie Na Kaensi Zaeree' Released

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Noted Poet Zareef Ahmad Zareef's collection of one humorous poems "Boozey Ne Kaensi Zaeri", was released today in presence of a galaxy of senior citizens at Ahata Waqar, Chanapora. (Day Care & Recreation Center for senior citizens).

The Center has been set up by Jammu and Kashmir Government in collaboration of District Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Srinagar with a noble cause to serve senior citizens for "Ageing with dignity".

Secretary, SLSA, Srinagar, Justice Jehangir Bukhari, District Social Welfare officer, Sri-

nagar Mukhtar Ahmad, Chairman Ahata Waqar Chanapora, Abdul Gani Parry, Secretary Ahata Waqar Khazir Mohd Trag, Writer and poet Mush-taq Mehram, educationist Prof. Qazi Altaf, Sufi Poet, Khurshid Ahmad Zargar, who is son of the Famous sufi poet Late Abdul Ahad Zargar, prominent writer Hameed Siraj, former Dy Secretary Civil Sectt; Manzoor Ahmad were among the galaxy of prominent personalities present on the occasion.

The proceedings commenced with recitation of quranic verses by prominent Imam-w-khatif of Khankahl Maula, Chrari Sharief, Master Nazir Ahmad Khateeb.

Protests Rock Parts Of Srinagar Against Smart Meter Installation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of various areas of Srinagar continue to hit the roads against the installation of smart meters.

The protests against smart meter installation were held in Habba Kadal, Nababazar and Batamalo areas of the city.

The people from these areas came on the roads all along with their children and raised slogans against the administration. They termed the smart meters as unacceptable.

"We are poor and middle-class families here; we cannot afford to pay hefty bills generated by these smart meters. It is totally unacceptable," they said.



Day long Job Fair organized by the Directorate of Employment in collaboration with Desh Bhagat University Punjab at Kashmir Haat witnessed overwhelming response from job seekers on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid

DC Srinagar Visits Imambaras, Shrines In Srinagar Ahead of Muharram-ul-Haram

Holds Meetings With Shia Community To Review Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of forthcoming Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday undertook an extensive visit of various Shia populated areas of City and Imambaras at Zaidibal, Alamgari Bazar, Madin Sahib Hawal and other routes leading to Imambaras and through which Muharram processions will pass so that people do not face any difficulty.

The DC also asked the concerned Departments to take immediate measures for cleanliness and desilting of drains in Zaidibal, Alamgari Bazar, Madin Sahib Hawal and other routes leading to Imambaras and through which Muharram processions will pass so that people do not face any difficulty.

On the occasion, the Chief Medical Officer and officers of the Health Department were asked to keep first aid facilities, Medical teams and Ambulances available in the areas and also accompany the processions to ensure immediate first aid/ medical treatment.

Similarly, the DC asked the SMC and allied Departments to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supplies particularly in Shia populated areas, the DC passed on spot directions to concerned Officers for making all arrangements. He also asked Executive Engineer PHE to keep provision of water tanker supply wherever required.

Shrines and roads enroute Procession routes. He also asked them to enhance manpower for ensuring proper cleanliness during the Muharram days.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:49
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:35
Magrib	7:46
ISHA	9:24

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Zil-Hajj
1444

This Day In History

- 1942 - French police arrest 13,152 Jews in Paris
- 1945 - Cruiser Indianapolis leaves SF with atom bomb
- 1956 - Karelo-Finnish SSR becomes part of Russian SFSR
- 1956 - King Faisal of Iraq begins visit to England
- 1966 - Nigeria becomes the first Anglophone independent state in Africa to become an associate member of European Economic Community
- 1969 - Apollo 11 launched, carrying 1st men to land on Moon
- 1971 - Franco appoints prince Juan Carlos as deputy in Spain
- 1979 - Premier/pres al-Bakr of Iraq is succeeded by Saddam Hussein
- 1980 - Polish railway workers block railway to Russia
- 1981 - India performs nuclear Test
- 1982 - NASA launches Landsat 4 to thematic map the Earth
- 1982 CDC report on AIDS symptoms in three hemophiliacs
- 1983 - 20 killed in Britain's worst helicopter accident
- 1983 - Sikorsky S-61 disaster: A helicopter crashes off the Isles of Scilly, causing 20 fatalities.
- 1985 - Bill to abolish Greater London Council receives royal assent
- 1987 - Great Britain performs nuclear Test at Nevada Test Site
- 1989 - South Africa's largest labour federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, holds its third annual congress and intensifies its campaign against apartheid
- 1990 - 400 die in a (7.7) earthquake in Philippines
- 1990 - Ukraine declares independence

From KO Archives

Soldier killed by CRPF men

Mistaken for a militant after girl's murder

Observer News Service

Srinagar - A soldier was shot dead by CRPF personnel in an Anantnag village on Wednesday night minutes after he killed a local girl.

The soldier from the 49th RR was shot dead by a patrol party who mistook him for a militant on account of his plain clothes and furtive movements

while fleeing from the scene of his crime. Outraged by the killing of the girl, thousands of people came out into the streets today holding protests against the security forces and demanding that the body of the RR man be handed over to them.

The soldier had sneaked into the house of Muhammad Akbar Dar in village Changoo in Doom area through a window after climbing over a walnut tree, and demanded food and a place for the night.

Enraged when the family refused his demand, the soldier had shot and injured Dar's 19-year-old daughter, Zahida, who fell down in a pool of blood.

The family tried to catch hold of him, but he pumped a fatal shot into the girl and managed to escape from the scene. A CRPF patrol outside the village ordered the fleeing soldier to stop, and opened fire taking him to be a militant, the KNS, quoting police sources as having said. He died on the spot after identifying the soldier, the CRPF left his body and weapons lying in the field.

The defence spokesman, Col V.K. Batra, however, told the KNS that the soldier had committed suicide after killing the girl. The local population surged into the streets in a huge demonstration against the security forces, sitting on a dharna and disrupting traffic.

Demanding that the soldier's body be handed over to them, the villagers said he had entered Dar's house with evil intentions and had molested his daughter before shooting her dead.

The senior superintendent of police in Anantnag, Aashiq Hussain Bukhari, however said, that no molestation had taken place.

(Kashmir Observer, 16 July, 2005)

DLSA Srinagar Hosts Collaborative Program At Ahat-E-Waqar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Department of Health Services Saturday organized a magnificent program at the Day Care Center for Senior Citizens, "Ahat-e-Waqar" Chanpora Srinagar.

The program that was organized under the guidance of Chairman DLSA Srinagar, Jawad Ahmad showcased the power of collaboration in enhancing the quality of living for senior citizens, fostering a sense of community, and celebrating the contributions of one of Kashmir's most beloved poets, Zareef Ahmad Zareef.

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Estates/General Department
Zonal Office Delhi
Pin: 122002

On-line request for proposal (RFP)
for
Empanelment of vendor(s) providing Silent Diesel Generator sets on rent basis (excluding fuel consumption charges) for J&K bank's various business units under Zonal Office Delhi

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. July 18, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is **Aug 08, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.**

e-RFP Ref. No.: JKB/20Delhi/Diesel-Generator/2023-712
Date: 15-07-2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK193855000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2032/23
dated: 15-07-2023

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
General Department
Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar
M. A. Road Srinagar, 190 001 J&K

On Line Expression of Interest (e-EOI)
for
Corporate Travel

EOI Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. July 17, 2023, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is **August 07, 2023, 17.00 Hrs.**

e-EOI Ref. No.: JKB/CHO/GD/Corporate-Travel/2023-711
Date: 14-07-2023

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK193855000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2029/23 dated: 15-07-2023

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio Management
Zonal Office Srinagar
M A Road, Srinagar 190001
Kashmir, India
T: +91 (0)194 248 2658 ; F: +91 (0)194 245 2659
E : iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

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

Whereas Mr. Mohammad Yahya Bandy, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 08.03.2023 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely Mr. Mehraj-ud-din Ganai Proprietor of M/S Mehraj Readymade Garments to repay an amount of Rs.29,56,619.26 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lacs Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen And Paise Twenty Six Only) being the balance outstanding as on 01.03.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said Borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said Borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being Authorized Officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgaged property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 11th of July, 2023.

The said Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Ltd. for the amount aggregating to Rs.29,04,956.52 (Rupees Twenty Nine Lacs Four Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Six And Paise Fifty Two Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.07.2023.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 02 Marlas 70.03 Sft along with Three Storeyed Commercial Building falling under Khasra No. 72min, Khata No. 36 & Khewat No. 14 situated at Gadda Kocha Estate Zaina Kadal.

Date: 11.07.2023
Place: Srinagar

Mohammad Yahya Bandy
Authorized Officer

Registered office: Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK193855000048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbmail.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2035/23 dated: 15-07-2023

Imran Khan Reveals Plan If His Political Party Gets Banned In Pakistan

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan has said in the event that his party is banned, he will float a new political party to contest the upcoming general elections and will win the elections, Dawn reported citing Nikkei Asia.



In the wake of the violent nationwide protests on May 9 and the subsequent clampdown on the protesters and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, many government figures had called for a ban on the party.

Pakistan Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had said ban-

ning the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was the only solution.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said a move to that effect was being considered and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had also said his party will not resist any move to impose a ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

Questioned on the impact of a possible ban on his electoral future by Nikkei Asia, Imran Khan said, "If they remove the party then we will form a party with a new name and still win the elections."

Imran Khan was quoted saying that "even if they disqualify me and throw me in jail, the party will still win".

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief emphasised to the outlet that his base of supporters "remains intact", claiming that the national politics had "fundamentally changed".

On the continued crackdown on his party, Imran Khan said the government was "still trying to break it through intimidation".

Laws Of Preventive Detention Must Be Strictly Applied: Supreme Court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Laws on preventive detention are necessarily harsh and curtail the personal liberty of an individual who is kept behind bars without trial, and so the procedure prescribed should be strictly adhered to, the Supreme Court has said while ordering the release of a man whose detention was extended twice without the authorities considering his representation.

A bench of Justices Anirudha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia set aside an order of the Jharkhand High Court upholding the detention of Prakash Chandra Yadav alias Mungeri Yadav, who was declared an 'anti-social element' under the Jharkhand Control of Crimes Act, 2002.

The bench, in its order dated July 10, held the procedure of law was not followed, and ordered Yadav's release from Rajmahal prison in Jharkhand's Sahibganj district.

"All laws on preventive detention are necessarily harsh. They curtail personal liberty of an individual, who is kept behind bars without any trial. In such cases, procedure is all a detainee has. Laws of preventive detention must therefore be strictly applied," the bench said.

The Jharkhand Control of Crimes Act, 2002 deals with externment and detention of anti-social elements, subject to the procedure given in the Act. Under the provisions of the Act, the state government can detain an anti-social element in order to prevent him from indulging in undesirable activities.



The bench said the extended period of detention of the appellant beyond the period of three months was unauthorised and illegal.

"The orders dated November 7, 2022 and February 7, 2023 which extended the detention period are hereby quashed. The orders of the Division Bench of Jharkhand High Court dated March 2, 2023 and November 2, 2022 of the Single Judge... are also set aside," it said.

The top court agreed with the submission of Jharkhand's Additional Advocate General Arunabh Chowdhury that there were no grounds for challenging the initial detention order dated August 8, 2022 and said Yadav has only challenged the subsequent orders which extended the period of detention.

These orders were dated November 7, 2022 and February 7, 2023 which extended Mr Yadav's detention by three and six months respectively. Yadav was served with a copy of the initial detention order dated August 8, 2022 passed by the district magistrate of Sahibganj when he was in judicial custody in Rajmahal prison.

The order mentioned the grounds for detaining Yadav and gave the details of 18 pending cases against him which ranged from causing simple hurt to extortion and murder.

DELHI'S FLOOD NIGHTMARE

Thousands Without Homes, Struggling For Food



Agencies

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 wa-

ter 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.

DELHI FLOODS: AAP alleges Conspiracy By BJP, Saffron Party Retorts



Agencies

Delhi Cabinet minister Saurabh Bharadwaj on Saturday alleged that flood in the city were caused by the BJP-led Centre and Haryana government willfully releasing water towards the national capital.

Addressing a press con-

ference, Bharadwaj said it has not rained in Delhi in the last 3-4 days, yet still the water level in Yamuna reached 208.66 metres.

Following AAP's allegations, the BJP alleged that inaction and corruption of the AAP government was responsible for the flood in Delhi and asked Chief Minis-

ter Arvind Kejriwal to apologise to the people for "failing" to handle the situation.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia and party MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma alleged that the flood was caused by lack of desilting of the Yamuna in the last eight years of the Kejriwal government.



Non-Codified Muslim Personal Law Poses Challenges For Women: Panel

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The non-codified nature of Muslim personal law has led to misinterpretation and posed significant challenges for Muslim women, the National Commission for Women (NCW) said during a deliberation on Saturday.

The NCW held the deliberation to discuss the rights of Muslim women, with a specific focus on reviewing Muslim Personal Law.

The consultation took place against the backdrop of the Law Commission's recent call to seek responses from various organisations and the public regarding the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The chairperson of the NCW, in a statement, underscored the urgency of codified laws and questioned if a law that fails to protect the rights of Hindu, Christian, Sikh, and Buddhist women can truly be considered only for Muslim women.

The need for codified laws was deemed crucial, with a strong call to work towards a legal framework that guarantees equal rights for all, regardless of their religious affiliation, the statement added.

"The discussion also emphasised that the absence of a Uniform Civil Code has perpetuated inequalities and incon-

sistencies in our diverse nation, hindering progress towards social harmony, economic growth, and gender justice," the NCW said in a statement.

The deliberation saw the participation of key stakeholders, including the Attorney General of India, the Additional Solicitor General from the Supreme Court, representatives from high courts, Vice Chancellors of law universities, legal luminaries, and civil society organisations.

During the deliberation, R Venkataramani, the Attorney General of India, emphasised the need for reforming and strengthening the institution of marriage.

He stressed the importance of equal regard and status for men and women, along with ensuring equality in processes that uphold the dignity of individuals entering and exiting marital relationships, irrespective of their religion.

Other important points discussed during the deliberation included the need to reform the divorce process, transforming it into a judicial process with exceptions for divorce by mutual consent.

Furthermore, the participants emphasised the need to reform inheritance rights based on universal principles governing succession, both testamentary and intestate.

IIT Delhi To Set Up Overseas Campus In UAE

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi's Education and Knowledge Department (ADEK) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up an IIT Delhi campus in the Gulf country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is currently on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is the second IIT to announce setting up an off-

shore campus in Abu Dhabi in the presence of Hon. PM @narendramodiji unfolds a new chapter in internationalisation of India's education," Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan tweeted.

"An exemplar of #NewIndia's innovation and expertise, the IIT Delhi campus in UAE will be an edifice of India and UAE friendship. It will set a brand new template for leveraging the power of knowledge for both mutual prosperity and global good as envisioned in NEP," he added.

While Master's courses will



shore campus after IIT Madras. Last week, IIT Madras signed an MoU for setting up a campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar.

"MoU for establishment of @

be offered at the Abu Dhabi campus of IIT Delhi from January next year, Bachelor's degree programmes will be offered from September 2024

NEWS MAKERS

FIR Lodged Against Popular Manipuri Singer For Song Calling For A Kuki Massacre

IANs

The Zomi Students' Federation (ZSF) has filed an FIR against popular singer Jayenta Loukrakpam alias Taptat for his "controversial song" that led to a major row in the ethnic violence-hit Manipur.

According to ZSF, the song's lyrics called for the massacre of the Kukis.

The FIR, filed by ZSF President Nengzalian Tsoning at the Churachandpur police station, accused the singer of promoting enmity between different groups based on religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, and more.

The complaint claimed that Loukrakpam's actions are prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony, and that his songs are defamatory and promote feelings of enmity, hatred, or ill-will against



members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The song triggered controversy amid the ongoing ethnic violence that has plagued the state since May 3, killing over 150 people and injuring more than 600 others.

Loukrakpam earned popularity in Manipur with his powerful debut album titled 'Power of Attraction'.

Over the years, he has garnered a substantial following across all communities in the state, earning him a dedicated fan base.

Meanwhile, three trucks

carrying LPG cylinders were burnt in Imphal West's Sekmai village.

The trucks, stranded at Indian Oil Corporation's gas plant in Sekmai since May 3, were being moved out to Kangpokpi district after the owner of the gas agency received approval from the police.

Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) spokesman Ginza Vualzong alleged that Meitel womenfolk (Meira Paibis) were behind this incident.

"Despite claims of N. Biren Singh-led government that the state is returning to normalcy, there is no peace on the ground. The majority community is still continuing with its ethnic cleansing programme targeting the Kuki-Zo tribals. This is why there needs to be total separation of the communities for peace to return to Manipur," Vualzong said.

Architect Jailed For Using Dead Man's Fingerprint On Forged Documents

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has awarded jail term to an architect and his associate for using the thumb impression of a dead person and forging the signature of sub-divisional magistrate (headquarters) to get water harvesting certificate for a building, whose plan was already sanctioned by the DDA in 2010.

Special Judge Sanjeev Kumar Malhotra sent architect Charan Singh Solanki and his associate Parmod Garg to jail for two years, while refusing to release him on probation, saying that being an architect he had greater responsibility while attesting signatures and thumb impressions and issuing certificates as per law. The judge noted Solanki was already facing jail in another case.

"Convict Charan Singh Solanki, being an architect, was having more responsibility to

attest signature/thumb impressions and to issue certificates as per rules/law. After considering the rival submissions and role of convict Charan Singh Solanki, I am not inclined to grant the benefit of probation to him," the judge said in an order passed on July 12.

The prosecution had opposed the argument for leniency, saying such forgery affects the "conscience of the society".

According to the prosecution, Solanki was working as an architect, whose report was accepted by the DDA for the purpose of sanctioning a building plan.

He had given a water harvesting certificate which carried the forged thumb impression of the original allottee. He had also annexed a copy of a letter for extension of time, which had not been issued by the DDA, the prosecution said.

Azam Khan Gets Two-Year Jail In Case Of Hate Speech

Press Trust of India

An MP/MLA court here on Saturday sentenced senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan to two years imprisonment in a case of provocative speech during the 2019 general elections.

Judge Shobhit Bansal convicted Khan and sentenced him to two years imprisonment. He also imposed a fine of Rs. 2500 on the former Uttar Pradesh minister.

The case was registered against Khan during the 2019 Lok Sabha general election for allegedly making a provocative speech during a rally in the Dhamora area on April 8 that year.

An MP-MLA court here had last year convicted Khan in another 2019 hate speech case which was registered after he addressed a public meeting in Khatanagar village of the Milak Kotwali area.

He was sentenced to three years of imprisonment, following which he was disqualified from the UP assembly.

In May this year, a sessions court overturned the verdict of the lower court.



Turning Bones Into Pieces Of Art, Aziz-Ur Rehman Is J&K's First Bone Artist

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Looking at Aziz-ur Rehman's tools, one can be forgiven for mistaking him for an exorcist. Rehman, however, does not deal with the occult. He is an artist who makes art from waste material, including animal bones.

The Jammu and Kashmir Handicrafts Department discovered Rehman -- the only bone artist of the Union Territory -- during a kisan mela.

"We met him at a kisan mela. He approached the department and wanted to exhibit his art work ... we gladly accepted his offer and provided him the space," Handicrafts Director Mahmood Shah told PTI at the exhibition organised for Rehman's art under the 'Know Your Artist' programme.

Siven the encouragement Rehman has received from

people, he will put in more effort into his art, Shah said.

"He will come up with more art forms. Right now, he has very small art specimens and his exhibit will grow both in form and diversity in the coming days," Shah added.

Rehman said his art is based on turning waste into wealth.

"I am a bone carving artist based on waste wealth, what I do is I collect different waste materials such as animal bones and wood and make art using those I have these skulls, bull horn, flower vases, bone brush holders and bone ornaments," he said.

Rehman said there is vast scope in Kashmir for bone art.

"We should explore more and more of this ... I collect these bones from homes and butchers as Kashmir. People eat a lot of meat in Kashmir, so we don't



have a shortage here," he said. Rehman said he is self taught and used social media to hone his skills.

"I learned this art by myself with the help of social media. People like this art because its unique and out of the box," he said.

He started dabbling in the art form during the COVID-19 lockdown.

"As a child, I saw bones in my home during the Bakrid (Bakra Eid). I took one bone and started carving, shaping it into a small object," he added.

It was not all smooth sailing for Rehman as he was criticised for the choice of his work.

"When I started doing this, everyone criticised me for wasting time. But when they realised that I am on the right track, I got support. I continue my studies while doing this," he added.

Faizan Zahoor, a visitor, said he was left speechless by Rehman's art.

"I can't say in words what I feel right now because it's absolutely mindblowing, creative and innovative. I liked this and art is something that purifies your soul and keeps (you) away from depression..." Zahoor said.

Talking about the programme, Shah said this space is being promoted as a craft space so that talented youth can showcase their talent.

"Today is the eighth exhibition and every time we try to give a platform to a new artist ... we want people from different art forms, experimenting with their crafts, to come here and showcase their art through this platform. Srinagar is ranked among UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Through that also, we showcase different crafts and craftsmen," Shah added.

Authorities Impose Restrictions On HCBA Elections

Cite Breach Of Peace, Disruption Of Public Order

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar on Saturday imposed restrictions on conduct of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Elections, citing breach of peace and disruption of public order.

According to an order, DC Srinagar said that it has come to his knowledge JKHCBA has circulated a notice regarding the conduct of elections.

"I have perused the material facts of the matter placed before me and I am satisfied that there is an emergent situation which can lead to breach of peace and disruption of public order, if JKHCBA proceeds forward with the scheduled elections. Therefore, I, District Magistrate, Srinagar, by virtue of the powers vested in me u/s 144 CrPc direct that no gathering of 4 or more persons shall be allowed in the premises of District Court Complex Batamalo or any other place for the purpose of conduct of elections till further orders," reads the order.

It reads that SSP Srinagar has reported that during the meeting held on 13-07-2023 by Kash-

mir Advocates Association(KAA) at Court Complex Srinagar, members of another association under the nomenclature of JKHCBA entered into the Bar room and started shouting upon the members of KAA which led to scuffle between the two groups.

"Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar has highlighted that there is every possibility of internal rivalries between the two factions of the lawyers resulting into clashes between them. He has also cited in his report that JKHCBA is having past history of intimidation and provocation of other groups of the advocates which may lead to breach of peace in the instant matter."

It added that SSP Srinagar has further stated that there are reports regarding activities of JKHCBA for forceful conduct of elections and the same may result into clashes between the above named groups.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar has asked Senior Superintendent of Police to ensure implementation of the order and that any violation by anyone of shall invite punitive action under Section 188 of Indian Penal Code, 1860--(KNO)

Kashmir Angel Network Facilitates Exceptional Session

Ropes In Prof Handa To Mentor Aspiring Entrepreneurs In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Aiming to inspire and equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the necessary skill set and requisite knowledge to emerge successful in their ventures, Kashmir Angel Network (KAN) roped in renowned entrepreneur and educator, Professor Sunil Handa to be part of engaging and extraordinary session for Kashmir-based startups.

Known for his knowledge and ability to guide aspiring

benefit from the experience and expertise of Professor Handa. Furthermore, besides the general session, a day later, approximately 20 startups including Wildfloc, Kashmkari, Khalis Foods, Khyen Khourdan by Ruhaab, Vegan Meat, Cred Agro, Qohh Wellness, Move Beyond and Lieper Books were given the exclusive chance to engage in personalized one-on-one sessions with the visiting Professor. These focused consultations took place at the corporate office of KAN on July 13th and 14th. The startups expressed their appreciation for the opportunity. "Had I known that these intricacies would be discussed with Prof. Sunil Handa, I would have done a week's worth of homework before-

hand," said Mehr Shaw from MAIDEN KASHMIR. Another participant, Khyen Khourdan by Ruhaab, remarked, "Professor Handa's session was so insightful and empowering that nobody looked at their phone for 2 hours continuously, which is a great sign of a successful session in these times."

Termed to be on the spot, the event received an overwhelming response from individuals passionate about entrepreneurship as it addressed the issues with workable solutions. The participants expressed their gratitude for being part of this event.

Committed to fostering entrepreneurship and empowering individuals to pursue their dreams, KAN reiterated its resolve to continue to create platforms that facilitate meaningful interactions and knowledge sharing among entrepreneurs and industry experts.



PDP Activists Detained As Police Scuttle Protest Rally In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP workers were detained outside their party headquarters here on Saturday, shortly after they tried to take out a protest rally on various issues, including alleged attempts to settle outsiders in Jammu and Kashmir.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) activists, who were chanting slogans against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), also expressed their anger over the installation of smart electricity meters and unabated targeted attacks on Hindus in the valley.

Let by general secretary Amreek Singh Reen, dozens of PDP leaders and workers came out of the party headquarters at Gandhi Nagar and started marching towards the nearby Jammu-Airport road.

However, a strong police contingent stopped the protesters and took several of them into preventive custody, an official said.

The PDP staged the protest despite a recent clarification issued by the Jammu and Kashmir administration that no outsider is being allotted five marlas of land and there is no change in the law in this regard, after PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the move to provide housing to homeless people is an attempt to change the demography of the Union Territory.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on July 3 that his administration has started providing plots measuring 150 square yards to landless families for the construction of their houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

"The rural development department has identified 1.83 lakh families who do not have their own houses. We are working on it. It is a step that will not only provide a house to them, but transform their lives," Sinha said, adding that plots have already been allotted to 2,711 landless families across the Union Territory.

PDP Jammu provincial president (youth) Pervez Waffa, who was among those detained, condemned the police action and said his party would not stay silent when

people from outside are being settled in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The land belongs to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let them provide land to migrant Kashmiri Pandits, nobody will have any objection," he said.

Waffa said the PDP had also planned the protest against the installation of smart electricity meters by replacing digital meters and continuous attacks on minority community members in the valley.

Three labourers from Bihar were shot at and injured by terrorists in Shopian district on Thursday.

"The selective and targeted attacks are going on for the last several years despite the BJP's tall claims of normalcy. What type of normalcy is this?" Waffa asked.

J&K Politicians Have Learned To Live Under Curbs But Not Disconnected From Masses: Omar

JAMMU: National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the local political leaders have grown accustomed to curbs put on their movement post-August 2019 but such measures cannot weaken their connect with the masses.

The erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir in 2019, following the repeal of Article 370 which gave the former state special administrative powers.

The former J&K chief minister expressed concern over the militant activity in the region, saying militancy is rearing its head even in the area which had been declared militancy-free sometime back.

Omar was talking to reporters on the sidelines of a party convention of Chenab valley zone functionaries at Batote in Ramban district.

"This is not a new thing (restrictions on movement of NC leaders and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti). After August 5, 2019, it is a regular affair and we have become habitual of it but we have also learned how to dodge and fight back and we will continue to do so," he said.

On the latest terrorist attack on migrant labourers in south Kashmir's Shopian district



despite BJP's insisting that the situation in the valley has improved, Omar said, "we are repeatedly saying that if they claim that the situation has improved, then why not hold elections."

He said that the Centre's tall claims on an improved security were belied by terror attacks in Shopian, Rajouri, and Poonch.

Either the claims are wrong or we are not able to see the real situation, he added.

The border districts of Rajouri and Poonch have so far this year witnessed several militant attacks, leaving 10 soldiers and seven civilians dead.

"We are witnessing militancy in areas which were declared free of militancy. The attacks are unimaginable and if such attacks are taking place, it is the failure of the government," the NC leader said.

He also referred to a recruit-

Owner Locks Up School In Tulail Village, Students; Parents Protest

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Students and parents staged a protest after the house owner of Middle School located in Sudikilshay village of Gurez's Tulail asked school authorities to vacate the building.

The school has been operating out of a rented accommodation for several years.

But for the last few days, students and teachers found the school locked from outside forcing them to return home.

"Despite having brought the issue into the notice of the concerned authorities a few days ago, students continue to face trouble as there has been no positive response from them as of now," said Gulam Ahmad, an

elderly person from the area.

He said that the owner of the school has relocated to another place and wanted the place to be vacated. However, the administration has not taken any action in this matter so far.

The students and villagers in the area held a protest against the education department, demanding a proper school space.

A video obtained by a reporter shows students carrying their school bags and locals chanting slogans, urging the education department to arrange a new school.

An official said that efforts are being made to secure a suitable new location for the school so that classes can resume smoothly--(KNO)

Daylong Cultural Festival Held At Budgam

DC Appreciates Cultural Academy For Starting Cultural Festival Series From Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with District Administration Budgam on Saturday organised a one day Cultural Festival at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam.

The festival was the inaugural show of a series of 20 festivals to be conducted in all districts of Kashmir Division during the coming months.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo attended the function as Chief Guest, and Secretary J&K Culture academy Bharat Singh Manhas was the Guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that people of Budgam are rich in culture and possess huge potential in the field. He appreciated JKAACL for beginning

its series of cultural festivals from this district and providing young and ace artists a platform to perform and promote cultural activities in the district.

Further, he said that such programmes shall continue to be organised in the district for promotion of art and culture.

In this festival variety of cultural items were presented by artists from different fields of art and culture including Raja Bilal, Feroz Ahmad Shah, Ajaz, Gazi Ajaz, Aaqib Asad, Nasira, Fayaz Ahmed Bhat and party, Nasir Hussain, Nazir Jish, Aube Sabir, Jamal Budgami, Syed Riyaz, Javaid Budgami, Lateef Niyazi, Ghulam Hussain, Zohoor Ahmed Bhat, Rayees, Ahmad, Gh.Mohd, Younis Majeed, Irshad Ahmad, Feroz Cultural Forum, student Artists from Girls and Boys Higher Secondary Schools Budgam.

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75**
E-AUCTION NOTICE **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for various lots over Firozpur Division as per detail given below:-

Auction Catalogue No.	EAFZR-CTG23-1 Dated 10.07.2023		
Auction Start	25.07.2023 at 11:00 A.M.		
Name of work	Allotment of catering stall at Railway Stations		
Railway Station	GMU/SMU	Stall No.	Reserved for
DAV College Jalandhar	GMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1 All
Mukatsar	GMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1 All
Makhu	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 All
Fazilka	GMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1 Women
Gangsar Jaiton	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 All
Firozpur City	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Women
Mukatsar	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 All
Fazilka	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Women
Lohian Khas	SMU	Stall No. 3	PF No. 2/3 Schedule Caste (SC)
Kapurthala	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Minorities (Women)
Kot Kapura	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Minorities (Freedom Fighters & War Widows & Widows of Railway Employees)
Lohian Khas	SMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1 Other Backward Class (Women)
Dhandari Kalan	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Minorities
Kot Kapura	SMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1 Schedule Caste (Women)
DVA College Jalandhar	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Schedule Caste (SC)
Sultanpur Lodhi	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1 Other Backward Class (OBC)

For other details please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2181/2023

Feminism is a concept that encompasses both an “ideology and a movement for socio-political change based on a critical analysis of male privilege and women’s subordination within any given society (or religion)”. Applied to Islam, this ideology and movement makes for Islamic feminism that revolves around Muslim women’s issues and critiques Muslim men’s privilege while questioning the power dynamic between the two sexes within Islam with an aim to bring socio-political change among both the sexes using Islamic concepts and Islamic language. In its attempts to bring this change, it does not question the language or the concepts that supposedly privilege men over women but questions the way in which they have been leveraged to privilege men. It works with the same language and the same concepts but views with a different perspective to reach different conclusions that turn out to be better for women also. This is not questioning Islam itself but making Islam dynamic by exposing it to diverse perspectives. It is about exploring the full potential of Islam with regards to the existing power difference among the two sexes so that the power difference is minimum.

The question of exploring full potential arises because it is assumed that Muslim men are privileged because they interpreted the Quran and other sources of law from their own perspective, excluding women from the interpretations. Since Quran is one of the most basic sources of laws in Islam, it is a genuine concern that most traditional tafasir (exegesis) were exclusively written by men and as one of the Islamic feminists Amina Wadud claims, “men and men’s experiences were included and women and women’s experiences were either excluded or interpreted through the male vision, perspective, desire, or needs of woman”. Further, Wadud says that the problem has been exacerbated because women’s “voicelessness during critical periods of development in Quranic interpretation has not gone unnoticed, but it has been mistakenly equated with voicelessness in the text itself.”

If we look into the existing interpretations of Quran using the theory of New Historicism, we find that the interpretation was influenced by the inherent biases – “the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner” – of the interpreter and the specific context and the time in which that interpretation occurred. Writing about New Historicism, Lois Tyson argues that “the questions asked by traditional historians and by new historicists are quite different... tradi-

Is Islamic Feminism not Islamic?

Haris Rashid

tional historians ask, ‘What happened?’ and ‘What does the event tell us about history?’ In contrast, new historicists ask, ‘How has the event been interpreted?’ and ‘What do the interpretations tell us about the interpreters?’ Same can be said about the interpreters of the Quran. They might have started with an aim to interpret the Quran objectively to understand what it says, but when the interpreter is interpreted, it is observed that their interpretation was influenced by various factors. When the sex of the interpreter, the roles of the two sexes in his culture, the society of the interpreter and other aspects that could influence the interpretation are factored in, the interpretation becomes subjective. Thus, “no method of Quranic exegesis is fully objective” because “each exegete makes some subjective choices” and “some details of their interpretations reflect their subjective choices and not necessarily the intent of the text”. The interpretation thus does not become a fact but an opinion. Besides focusing on the gender of the interpreter, Islamic feminists also keep into consideration the power dynamics between the two genders during that time of interpretation. While arguing for the historicization of different verses of the Quran they do not give an exact historical background for the cited verses because of the difficulties that arise in looking into the historical background of verses as they are not generally historicized. Since the verses themselves do not have apparent contexts, they only analyse verses from different perspectives and question why those verses were interpreted only in one particular manner even though there could have been other alternative explanations.

Different explanations are based on the fact that the Quran was revealed in seventh century Arabia and since it is considered as moral guidance by Muslims “it must relate to the perceptions of morality—no matter how gender-specified—which are held by individuals in various societies”. Since the Quran was revealed at a time when the



“One way to achieve this potential is by including women in the institutions of interpretation and lawmaking in Islam. This would ensure that their views, which might differ from men, are also applied in order to realise the full potential of the Quran so that everyone benefits

“Arabs held certain perceptions and misconceptions about women and were involved in certain specific lewd practices against them”, this has resulted in “some injunctions specific to that culture”. Even some prevailing practices in Arabia of that time were so bad they had to be “prohibited explicitly and immediately: infanticide, sexual abuse of slave girls, denial of inheritance to women, zihar, to name a few of the most common”. In addition, there might be certain practices “encouraged by the Quran (that) may be restricted to that society which practised them, but the Quran is not confined to, or exhausted by, (one) society and its history...”. Therefore, while recognizing that the practices prescribed by the Quran are necessarily to be followed by Muslims but at the same time acknowledging that those practices cannot be replicated across all cultures at all times in the exact manner; there is a way out from being bound by those exact practices by going into the principles or the morals that are conveyed by the practices. Then it is those principles that are extracted that become eternal so that they can be applied to various social contexts. Though the principles or morals that can be extracted from the

different verses of the Quran would be subjective, and there would be further questions that it would attract but extracting these principles can be made less difficult by incorporating different perspectives of both the genders on the verses.

This would make the interpretation inclusive and a somewhat middle ground could be reached from which everyone would emerge better off. Further, this “movement from principles to particulars can only be done by the members of whatever particular context a principle is to be applied and “therefore, interpretation of the Quran can never be final”. Hence, it is necessary to reinterpret the Quran again and again in the context of different times and different cultures.

Mohammad Iqbal once claimed that Islam provides for the greatest freedom with the caveats of Tawhid (the unity of God) and the lastness of the prophet. He was hopeful that Islam will not only face up to modernity but address various challenges of modernity. But the movement that Iqbal desired to see in Islam can be achieved only if Islam is taken to extremes and its full potential is realised. One way to achieve this potential is by including women in the institutions of interpretation and lawmaking in Islam. This would ensure that their views, which might differ from men, are also applied in order to realise the full potential of the Quran so that everyone benefits. It is this movement inside Islam that asks for the inclusion of women in the processes of interpretation and other lawmaking that can be termed as Islamic feminism. It arises within Islam itself and stays within Islam, using Islamic concepts and Islamic language to bring socio-political change by questioning the status quo of interpretation. Seen from a different perspective this is not a movement that seeks to advance only Muslim women’s issues, it is one that seeks to advance the position of Islam so that the full potential of Islam is realised, and every follower of Islam feels content with Islam. Therefore, Islamic feminism exists, and it is distinguished from other feminisms from the fact that it uses Islamic language, Islamic concepts, and the sources of Islam from where laws and rules are derived to advance the position of women.

Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
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Monsoon Havoc In India: How Floods Can Be A Valuable Resource

Sharad Jain

This year the monsoon began unusually. After 61 years, it arrived in Mumbai and New Delhi on the same day — June 24. The monsoon’s onset in these cities is generally around June 10 and June 30, respectively. Immediately after its arrival, many places across India received heavy to very heavy rainfall. It is unusual to see flooded rivers and cities in June/early July since most of the flooding usually occurs in the later months of the monsoon.

Studies and expert appraisals have concluded that citizens, properties, and infrastructure in India cannot be provided with complete flood protection. Hence, we need to shift attention and efforts from flood control to flood management. But the hydro-infrastructure for river regulation in India is inadequate for effective flood management.

About five months after the end of the flood season in October, many parts of the country begin to face scorching summers and droughts. Currently, we see flood flows as a nuisance, to be passed on to the ocean at the earliest. If a large part of the flood flows can be safely conserved, damages would reduce. The saved water would help partially mitigate the upcoming droughts. Storage to manage river flow variability and mitigate droughts is an attractive opportunity for India.

In recent times, India has faced at least one major flood event each year. As the 2023 monsoon progresses, floods are beginning to repeat the pattern of damage and destruction. Every year 1,600 lives on average are lost due to floods, according to the National Disaster Management Authority. Floods also affect 75 lakh hectares of land and inflict damage worth Rs 1,805 crore to crops, houses and public utilities.

A range of tools are available to manage floods. Broadly, these are classified as structural and non-structural. Structural measures include storage reservoirs, embankments, and diversions. These reduce flood hazards by keeping damage-causing waters away from agricultural areas, cities, industries, etc.



Storage reservoirs moderate the flood peak by storing water during high-flow periods and releasing it after they have subsided. They also conserve water for irrigation, electricity generation, water supply, etc. Their effectiveness in flood moderation depends on the space available. In addition, tanks and ponds are traditional means of water conservation in India. They also aid in groundwater recharge and promote biodiversity.

Non-structural methods such as flood forecasting, warnings, and flood plain zoning, help in the timely evacuation of people and regulate the use of floodplains. Note that floods are a hazard only when people go close to flood waters or hinder their movement.

A forecasting and warning system provides a priori estimate of approaching floods so that people and movable assets are relocated to safer places in time. India has more than 5,500 large dams. Accurate inflow forecasts help moderate floods by estimating the space needed for storage in reservoirs. A common saying goes: “Floods are acts of God but

flood losses are largely acts of man”.

Non-structural methods don’t involve construction and hence don’t create an adverse impact on the environment or otherwise. However, the resource (water) is neither conserved nor put to alternate use. Large and medium water conservancy projects can save huge quantities of damage-causing water. So, to manage increasing variabilities, existing infrastructure should be upgraded or new infrastructure created.

In India, most of the water comes from the Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna, Cauvery, Mahanadi, Narmada and Tapi river basins. The monsoon’s presence makes Indian rivers highly seasonal. During the four months of monsoon, Indian rivers carry about 75 per cent of their annual flows. Of this, about 15-20 per cent occurs in shorter, very high-flow periods. Flood flows are the flows present in a river for a short period that have huge volumes. Basins such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, and Mahanadi have large flood

flows. Although some part is currently conserved, unutilised flood flows are more than 100 (cubic kilometres) BCM. Storage space created in major river basins, such as the Ganga and the Brahmaputra, is inadequate for the available flows.

Options for water conservation vary in size from large storage to farm ponds. The impact also varies — local in scale to a large region. Each option will have some advantages, limitations, concerns and requirements. It is not wise to outright reject any option. Of course, it will be a challenge to find good sites to conserve water and build consensus.

Climate change will add a new dimension to flood management — rainfall patterns, intensities, and durations are likely to change. Recently IPCC released Assessment Report 6 where they noted that intense rains are likely to become more common in this warming world. Therefore, flows in Indian rivers and their variabilities will increase in the future. This will lead to more instances of floods and droughts. It is prudent we upgrade the hydro-infrastructure in the country now so that the tools to manage increased variabilities are available in time.

The entire suite of measures — structural and non-structural, appropriate mix of grey, blue and green infrastructure — needs to be considered for flood management. Mindsets need changing — flood flows should be seen as a resource to be conserved for subsequent use and water security. A river basin approach should be adopted for flood management while taking care of the environment.

A study completed in the US evaluated the performance of 383 flood control reservoirs and 8,500 miles of levees. They found that for every dollar spent on flood control, potential flood damages equivalent to \$6 were averted in the past six decades up to the year 2000. Similar benefits can be harnessed if India implements a comprehensive flood management programme.

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 the Indian Express

Nietzsche's Critique Of "Resentment" And Our Religious Moralising

MUGEES UL KAISAR

Religious discourse and religious life can be positively enriched by significant external critiques from various sides/angles. Whilst participating within a religious cosmos, one may – over time – lose sight of a few things that occasionally some good external critics may point out or refocus our attention towards them. Let us, very briefly, rehearse Nietzsche's critique of "resentment" to refocus the psychological dimension of our religious lives to rejuvenate its inner integrity.

To start with, we may note that many religious people tend to forget one critically crucial point & that is religion (or for that matter any "body of thought") as "content" is one thing and the religious "subject" trying to appropriate that content is something else. Though, most of the religious intellectual thought & spirituality together aim at bridging that very gap by engineering a specific subjectivity wherein "thought" intersects with "being" (i.e. intersection of ilm & amal) but nevertheless, in the initial stages (at the very least), the distinction between "subject" & its absorption of "content" remains alive. Now, why did we turn our attention to this distinction at the start? The point that we are trying to make is that religion or any "content" for that matter may be perfect in and of itself but individual person as a "subject" is not.

The whole discourse on "niyyah"/intention & "nifaq"/hypocrisy within Islamic tradition is a case example. One may offer "salah" in the most perfect form i.e. fulfil the "content" part fully but if one does

it to merely show off then the whole act becomes a meaningless mechanical exercise owing to the inauthenticity of the subject; here, the inner "subject" intervenes between "content" and its harmonious/smooth/sincere application/absorption which aims at the transformation of the subject itself. In the case of show off, subject transforms the "content" for its own projection rather than allowing the (divine) "content" to completely transform and re-orient its own subjectivity. Thus, human being as a subject is the central node within religious dynamics, which we often tend to forget.

Now, where does Nietzsche come in all this? The point is that our psycho-spiritual quality of life is damaged by what Nietzsche calls "resentment". We are referring to Nietzsche here – even though such formulations may be found both inside and outside of the religious discourse – for the reason that in Nietzsche it receives a particularly potent psychoanalytic precision which is pregnant with transformative potential, if properly internalized. Now, the first thing that we should begin with is by noting the fact that most of the moralizing, downplaying & ridiculing that takes place particularly from religious point of view, Nietzsche would say, has its roots in "resentment" (or at least the possibility is always there) i.e. since I am not out there in the world, active & highlighted, whereas others (mostly "irreligious" folk) are, but I still wish to subdue them (because for Nietzsche this inner will/desire to dominate is one of the essential drives within human psyche & thus inevitable); therefore, what I do is that I invent

a psychological trick by positing that so & so is useless because this whole active posture in life is useless – it is nothing but mere love of "duniya", it is insincerity, so & so is arrogant, they are "evil", so on and so forth.

This applies to resentment per se and not just religious moralizing. Resentment is part of human reality & thus manifests within both religious and secular settings. Since Nietzsche primarily targeted religious moralizing that is why this article primarily focuses on that. But it takes on various shapes and forms. A person, for example, who is not active in the world whilst seeing others at the front or lags behind others in one thing or the other, if finds himself developing an allergic hateful reaction towards them, should immediately become cognizant of the inner resentment which might be taking the outer garb of ostensible criticism of the so-called flaws and faults of so & so just to subdue them psychologically.

Respective of the inner motivations of "others" & irrespective of the question whether love of "duniya" is evil or not (i.e. the "content" in and of itself is a separate matter, which in this case is the correct statement within Islamic tradition) but all of that is of no concern to me as a subject. What is of concern to me here is the fact that how am I appropriating that content as a subject? In the case of inner resentment, as explained above, I am only using religious morality to satisfy my own inner resentment. I might be quoting the right "content" which might be correct in and of itself but since I am a "subject", I do not invoke any content as an empty vessel but

rather the content passes through a particular mode of being. Nietzsche's question for the one who moralizes, judges and scolds others would be that whether the person is doing it objectively or is it a mere epiphenomenon of one's own inner hidden hate, jealousy, arrogance & resentment.

Nietzsche thinks that most of the moralizing that takes place has nothing to do with the pursuit of Truth but rather it is merely symptomatic of inner hidden resentments against this & that. When we moralize, the question that we should ask ourselves is that, are we sure within ourselves that we are acting as mere "channels" of God's message or is it the case that our own inner hatreds or arrogance or jealousies or superiority complex or resentments are merely putting on a religious garb. Whether it be our religious clerics sermonizing people on pulpits or our youth fighting tooth & nail on religious disputes, Nietzsche's warning of "resentment" is an eternal reminder.

It is for this reason that Islamic tradition organically developed its own science of the soul in the form of diverse schools of tassawuf to avoid "resentful" religiosity. Why is this all important? We may provide two main reasons: a) firstly, the whole function of "religion" amounts to human transformation which creates a particular mode of being that enables one to get through this world in the most beautiful way, given all the vagaries of life, i.e. it teaches life of "ih-san" so that one is prepared for one's eschatological station. Resentment damages this mode of being and liquidates the whole transformative potential & objective of religion. And sec-

ondly b) this lesson is of the utmost importance for our psychological wellbeing which is most definitive of one's quality of life i.e. inner resentment, contradiction & hypocrisy tortures the soul from within whereas organic mode of being which amounts to living as "one" inside out creates joyous mode of being.

Whether it be infighting within masjid committees or patronising advice that people throw at each other on social media platforms, the debates and fights within offices or schools, neighbourhoods or friend circles, all the rebukes given for one reason or another; all of these call for attention. Nietzsche would invite us to properly see whether the reasons we give to ourselves as to why I rebuked so and so, why I fought with so and so, why I hate so and so, why I looked down upon so & so are really the true reasons behind these actions i.e. the "apparent" reasons we give to ourselves like: "this is for truth", "I am giving God's message", "I am trying to help them", "I am just conveying truth", etc or the actual truth is that there are deeper resentments/jealousies/hatreds which are beneath these cooked up reasons and thus form the real genesis of all these fights. This self introspection, if done with sincerity, will eventually help individuals arrive at a certain mode of being where the previous "cooked up" reasons might in truth become the actual reasons for one's actions, stemming from within.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

Raising a Champion Father Recounts Son's Journey To IIT Kharagpur

Farooq Shah

Mehran coincidentally shares his birthday with Neil Armstrong, the American astronaut and aeronautical engineer. However, Mehran's birth in the strife-torn region of Kashmir presents significant challenges to living a normal life. In 2006, the year Mehran was born, Kashmir experienced one of its bloodiest periods in history, including the tragic incident of 35 Hindus being killed by unidentified gunmen in the Doda district. This further accentuated the obstacles Mehran had to overcome in his pursuit of excellence.

As a father, his last resort to secure an honourable personal escape from such a quagmire was to educate his children in the most exemplary manner. However, amidst an extremist environment nurtured by the vested interests, the challenge to protect the children's future was remarkably daunting. As an educator, I knew how crucial the formative years were in determining a child's future, especially when young children were targeted by "hawks" during this precarious age.

In a poignant tale, a school principal found himself facing a heart-wrenching situation when his son, who was pursuing a B.Tech course, abruptly dropped off-grid one day. Much to their dismay,



the son resurfaced as a militant and tragically met his demise soon after picking up a gun. In a state of profound shock, the father took to Facebook to reveal how his beloved child had fallen victim to the exploitative clutches of "vested interests."

"Eisa your innocence is being exploited by some vested interests you are being used as a pawn or a poster boy," his father, Naeem Fazili, wrote on his Facebook page. Unfortunately, Fazili's desperate appeals failed to reach his son, who continued to "play with fire", ultimately leading to his tragic demise.

Eisa Fazili's prospects for the future were tragically sacrificed on the altar of the Kashmir conflict, where vested interests fuelled extremism and lured countless young individuals into an inescapable cycle of violence. This situation finds resonance in the plight of Abhimanyu, a character from the Mahabharata, who entered the intricate Chakravyuha (a complex and impenetrable formation of defensive walls) but was unable to find a way out.

Mehran, from an early age, developed a keen interest in folklore from different faiths and cultures. I would often read heroic tales from Arabian Nights, Mahabharata, Panchatantra, and other fictional works as his bedtime stories. These stories might have instilled in him a sense of heroism and helped shape his formative years.

One particular anecdote from the Mahabharata stood out to Mehran. It recounted the story of Arjuna, the most accomplished student of Dronacharya, who displayed unwavering focus by

shooting the eye of a toy bird perched on a tree with a bow and arrow.

With similar determination, Mehran embarked on his educational journey, attending local schools with the sole aim of studying Physics at an IIT. Eventually, he achieved an exceptional all-India rank of 5891 in the JEE Advanced Test, earning him admission to the prestigious IIT Kharagpur last year.

As a father who valued science, I understood that for Mehran to succeed in life, he needed to dedicate himself to his studies in a focused manner and avoid distractions that could hinder his progress toward a professional career.

Mehran initially attended an all-boys school near our home, where a strong emphasis was placed on learning about Islam. However, I noticed some peculiar behaviours in him, such as his refusal to shake hands with girls and his preference for wearing a skullcap, which I personally disliked.

I often wondered why the school placed such a significant emphasis on religion. Mehran was required to study additional subjects, including Arabic. Despite my trust in the school management, I realized I had made a grave mistake in choosing that school for Mehran. It wasn't because I couldn't answer his questions about topics like the Taliban and ISIS or that they were irrelevant, but rather because these discussions were entirely inappropriate for Mehran at his young age, with potentially far-reaching effects.

Instead of stifling Mehran's curiosity or discouraging his questions, I responded to

him in a reasoned manner, which helped calm him down. I explained that there is an appropriate time to explore such complex topics, just as the Prophet of Islam declared his prophethood when he turned forty.

However, I didn't stop there. The following day, I visited Mehran's school and requested his discharge certificate, determined to find him a new school.

The school administration was perplexed because Mehran was an excellent student loved by his teachers. They couldn't understand why I wanted to remove him from the school. I explained, "I am not comfortable with how you teach religion to young children." After a brief argument, I obtained the discharge certificate.

Mehran's new school wasn't fundamentally different, but being co-ed brought certain advantages, such as the disappearance of the skullcap. I had no issues with the more moderate teaching

professional path and field of study, with a strong desire to secure a place at an IIT due to his early focus on Physics.

As the Covid-19 pandemic swept the world, Mehran had just finished his higher secondary exams. While everything was shutting down, Mehran's self-study journey was just beginning. He saw the pandemic as an opportunity to create his own world with minimal external influences and distractions, dedicating long hours to studying late into the night.

Mehran's perseverance and hard work paid off when he qualified for the JEE MAIN test. He improved his percentile from 99.24 to 99.44, qualifying for the advanced test. A month later, he cracked the JEE Advanced, securing a national rank of 5891 and earning a place at the prestigious IIT Kharagpur.

The environment in which Mehran was raised played a crucial role in his success, although he deserves all the



of Islam at this school. Mehran found the new school more interesting because it supported and encouraged music programs, art, and painting.

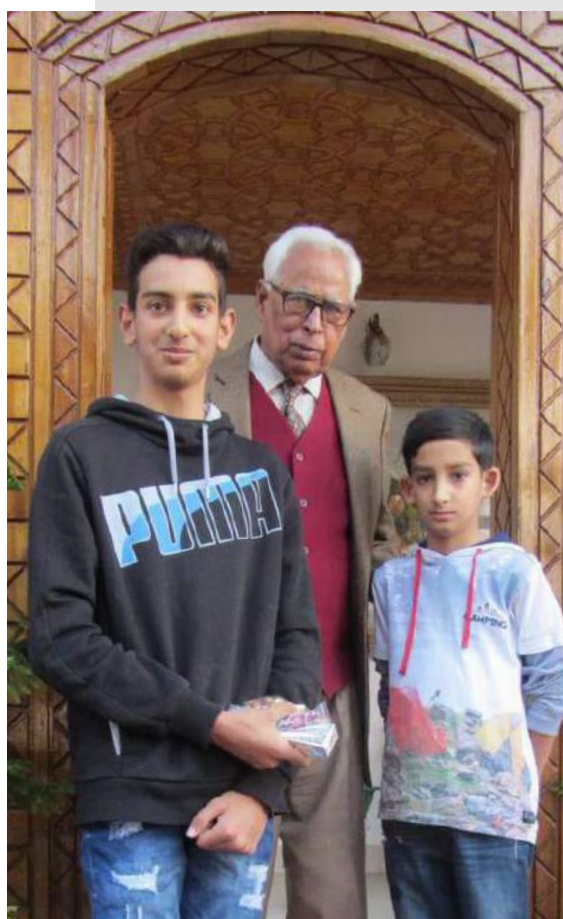
One day, Mehran expressed his desire for a guitar. As a father who had also wanted one during his own childhood but couldn't have it, I immediately decided to buy him one. He quickly learned how to play the instrument using online tutorials and discovered that it was a wonderful stress reliever, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic when the world was in lockdown.

By the time Mehran completed his grade-10 board examination, he had transformed into a tall and happy young man ready to face life's challenges head-on. He had already made up his mind about his

credit for his unwavering perseverance and hard work. Believing in internalizing discipline rather than imposing it, I granted Mehran a great deal of freedom without rigid supervision, and he thankfully embraced it without misusing it.

Knowing countless IIT Kharagpur alumni have achieved remarkable success in their journeys, Mehran is poised to follow in the footsteps of Neil Armstrong. While I celebrate his accomplishment, a deep, lingering pain cuts through me like a knife, knowing that precious lives like his were wasted for nothing.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer.



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

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

Brett Farmiloe | Fast Company

EMBRACE PORTFOLIO CAREER ADVANTAGES

I'm a Gen Xer, but for most of my career, I moved jobs every 18 months. I call it a "portfolio career," working a variety of roles and industries.

My father's generation thought this was crazy—he had stayed in his Defense Department job for 30 years—but they also moved him to a new challenge every two years. Most companies now make you do the work of managing your career advancement.

I found that jumping around the corporate world was the best way to keep learning and growing, the fastest way to get promoted, and the only way to get a salary bump. So I jumped to get bumped. What kept me happy was an empowering boss, a collaborative team, and challenging projects.

Millennials average 2.75 years in a job. As a sustainability career coach and ESG recruiter, I like to see at least three years on the resume. This is because it can take a year to get settled, a year to build your internal reputation and influence, and a year to create a measurable impact.

Shannon Houde, MBA, PCC, Career and leadership coach, Walk of Life Consulting, Ltd.

CONSIDER NEEDS AND COMPENSATION

A person should stay in a job for as long as the job and the company meet their needs. A person should not stay just for the sake of tenure. I loathe the phrase job hopper. This assumes every organization is perfect and the onus falls on the employees only.

In reality, not every job and every employee is going to be a perfect match. Companies have flaws in the same way that people do. Life is too short for someone to stay in a position they are miserable in.

Compensation also has to be taken into consideration here. The fact is that employees earn more over the course of their careers by changing jobs and companies. The average pay increases given today barely cover inflation, let alone allow for someone to build a nest egg. People have to take care of themselves and their families, and no one should feel guilty for doing so.

For someone considering a move, they should weigh the pros and cons. Make a list or talk it out with someone they trust.

Christie Engler, Director of people and culture, Willory

PRIORITIZE WORK-LIFE BALANCE

I have been at my current job for over three years. I have stayed at this job because the company is the best place I have worked when it comes to work-life balance and ca-



reer growth. This company has no issues allowing employees to take days off, has a schedule that fits around important family situations, and allows for flexible start and end times so employees work when they are most productive.

Your work should allow you to live life, spend time with your family, and maintain a healthy work-life balance.

There may be jobs that pay more than others, but sometimes the paycheck is not all that will make you happy. Take into consideration the employer's policies on vacation time, the flexibility of your schedule, and how easy it is to have work-life balance.

In the long run, having the time to spend with family and friends will become more important than ever.

Liz Hogan, Digital partnerships CPRW, Find My Profession

SELF-EVALUATE AND PLAN

This question isn't answered that easily. It should not be a minimum or maximum amount of time. But a good barometer is to ask yourself the following questions (in any order, as everyone's priorities are different!) and decide how long you are willing to put up with the status quo.

First, am I growing at the company and am I learning something new? Second, are there internal opportunities or opportunities to work on exciting projects or initiatives? Third, does my manager support my

career development, or does s/he coach, teach or invest in my growth? Fourth, does the company's culture and mission align with my values? Fifth, is the financial reward I am getting for my worth still worth it, or could I increase my compensation by moving?

After you've asked yourself these questions, you can create a plan to a) stay at your company but ask for more growth b) have an exit plan on finding a better opportunity, and your own timing on leaving your current employer.

Magda Cheang, Founder and CEO, MC Coaching

STAY AT LEAST TWO YEARS

The days of having to stay at a company for life are long gone, but at the same time, job hopping is a surefire way to have your resume thrown to the side.

There seems to be a magic number that talent acquisition and recruiters agree is the acceptable length of time to stay at a job. That length is no less than two years. It seems two years is long enough to make you seem dedicated and not flighty, and it is long enough to truly learn a business unit and gain some experience that will be transferable to other companies.

Suzanne Ricci, Chief success officer, Computer Coach Training Center

SEEK OPPORTUNITIES AND BE TRANSPARENT

I have been at my current job for a little over a year now, and during this time, I have had the pleasure of working with an incredible team, experiencing a strong company culture, and engaging in meaningful work aligned with my values.

However, I came to realize that there was a lack of growth opportunities available at this company. While tenure within an organization holds its significance, finding an environment where one can truly thrive is equally, if not more, important.

I recently accepted a new position that not only offers professional growth but also serves as a promotional opportunity for me. I believe in open and transparent communication with your manager. When the time comes to move on, it is important to have an honest conversation about your aspirations and work together to develop a plan, whether it involves growth within the same organization or exploring opportunities outside.

It is important to take an active role in creating the career you want. Be intentional.

Brittney Simpson, HR director, CallRevu

EVALUATE GROWTH AND SATISFACTION

When considering how long to stay at a job, several factors come into play.

Firstly, it's important to evaluate your

personal and professional growth within the role. If you're continuously learning, developing new skills, and advancing in your career, it may be beneficial to stay longer. Additionally, consider the alignment between your values, goals, and the company's culture and mission. A positive work environment and shared values can contribute to job satisfaction.

However, it's also essential to assess if you're feeling stagnant, unchallenged, or unfulfilled in your current position. If there's limited room for growth, a lack of opportunities, or you're no longer motivated, it might be worth exploring new opportunities.

Ultimately, there isn't a specific timeframe that applies universally. It's a personal decision based on individual circumstances. It's advisable to periodically reassess your situation, set career goals, and evaluate if your current job aligns with those goals.

Sai Blackbyrn, CEO, Coach Foundation

USE THE FOUR FS FRAMEWORK

I have stayed at one job for 14 years and another for 14 months. Wherever I've worked, I evaluated whether I should stay or leave based on these four Fs: Fit, Function, Finance, and Forward.

Fit is how well you align with the organization's culture, mission, and vision. Function is about how much you enjoy the work you do each day. Finance is how much you are compensated, and Forward is how strongly your path within that organization sets you up for learning new skills and advancing within the company.

I know from my experience and my clients that when one of the Fs is off, it's not a dealbreaker. But when two or more Fs aren't aligning for you, it's an excellent opportunity to question why you are staying at that job and whether or not it's time to make a change.

John Neral, Owner, John Neral Coaching, LLC

CONSIDER A THREE- TO FIVE-YEAR TENURE

A mentor told me early on in my career to stay in a position for a minimum of three years, but not more than five if I haven't gotten a raise.

I've seen firsthand that there is a bias against people who job hop. If you don't stay where you are for three years, it might prevent you from getting your dream job because you are thought to lack stickability and loyalty. If you have been in a role for five years and have not gotten a raise, you should probably start job hunting because the company is overlooking your contributions rather than rewarding you for them.

Heather Eason, Founder, president, and CEO, SELECT Power Systems

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: HDFC Bank Parivartan's ECSS Programme 2023-24

Description: HDFC Bank invites applications from students studying in Class 1 to postgraduation level. The scholarship supports meritorious and needy students belonging to underprivileged sections of society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The students must be studying in Class 1 to 12, diploma, ITI, polytechnic, undergraduate or postgraduate (including general and professional) courses. The applicants must have passed their previous qualifying examination with at least 55% marks and their annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 2.5 Lakh. Preference will be given to those applicants who are facing personal or family crises that have occurred during the past three years due to which they are unable to continue bearing the cost of education and are at risk of dropping out.

- Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 75,000
- Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/HDFC44

Scholarship Name 2: Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarship for Women Engineering Students

Description: Rolls-Royce India invites applications from girl students

studying in the 1st/2nd/3rd year of the engineering degree program at AICTE-recognized institutions. The scholarship aims to support deserving students who demonstrate both academic excellence and financial need.

Eligibility: Girl students who are currently studying in the 1st/2nd/3rd year of the engineering degree program (in fields like Aerospace, Marine, Electronics, Computers, etc.) at AICTE-recognized institutions are eligible.

The applicants must have scored more than 60% marks in their Class 10 and 12 board exams.

Annual family income must not exceed INR 4 lakh per annum.

Please Note: Preference will be given to individuals belonging to special categories such as those with physical disabilities, single parents, and orphans.

Female scholars who have previously received the 'Rolls-Royce Unnati Scholarship for Women Engineering Students' in 2022 and are currently in their 4th year of engineering degree can also apply.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 35,000
Exclusive one-to-one and one-to-many mentorship sessions, webinars/workshops from industry experts at Rolls-Royce India

- Last Date to Apply: 31-08-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/UN55

Scholarship Name 3: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship and Mentorship Programme for Sportsperson and Individuals

Description: Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program aims to provide foundational support to individuals, who are deserving & meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams.

Eligibility: For individuals helping others, the applicants must be graduates and involved in activities like teaching a group of underprivileged children or providing sports training to them.

For sportspersons, applicants must have represented the state/country at the state/national/international level in the last 2/3 years. They must be ranked within 500 in the national ranking/ within 100 in the state ranking. They must be aged between 9 and 20 years. The annual family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

- Prizes & Rewards: Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of INR 75,000 per year for up to 3 years
- Last Date to Apply: 30-08-2023
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSS12

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of The Child Development Project Officer, Qazigund

NOTICE

Subject: Tentative selection List of candidates applied for the Post of Sahikyas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project QAZIGUND.

Reference: 1. Government order No 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated:30.11.2022
Reference 2. Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated: 28.04.2023
Reference 3. MD Poshan Communication NO:- MD/Poshan/Estt/13269-80 Dated:- 08.05.2023
Reference 4. DPO Poshan Anantnag's Communication NO:- DPO/Poshan/Ang/2023-24/370- 379 Dated:- 10.05.2023.
Reference 5. CDPO Qazigund's Advertisement No: 01- of 2023 dated:16-05-2023.

Apropos the captioned subject and references and consequent upon the approval granted by Committee constituted for Selection of Sahikyas (Anganwadi Helpers) , the tentative selection List of the candidates is prepared and attached at Annexure "A".
The tentative selection list is forwarded to Information Department for favour of Publishing in at least two leading dailies and to the District Informatics Officer for hosting on the District Official Website (www.anantnag.nic.in).

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
POSHAN Qazigund

NO:- CDPO/Poshan/Qzd/2023/1482-87
DIPK-5186/23 Dated:- 15.07.2023

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN QAZIGUND.								
TENTATIVE SELECTION LIST OF THE CANDIDATES APPLIED FOR OF THE POST OF SAHAYIKAS (Anganwadi HELPER) IN RESPONSE TO ADV.NOTICE NO:- 01 OF 2023 DATED:- 16.05.2023 OF CDPO POSHAN QAZIGUND.								
S. No	Name of the AWC/Panch ward NO	Name of the Candidate	Parentage/W/O	Residence	Qualification	Board	Married/ Unmarried	Addl 02 Points as per HR Policy
1	Wanpora-C Ward NO:- 05 Zarger Mohallah	Insha Afroze	D/O Ab Rashid Sheikh	Wanpora	Matric	SBOSE	Unmarried	
2	Furrah-D Ward NO:- 02 Hajam Mohallah	Qudseema Jan	D/O Gh Nabi Hajam	Furrah	10+2	SBOSE	Unmarried	
3	Kharpati Ward NO:- 02	Shabeena Akhter	W/o Mohammad Ashraf Dakad	Kharpati	8th Pass	DIET Anantnag	Married	

Objections if any shall reach to the office of Child Development Project Officer Poshan Qazigund within 10 days from the date of publication of this list.

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
POSHAN Qazigund



Modi Urges French Industry Leaders To Look At Investment Opportunities In India

Press Trust Of India

PARIS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged French industry leaders to look at investment opportunities in infrastructure and other segments of the economy and become part of the Indian growth story.

Addressing the India-France CEO forum along with French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday, Modi highlighted the ongoing economic reforms and the initiatives taken by his government in renewables, startups, pharma, IT, digital payments and infrastructure to foster business.

The Forum consisted of 16 CEOs from the French side and 24 from the Indian side from diverse sectors, including aviation, manufacturing, defence, technology, and energy, among others.

"Prime Minister encouraged the CEOs to utilise the investment opportunities in India and be a part of India's growth story", India's Ministry of External Affairs said in a release.

Guillaume Faury, Airbus; Henri Poupard Lafarge, Alstom; Peter Herweck, Schneider Electric; Namita Shah, Total Ener-

gies; Philippe Errera, Safran; and Paul Hermelin, Capgemini were among the prominent French business leaders who attended the forum.

Hari S Bhartia, Jubilant Life Sciences Limited; Lakshmi Mittal, Arcelor Mittal; Tarun Mehta, Ather Energy; and Amit B Kalyani, Bharat Forge were among the business leaders on the Indian side.

The prime minister acknowledged the role played by these industry leaders in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting economic cooperation between India and France.

He highlighted India's progress in renewables, startups, pharma, IT, digital payments and infrastructure and the various initiatives undertaken to foster business, the release said.

The Indian government during the last nine years of the NDA rule led by Prime Minister Modi has taken several initiatives to improve ease of doing business. These include relaxing FDI norms, encouraging manufacturing through Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme and reducing corporate tax.

Tomato Prices Ruling Up To Rs 250/Kg

Centre Selling At Rs 90/kg in Delhi-NCR, Patna, Lucknow



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prices of tomato in retail markets on Saturday remained at an elevated level of up to Rs 250 per kilogram across major cities due to monsoon rains and lean season.

The all-India average price stood at nearly Rs 117 per kg, according to government data.

To provide relief to retail consumers, the Centre is selling tomato at a discounted Rs 90 per kg in select cities like Delhi-NCR, Patna and Lucknow.

National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing

Federation of India (NAFED) are selling tomato on behalf of the Centre through mobile vans.

"In addition to various parts of Delhi and Noida, sale of tomatoes at discounted rates started today at Lucknow, Patna and Muzaffarpur," Union Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh tweeted.

From Sunday onwards, NCCF plans to sell tomatoes through 100-odd Kendriya Bhandar outlets in the national capital. It is in talks with Mother Dairy to sell tomatoes through their 400 Safal retail outlets in Delhi-NCR.

As per the data compiled by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the average all-India

retail price of tomatoes was ruling at Rs 116.86 per kg on Saturday, while the maximum rate was Rs 250 per kg and the minimum was Rs 25 per kg. Modal price of tomatoes is Rs 100 per kg.

Among metros, tomatoes were ruling at Rs 178 per kg in Delhi, followed by Rs 150 per kg in Mumbai, and Rs 132 per kg in Chennai.

The maximum price of Rs 250 per kg was in Hapur.

Tomato prices normally shoot up during July-August and October-November periods, which are generally lean production months.

Supply disruption caused due to monsoon has led to a sharp rise in the rates.

PM Meets Chanel CEO Nair; Discusses Ways To Enhance Skill Development Among Artisans



Press Trust Of India

PARIS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met Leena Nair, the Global CEO of French luxury fashion house, Chanel and discussed with her ways to enhance skill development among artisans in India and to make Khadi more popular.

Modi was here to attend the Bastille Day parade as the Guest of Honour at the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

"Met the Global CEO of @CHANEL, Mrs. Leena Nair. It's always a delight to meet a person of Indian origin who has made a mark at the world stage. We had a great conversation about ways to further boost skill development among artisans and to make Khadi more popular," the prime minister tweeted.

The Prime Minister congratulated Nair for her success and invited Chanel to explore investment opportunities and collaboration potential in India,

the Ministry of External Affairs said in a press release.

The discussions focused on ways to promote handicrafts, khadi and skill development of artisans in India, it said.

After her meeting, Nair said the prime minister was very keen to support other women and girls in businesses.

"The Prime Minister is really interested in ensuring that India is an investment hub for everyone," she said.

The Modi government has taken several steps to boost the sale of Khadi products.

He also met aerospace engineer and Astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

"When it comes to motivating youngsters towards science and space, Thomas Pesquet's name figures prominently. It was a delight to meet him and exchange views on a wide range of subjects. His energy and insights are very valuable."

@Thom_astro," the prime minister tweeted.

IIT-Jammu's Invention Factory Concludes, Students Come Up With 10 Innovative Products

Press Trust Of India

JAGTI: A shoe rack that can remove odour, a dry bath for dogs and vibration dampening gloves were among 10 products IIT-Jammu students made in six weeks as part of programme to promote innovation.

Called the Invention Factory, organisers said the programme conducted by IIT-Jammu and the Maker Bhavan Foundation (MBF) embodies the concept of transforming ideas into tangible products through a factory-like approach.

The initiative not only promotes innovation but also nurtures a generation of young minds who will contribute to India's growth in patents and publications, they said.

"The Invention Factory embodies the concept of transforming ideas into tangible products through a factory-like approach. This concept has proven to be fascinating. Within a short span of six weeks, we have produced 10 remarkable inventions", Head of the Invention Factory at IIT Jammu, Prof Rakesh Singhai, told PTI.

He said that at the culmination of this programme, "we have successfully created 10 products, all designed to serve society".

A 'Valved Asthma Inhaler' made by students Arvind and Mohammed Aslam was adjudged the best.

"Traditional asthma inhalers are highly inefficient. Therefore, we have invented a new asthma inhaler with a simple attachment that significantly enhances its efficiency. This convenient and affordable solution surpasses the limitations of older models," Aslam said. The product won them a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

Products 'Vibration Dampening Gloves' and 'Operated Boil-Over Inhibitor' were adjudged second and third with cash prizes of Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000, respectively.

"Our invention comprises a specially designed pair of gloves with an integrated mass connected system. It is engineered to provide prolonged relief from vibrations while using motorcycles and similar objects," said Aditya Singh, who won the award with team member Nivedita.

He said this innovation not only ensures a secure grip but also significantly reduces vibrations.

In third place were students Rishika and Sanskar with their 'Operated Boil-Over Inhibitor' invention.

The 'Breathable Cast Maker', the 'Flexi-Safe Earwax Remover' and the 'Dry Bath for Dogs' got iCreate special mentions. These have the potential for further development and refinement, according to officials.

The 'Odor Eliminating Shoe Rack', the 'Cranked Adjustable Vegetable Chopper', the 'Cabinet Shelf Pulley Mechanism' and the Automatic Eyeglass Cleaner also impressed judges.

"I have made automatic odour eliminating shoe rack which will eliminate odour when shoes are placed in it. It is based on sensors to deodorise shoes," said Diksha, who worked along with Ashutosh, on the product.

Judges included Director, IIT Jammu, Manoj Gaur, Founder of MBF Hemant Kanakia and Dr. Shadab Lalit Angurana from AIIMS-Jammu) as well as industry professionals and IITians.

Gaur said, "This achievement will foster an invention ecosystem in the country."

India's Forex Reserves Rise USD 1.23 Billion To USD 596.28 billion

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's foreign exchange reserves jumped USD 1.229 billion to USD 596.28 billion in the week ended July 7, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall forex reserves increased USD 1.85 billion to USD 595.05 billion.

In October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended July 7, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 989 million to USD 528.968 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up USD 228 million to USD 44.06 billion, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down USD 4 million to USD 18.235 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF was up USD 15 million to USD 5.017 billion in the reporting week, as per the RBI data.

Shah, Scindia Discuss Capacity Expansion At Airports

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Home Minister Amit Shah and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia along with officials from various departments on Saturday discussed the plans for enhancing capacity as well as manpower at certain airports.

The government has been taking various measures to boost infrastructure and manpower at airports, including at Delhi airport, amid rising domestic air passenger traffic.

"Met Union Minister of Home Affairs & Cooperation Shri @AmitShah Ji, along with AAI, CISF, BCAS & Immigration officials to review the plan for capacity and manpower expansion at certain airports," Scindia said in a tweet.

He also said, "we are committed to ensuring smooth processing of air passengers in the upcoming peak travel season."

Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal, officials from Airports Authority of India (AAI), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) also attended the meeting.

Domestic air passenger traffic grew nearly 19 per cent to around 1.25 crore in June compared to the year-ago period

Kia Gets 'Record' 13,424 First-Day Bookings For New Seltos

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Kia India on Saturday said it has received a record 13,424 bookings for the updated version of Seltos on the first day of commencing the bookings.

Out of these, 1,973 bookings were done using the K-Code which was a special programme to expand the Seltos community by giving existing Seltos owners special access to unlock high-priority delivery for new potential buyers, the automaker said in a statement.

"We are confident that the new Seltos will reinvent and grow the mid-SUV segment further. Whether its design language, segment-first, and segment-best features, Seltos continues to set newer benchmarks for the industry," Kia India Managing Director and CEO Tae-jin Park said.

Building upon the tremendous success of the K-Code initiative, the automaker is actively exploring the possibility of extending this programme to future launches as well, he added.



More Than 500 Crew Members To Join Air India In Each Of Coming Months: CEO

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- More than 500 crew members will be joining Air India in each of the coming months and the airline will be rolling out the new crew rostering project soon, according to its chief Campbell Wilson.

In his weekly message to employees on Friday, he said the crew rostering project is about to start rolling out in the earnest.

"As the system settles in, crew should see earlier roster publication, more stable rosters, better integrity of 'golden offs' and better standby provisioning to reduce last-minute call-ups.

"Also, when averaged over a few months, there will also be more equitable earnings," he said.

Air India has embarked on an ambitious transformation plan under the ownership of the Tata Group.

"Additionally, with more than 500 new crew being released into service in each of the coming months, we will be able to reinstate full crew complements and accelerate training," Wilson said.

Air India's MD and CEO also said the project will be a complete transformation of the way the airline rosters its crew and brings aboard the very latest technology and capabilities available in the market.

Exciting Lineup Awaits At JKEDI's Startup Leadership Summit 2023: Director JKEDI

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated Startup Leadership Summit 2023, set to take place on July 17th and 18th at JKEDI's premises in Sempora, Pampore.

The summit aims to showcase the entrepreneurial talent of the region and promote the growth and development of startups in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event will provide a unique opportunity for visitors to explore a wide range of innovative products created by local entrepreneurs. From traditional craftsmanship to modern technology-driven solutions, attendees can expect to witness the ingenuity and creativity of Jammu and Kashmir's startup ecosystem.

Among the showcased products, visitors can explore the innovative models/prototypes from local innovators and captivate world of New Kashmir Embroideries, Shabs Bakery and Confectionery, Harud Fab-

rics, Women's Republic, Musa Krafts, Kashier Koer by Farah, Mountain Soap Company, United Floritech, Kashur Kraft, Shaksaz Ltd Company, Valley Apiaries, Devri Stones, Hyacinth Food Products, Al Karim Souq, Khen Khoardan, and many more.

In addition to the product displays and sales, the Startup Leadership Summit 2023 will feature captivating cultural programs.

The summit aims to foster collaboration, networking, and knowledge sharing among entrepreneurs, investors, industry experts, and the public. It serves as a platform for budding startups to gain visibility, connect with potential customers and investors, and learn from experienced professionals in the field.

JKEDI invites all interested entrepreneurs, investors, and supporters of the startup community to register on our website-www.jkedi.org and join the Startup Leadership Summit 2023 on July 17th and 18th at JKEDI, Sempora, Pampore.

J&K Stall In TTF-2023 At Kolkata Draws Huge Crowds



Observer News Service

KOLKATA: The J&K stall at the Travel and Tourism Fair(TTF)-2023, Kolkata is drawing huge crowds of travel enthusiasts interested in tourism products and services, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir is offering.

The J&K Tourism department is participating in three day travel fest as feature State/UT.

Among the notables who visited the J&K stall include, West Bengal Tourism & IT Minister, Babul Supriyo and Counsellor, Deputy High Commission for Bangladesh in Kolkata, Riazul Islam. Counsel General of the Kenyan Consulate at Kolkata, Pranay Poddar and Maldives Counsellor in Kolkata, Ram Krishan Jaiswal also visited the J&K stall and praised the natural beauty and scenic spots of Jammu & Kashmir.

Representatives and leaders of travel fraternities of Eastern India including West Bengal besides travel writers and bloggers also visited the stall and exhibited keen interest in the emerging tourism scenario in Jammu & Kashmir.

The three day fair brings together industry leaders, top media professionals and the entire travel industry from the Eastern part of the country particularly West Bengal and beyond. Around 400 exhibitors from the entire country and many foreign exhibitors from Thailand, South Africa are participating in the leading platform to connect, network and do business. Among the exhibitors include tourist organisations, State/UT government tourism departments, tour operators, travel agents, hotels, resorts, adventure tourism operators, airlines, car rentals, railways, coach operators and others.

A large contingent of tour operators and hoteliers from J&K are also attending the fair for which adequate arrangements were made by the J&K Tourism Department.

CEO, Bani Basohli Development Authority, Dr. Des Raj Bhagat; Deputy Director Tourism Kashmir, Ahsanul Haq Chishti; Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, Javed Ahmad and Assistant Director Tourism, Batote, Arif Ahmad Lone are representing the J&K Government at the fair. The officers briefed the visitors about tourism scenario and the availability of new tourist choices and products across J&K, particularly the new 75 destinations and adventure tourism activities launched by the department.

Amarnath Yatra

Over 7,000 Pilgrims Leave For Twin Base Camps From Jammu

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A fresh batch of over 7,000 pilgrims left Jammu city early Saturday for the twin base camps in the Valley to join the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, officials said.

The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the shorter 14-km Baltal route in the Ganderbal -- on July 1.

The officials said the 13th batch of 7,392 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a convoy of 272 vehicles amid tight security.

While 4,024 pilgrims left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 146 vehicles, 3,368 devotees left for Baltal in 126 vehicles around 4 am, they said. With this, a



total of 80,181 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the Valley since June 30.

Pilgrims from across the country undertake the Amarnath Yatra to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine that houses a naturally formed ice shivlingam.

At 24,445, the highest number

of pilgrims offered prayers at the shrine on Friday. So far, over 1.90 lakh devotees have undertaken the yatra. This number is likely to cross the 2-lakh mark by this evening, the officials said. The pilgrims are being provided all the facilities by the departments concerned round the clock, they said.

1000-yr-old Tripura archaeological site, 2 others beckoning tourists

Agartala: Pilak, an over 1000-year-old archaeological site in Tripura, is set to woo more travellers as the state government has initiated steps to develop it as a historical tourism circuit with two other places.

The place, nestled in Jolaibari, about 100 km from here, formed part of a chain of Hindu-Buddhist sites on the tri-junction of East Bengal (now Bangladesh), Tripura and Arakkan (Myanmar) region.

"It is a famous tourist spot in Tripura's South District which is visited by people from different parts of the country. We have created an archaeological tourist circuit, including Chhabimura and Udaipur in Gomati district and Pilak in South Tripura district. There is a package tour connecting the three sites", T K Das, Director of the state tourism department told PTI.

Approximately, 200 people visit Pilak every day.

The tourism circuit starts from Agartala and links Pilak

with Udaipur, a temple town in the northeastern state where Tripureswari Kali temple, one of the 51 Shaktiplaces is situated. Bhubaneswari Kali temple, which featured in Rabindranath Tagore's novel 'Rajarshi' is also located at Udaipur.

It also covers Chhabimura, famous for its panels of rock carvings on the steep mountain wall on the bank of river Gomati.

Stone engravings of Hindu Gods carved on stone in the Buddhist style, figurines of Shiva, Surya, Baishnabi, Mahishasurardini, and Buddha statue can be found Shyam Sundar Tilla, Deb Bari, Thakurani Tilla, Balir Pathar, and Basudeb Bari at the Pilak site spread over three sq km in the uplands and green valleys of Belonia subdivision.

Research by late Ratna Das, who had authored a book on Pilak, suggest that the place had emerged as a major Hindu-Buddhist site in the eighth century.

Several rock-cut images and terracotta plaques lie

scattered in the area and the Archaeological Survey of India is the custodian of the site.

Executive engineer of the state Tourism department, Uttam Pal, said, the state government has plans to develop the site for Buddhist tourists of South-East Asia and other places.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had taken over the site since 1999.

Pal said, "Since Pilak is declared an Archaeological site, no permanent structure can be built within 150 metres of it, but many facilities have been created for tourists outside the restricted zone. Footfall of visitors is remarkably good. The state government has built a tourist Bungalow at Jolaibari, near the site".

A senior official of the ASI, said, a stupa was excavated at Sundari Tilla under the supervision of ASI Superintendent, P Kumaran.

Explaining its importance, the official said, "This is a full-size

Buddhist stupa built in the 11th century on the pattern of architecture during the reign of Palas of Bengal."

Panna Lal Roy, a writer, and a historian said, Pilak stands as an eloquent symbol of Hindu-Buddhist cultural affinity and the glorious cultural past of the state.

The dominant style of the rock-cut images and the sculptures in Pilak depict the influence of the Palas and Guptas of Bengal, the Arakkans in Myanmar (formerly Burma), and the local style, Roy said.

"Various images of Tantric Buddhist gods and goddesses are also found in the area. Buddha, Chunda (10th c) Avalokitesvara (8th -9th c), Marichi (9th c) made of stone and Tara, Avolokiteswar, Hariti (made of bronze). The style of Pilak sculptures was prevalent in Bengal during the 9th, 10th, and 11th centuries," Dr Biswadip Nandi, a historian, wrote in his book 'Rock-cut and sculptures of Tripura'.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Himalayan Brown

develop the valley into a tourist destination is a welcome step and deserves appreciation. However, intruding into forests and transforming them into tourist places poses a challenge to nature," he added.

Last year, a study conducted by Wildlife SOS, an Indian wildlife conservation organization, revealed that a staggering 75 percent of the Himalayan brown bear's diet in Kashmir consisted of scavenged garbage, including harmful items such as plastic carry bags, milk powder, chocolate wrappers, and biryani.

The study shed light on the significant challenges faced by the Himalayan brown bear population, primarily due to habitat destruction caused by human activities such as encroachment, tourism, and grazing pressure. With limited information available about this species, researchers estimate that only 500-750 bears remain in India, underscoring the urgent need for their conservation.

The survey conducted in critical bear habitats and prime tourist destinations, including Thajiwas Wildlife Sanctuary, Sonamarg, Laxpathri, and Sarbal villages, provided valuable insights into the decline of the bear population. Sonamarg, known for its role as a bear habitat, was particularly significant.

"The brown bear's diet includes mammals, berries, fruits, insects, alpine bulbs, plant roots, grass shoots, domestic goats, sheep, and voles. However, at times they consume polythene, chocolate wrappers thrown by people, when they find nothing to eat. This mostly happens in winters," Baba said.

In North Kashmir, he said, brown bears are found in Gulmarg, Rajwar forests and Delina hamlet of Baramulla district, while a good number of them are also found in some areas of Bandipora district.

"Their population is intact, yet the number fluctuates as per location, which happens as a result of deportation. We have captured many brown bears in the Handwara belt," the wildlife department officer said.

These nocturnal creatures heavily rely on their acute sense of smell to find food. Weighing over 250 kilograms, the Himalayan brown bear is the largest animal found in the Kashmir region. They primarily inhabit altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 2,500 meters above the tree line.

While brown bears have established habitats in various parts of the subcontinent, including Pakistan, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir, their presence has increasingly come into contact with humans as they venture into lower altitudes in search of food. The encroachment of human settlements into their habitats has played a significant role in the rising number of encounters.

Conservationists in Kashmir have observed a growing frequency of brown bear sightings in their natural habitats, including Sonamarg, Drass, Kupwara, Pahalgam, the Pir-Panjial range, and Gurez in the Bandipora district. This rise in sightings can be attributed to the encroachment of human activities into the bear's habitat.

The incidents of human-animal conflicts, Baba said, take place due to human interference as humans at times intrude into their habitation, resulting in encounters between the two sides.

"Otherwise, brown bears don't unnecessarily attack anyone," he added.

Improper disposal of kitchen waste by both residents and nearby hoteliers has worsened the situation, as the bears easily find food and frequently come into contact with humans. The availability of easy food sources has altered the behavior of the brown bears, delaying their hibernation and reducing their inclination to hunt for food.

Given that the global population of Himalayan brown bears is estimated to be less than 1,000, with potentially only half that number in India, urgent conservation measures are essential. These bears are listed as "critically endangered" on the IUCN Red List.

A study conducted in the western Himalayas predicts a significant decline of approximately 73 percent in the bear's habitat by 2050, highlighting the urgent need for preemptive spatial planning and habitat protection to ensure the long-term survival of the species.

The increasing incidents of conflict between humans and Himalayan brown bears in

Kashmir further emphasize the findings of this study. Immediate action is required to address the root causes of habitat destruction, promote responsible waste management practices, and raise awareness about the importance of coexistence with these magnificent creatures.

"There are many reasons for human-animal conflict. Landscape changes, population explosion, land use change and many other connected, inter-connected issues," Regional Wildlife Warden Rashid Naqash told Kashmir Observer.

Woman Injured

of medical sciences (SKIMS) Soura for advanced treatment. Her condition, according to a local news agency Kashmir Scroll, is said to be critical.

Meanwhile, the villagers have requested the Wildlife department to take steps to capture the wild animal who has strayed into their habitation for the safety of people and their property.

Two Girls

was immediately launched, culminating in the recovery of the bodies of Monika Devi and Radha Devi -- both students of Class 6 -- and the rescue of two others, the officer said.

Singh said one of the rescued girls, Archana Devi, also a student of Class 6, was referred to the sub-district hospital in Billawar for treatment.

In a tweet, Union Minister Jitendra Singh expressed condolences to the bereaved families.

"Just now spoken to DC Kathua, Rakesh Minhas, after receiving the report about the unfortunate incident My office is coordinating with the administration for all possible assistance. Meanwhile, parents, in general, are advised not to let their children venture out during inclement weather," he said.

In another incident, a police officer said two people were trapped following a flash flood in a stream near Samroli in Udhampur district but were rescued by a joint team of police, Army, State Disaster Response Force and the Central Reserve Police Force.

In the border district of Poonch, heavy rain led to waterlogging in the Mendhar market, causing hardships to the people, especially shopkeepers.

The water entered many shops and also affected movement of traffic

India, UAE Sign

HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. His energy and vision for development are admirable. We discussed the full range of India-UAE ties including ways to boost cultural and economic ties," Modi said on Twitter after the meeting.

The agreement with the UAE on trade settlement in the currencies of the two countries will boost bilateral trade and investments.

Modi said he always got the love of a brother from Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"The manner in which ties between our countries have expanded, you have made a big contribution to that. Every person in India views you as a true friend," he told the UAE President.

Talking about the MoUs between the central banks of the two countries, Modi said, "This is a very important aspect of India-UAE cooperation. It paves the way for enhanced economic collaboration and will make international financial interactions simpler."

Modi also noted that preparations for COP-28 to be held in the UAE are going on under the UAE President's leadership, and added that he has made up his mind to participate in the conference later this year.

According to an official statement, the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bank of the UAE signed two MoUs for -- establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz. the Indian rupee (INR) and the UAE Dirham (AED) for cross-border transactions; and for cooperation for interlinking their payment and messaging systems.

The MoUs were signed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and UAE Central Bank Governor Khaled Mohamed Balama, in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and Mohamed Bin Zayed.

The MoU on establishing a framework for the use of local currencies for transactions between India and UAE, aims to put in place a Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS) to promote the use of INR and AED bilaterally.

The MoU covers all current account transactions and permitted capital account transactions, the statement issued by the RBI said.

Creation of the LCSS would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of an INR-AED foreign exchange market, it said and added that his arrangement would also promote investments and remittances between the two countries.

The use of local currencies would optimise transaction costs and settlement time for transactions, including for remittances from Indians residing in UAE, the statement said.

Under the MOU on 'Payments and Messaging Systems', the two central banks agreed to cooperate on -- linking their Fast Payment Systems (FPSs) -- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India with the Instant Payment Platform (IPP) of UAE and linking the respective Card Switches (RuPay switch and UAESWITCH).

They also agreed to cooperate on exploring the linking of payments messaging systems i.e., Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) of India with the messaging system in the UAE.

The Union Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi's Education and Knowledge Department (ADEK) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up an IIT Delhi campus in the Gulf country.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi is the second IIT to announce setting up an off-shore campus after IIT Madras. Last week, IIT Madras signed an MoU for setting up a campus in Tanzania's Zanzibar.

Earlier, Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome here at the Qasr-Al-Watan - the presidential palace - where he was greeted by the UAE President with a warm embrace. Children were seen waving the Indian tricolour as the Prime Minister inspected the guard of honour.

India and the UAE are engaged across various sectors such as trade, investments, energy, food security, science and technology, education, fintech, defence, security, and robust people-to-people ties.

Kashmiri Carpet

"We have seen the downfall of Kashmiri carpets in past decades but steps like these will give a boost to the carpet industry," Sofi told PTI.

"If things like these happen at international level, obviously it will encourage the weavers. It was a royal Taj designed carpet which the PM gifted. It is a very famous design and only master artisans of silk carpets in Kashmir can make this design," he added.

Mohd Rafiq, a master artisan, said he was thankful to the Prime Minister for promoting the Kashmiri carpet at global level.

"Many people in different countries don't know about the Kashmiri carpet but with Modiji gifting such carpet, they get to know about our products," Rafiq said.

He said it takes crores of rupees to build a brand but the Prime Minister's little gesture at such a big stage will give the industry a fillip worth that money.

Director Handicraft Mahmood Shah said the Prime Minister has always promoted Kashmir handicrafts through his attire.

"You have seen him donning shawl and Kani specimens. During his last visit to Sweden, he gifted a GI-certified shawl in a papier mache box to the President of Sweden. In his recent visit to the US too, he gifted papier mache boxes. And this time he gifted the silk carpet from Kashmir."

"It is a welcome step and great encouragement for our artisans. This gives us a kind of international visibility and helps us not only promote the craft but also the craftsmen," Shah said.

No Outsider

and Handwara in North Kashmir. An official spokesperson termed the opening of cinema halls as yet another historic first after abrogation of Article 370.

"Cronyism, unethical nexus which had thrived in J&K for 70 years are being dismantled systematically. It has triggered panic among certain influential people and many having vested interests are trying to disrupt J&K growth but stringent action against corrupts will continue," the LG said.

"Society should stand united with the government against those who have misguided

our youth for decades," he added.

Sinha said land to landless and a pakka house under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) will unleash the full potential of thousands of families and will meet their basic needs.

"Government wants to see the last person in the queue get a sense of empowerment and I want to assure these families that a promising future awaits you," he added.

Reiterating the commitment of the J&K administration to work for socio-economic empowerment of all, the LG said that the marginalized section of society have first right on government's resources.

"Vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas has brought transformation in the lives of underprivileged. We are working on holistic and scalable strategy to harness tremendous creative power of a large population," he added.

Paying tributes to the Lion of Baramulla, Maqbool Sherwani, the LG called upon all the sections of society to make their significant contribution in the next 25 year journey of new and aspirational J&K towards viksit Jammu Kashmir

Earlier, The LG congratulated the people of Baramulla and Handwara on the momentous occasion of opening of the cinemas. He said the movie theatres are a reflection of the growing aspiration of J&K.

The Cinema has returned to Baramulla after more than three decades. Last year, LG had revived the cinema culture by inaugurating cinema halls in Shopian and Pulwama. Another private Multiplex had also come up in Srinagar in 2022. The Lt Governor has pledged to set up a cinema hall in every district to provide the big-screen experience to the people.

The new Multipurpose cinema halls under Public-Private Partnership are aimed at providing recreational facilities to the people, reviving vibrant cinema culture, space for the young generation to rejuvenate, discuss, and deliberate through seminars. The facilities at both the locations will also house a cafe, VR, conference and seminar facilities for youth.

Sinha also inaugurated various development projects for the district.

He commended the efforts of the District Administration, members of PRIs and civil society for taking Baramulla ahead on the path of peace and development.

"Baramulla is now moving towards becoming an Inspirational District from Aspirational District. The district has made impressive strides to socio-economic development in the last few years," the LG added.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council, Baramulla lauded the continuous efforts of the LG led UT administration for the welfare and empowerment of the youth of the J&K through initiatives like Mission Youth.

Rahul Nehra, Director Jadooz Media informed that the blockbuster Bollywood 'Pathaan' will be showcased at the newly inaugurated cinemas.

The other projects worth Rs 4 crore inaugurated by LG at Baramulla includes nine roomed three storey building at HSS Kunzer; auditorium at HSS Sultanpora; water supply schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission at Achabal Doabagh, Vadderabad, Panzalla, and WSS Dolipora Fresthar.

NC, PDP Misleading

alleged attempts to settle outsiders in Jammu and Kashmir under the garb of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The National Conference has sought the exclusion of people who arrived in the Union Territory after August 5, 2019, from the scheme.

The Centre stripped the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories on August 5, 2019.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on July 3 said his administration has started providing plots measuring 150 square yards to landless families for the construction of homes under PMAY.

"The Rural Development Department has identified 1.83 lakh families who do not have their own homes. We are working on it. It is a step that will not only provide a home for them but transform their lives," Sinha had said, adding that plots have already been allotted to 2,711 landless families across the Union Territory.

BJP leader Gupta said, "National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party leaders have

shamelessly resorted to spreading lies and misinformation, claiming that outsiders are being settled in the Union Territory under the pretext of PMAY."

The former deputy chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state added, "These false narratives have been propagated to instigate the people against the government, creating unnecessary fear and unrest among the population."

Gupta commended the Lt Governor for clarifying that no outsider is being given land under PMAY and asked people to remain vigilant and cautious of such "so-called representatives who are willing to stoop to any level to serve their vested political interests".

He also expressed confidence in the transparency and integrity of the government's initiatives and urged the people to reject the "false narratives" being propagated by certain political factions.

ATC Faces Probe

after the charge of Assistant Transport Commissioner Kashmir.

"On consideration of the matter in the General Administrative Department, it has been observed that serious charges of corruption and official misconduct are being investigated by the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) against Mubashir Jan Bhat, the then ARTO Baramulla, presently looking after the charges of Assistant Transport Commissioner (ARTO)," reads the order, copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer.

"On further consideration, the competent authority has directed that the officer shall, immediately, be shifted from his present place of posting and attachment in the office of Div Com Kashmir, besides a departmental enquiry may be initiated against the officer," the order adds.

The order further reads that the department shall initiate a departmental enquiry against the said officer, for which necessary/supporting documents can be obtained from ACB.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Siraj-ud-Din, an RTI activist from Baramulla said the action against the accused officer was taken after he filed an RTI seeking details of disproportionate assets accumulated by him.

"After registration of FIR at ACB, the officer was posted as Assistant Transport Commissioner and that we vehemently objected to the move prompting authorities to issue a separate order of departmental enquiry and attachment of the accused with Div Com office," he added.

Detention Based

to release the (detainee) from the preventive custody forthwith provided he is not required in connection with any other case," the court said.

Meanwhile the court also ordered release of a man from Srinagar, Altaf Ahmad Dar who had challenged the order of detention by District Magistrate Srinagar on December 15, 2021. By virtue of the order, he had been taken into custody in order to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said that perusal of the counter affidavit filed by the authorities reveal that the order of detention was executed somewhere in December, 2021.

"In view of this, the order of detention has outlived its life and it seems that for this reason nobody has been appearing on behalf of the petitioner to pursue this petition", said the court ordered Dar's release from custody "if not already released and if not involved in any other case".

Father, Son Held

Khan and his son Shawair Ahmad, the spokesperson said, tried to flee but were apprehended tactfully by the alert police party.

"They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Uri and investigations have been initiated," he added.

Two Held For

inebriated condition. FIR No 29/2023 U/S 323, 341,506 IPC in Khanyar PS," Srinagar Police tweeted.



Srinagar To Host National Camp For SAFF U-16 C'ship

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The India camp for the SAFF Under-16 Championship will be held in Srinagar from the third week of July, the national football federation announced on Saturday.

This is the first time that the Valley will host a national camp though it has staged Santosh Trophy and I-League games.

The camp will be held under newly-appointed coach Ishaq Ahmed. The SAFF U-16 Championship is slated in Bhutan from September 1-11. "As part of our Vision 2047 to take the game to the newest geographies in India, having first-ever national team coaching camp in Srinagar will surely have a huge impact

on local football in Jammu and Kashmir," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran said in a statement.

"I have no doubt that the youth of the Valley will be further encouraged to be part of football and we can easily expect more talents to emerge from J&K to play at a higher level in India."

The similarities in the weather conditions between Srinagar and Bhutan are also one of the reasons why the camp is being held in the city.

The camp initially will start with 52 probables picked up by a team of experts from the AIFF after extensive scouting in five zones -- East, West, North, West and North-East.

Inter District Cricket Match Held At Bijbehara



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Anantnag hosted a Provincial Level Inter District Cricket Tournament Match on Saturday at Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Bijbehara Anantnag.

The tournament is meant for field officials of Youth Services and Sports Department.

On the opening ceremony of the match, J&K's International Cricketer Parveez Rasool interacted with the players along with DYSSO Anantnag Raja Yaqoob Ali, Principal BHSS Bijbehara Nasreena Akhter and ZPEO Srigrifwara Mohammad Maqbool.

While speaking on the occasion, Parveez Rasool said that it is really an appreciative step by the Department of Youth

Services and Sports to organize cricket tournament for field officials. It will definitely provide an opportunity to the field officials to show case their crickering skills, which in turn will bestow them physical as well mental benefits.

The match was played between District Anantnag and District Pulwama. In the beginning of the match District Pulwama won the toss and elected to bat first. While batting first District Pulwama set the target of 132 runs on the board.

In reply District Anantnag chased down the target on the last ball of the match and won the match by 2 wickets. District Anantnag will face District Shopian in the next match of the tournament on the same ground on Monday.

Ashwin Sets Up Massive Win For India



Press Trust of India

ROSEAU (DOMINICA): The world's top-ranked bowler R Ashwin was too good for an ill-equipped West Indies batting line-up as his second five-wicket haul of the game set up India's innings and 141-run victory in the opening Test here on Friday.

After India declared their first innings at 421 for five midway into the afternoon session, an improved batting show was expected from the Caribbean batters but they were simply not up to the task and collapsed to 130 all out in 50 overs to ensure a three-day finish.

Ashwin followed his 33rd five-wicket haul in the first in-

nings with envious figures of seven for 71 in 21.3 overs, his best in an overseas Test.

The result was a foregone conclusion after the West Indies were bundled out for 150 on the opening day.

India's big win was also set up by Yashasvi Jaiswal who made a sublime 171 on debut. Virat Kohli contributed with 76 off 182 but it was not among his fluent knocks as he had to work extremely hard for his runs and was even dropped twice along the way.

The second and final Test starts in Port of Spain, Trinidad, from July 20. India, who have not lost a Test to West Indies since 2002, will be expected to complete a clean sweep and pick up crucial points in the

World Test Championship.

The writing was on the wall when the West Indies were reduced to 32 for four in their second innings.

With the conditions resembling the slow and dry tracks of India, Rohit Sharma introduced spin as early as the fifth over.

West Indies slipped to 27 for two in 19 overs at tea with Ashwin and Jadeja removing Kraigg Brathwaite (7) and Tagenarine Chanderpaul (7) respectively.

Jadeja trapped Chanderpaul in front with the one that turned from middle stump and DRS showed it was clipping the top of his leg-stump.

Brathwaite had little clue on what the skilful Ashwin was up to as he edged a straighter one to Ajinkya Rahane at first slip.

Now PCB Wants To Host More Than Four Asia Cup Games In Pakistan

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: The PCB will try to get more matches of the Asia Cup to be staged in Pakistan when the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) board meets in Dubai on Sunday.

Following the acceptance of the hybrid model by all stakeholders including the PCB and BCCI, the ACC announced last month that four matches will be held in Pakistan and nine in Sri Lanka with the event to be held from August 31 to September 17. Hybrid model was proposed as BCCI had clearly conveyed that it won't send its team to Pakistan due to the tense relations between the two countries.

However, new PCB cricket committee chief Zaka Ashraf, who was not in charge when the Asia Cup dates were announced, has made his intentions clear to the ACC member board officials who were present in Durban for the ICC meetings earlier this week. Though the full match schedule of the tournament is yet to be made public, Pakistan getting more games is unlikely.

"Pakistan will take the stance at the ACC meeting that with a rainy weather forecast for venues in Sri Lanka which is to host nine games of the



Asia Cup, Pakistan should be allowed to host more than four games at home," said a PCB source.

The ACC is meeting to finalise the schedule for the Asia Cup. The hybrid model proposed by Najam Sethi, the chairman of the dissolved cricket management committee of the PCB, and was accepted by the ACC members including India.

Indications are that the two India-Pakistan matches in the tournament would be held in Dambulla.

The source said that instead of just Lahore, Zaka Ashraf wants more matches so that they can use other venues as well including Multan.

"The authorities in charge have expressed their desire to commence the event with a

match between Pakistan and Nepal in Multan where they expect a bigger crowd compared to Lahore," he added.

They hold the belief that selecting Multan Stadium, which is smaller in size compared to Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, will create a more packed atmosphere for the opening match.

Pakistani officials are hopeful that they will get the opportunity to host more matches.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal will take part in the continental event.

The 2023 edition will feature two groups, with two teams from each group qualifying for the Super Four stage. The top two sides from the Super Four stage will then face off in the final.

Arsenal Sign Rice From West Ham For Record Fee

Agencies

LONDON: Arsenal have signed Declan Rice on a long-term contract from West Ham United, the north London club said on Saturday, with manager Mikel Arteta describing the England international as an "exceptional talent".

Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed but British media reported that the fee for the midfielder was 105 million pounds (\$137.45 million), making it a record transfer between two British clubs. "He is a player with tremendous ability, who has been performing at a high level in the Premier League and for England for a number of seasons now," Arteta said in a statement.

"Declan is bringing undoubted quality to the club and he is

2019, but the fee falls short of the 107 million pounds Chelsea paid to sign Benfica midfielder Enzo Fernandez this year. Rice left West Ham having guided them to the Europa Conference League title and a 14th-placed finish in the Premier League.

He was named the Europa Conference League's player of the season for his role in West Ham's victory, which earned them their first major European trophy in over half a century and first major title since the FA Cup in 1980. "Declan has great experience in the Premier League at only 24 years old," Arteta said.

"He has captained a very good West Ham team and as we all saw, he recently lifted a European trophy. The responsibility and role he has taken on has been very impressive and we are really excited that he is



an exceptional talent who has the potential to be very successful here." The 24-year-old's transfer fee surpasses the 100 million pounds Manchester City paid Aston Villa for England midfielder Jack Grealish in 2021.

Rice also became Arsenal's most expensive signing, eclipsing the 72 million pounds they paid Lille for Nicolas Pepe in

joining us."

Rice began his youth career at Chelsea's academy before moving to West Ham at the age of 14, making his senior debut for the Hammers in 2015. The midfielder, given the captain's armband after Mark Noble's retirement in 2022, played more than 240 games for West Ham, scoring 15 goals.

Unseeded Marketa Vondrousova Wins Wimbledon Title

Agencies

WIMBLEDON: Marketa Vondrousova came to the All England Club a year ago unable to play tennis at all. She had a cast on her surgically repaired left wrist, so her visit was limited to sightseeing around London with her sister and cheering for a friend who was competing at Wimbledon.

This trip was a lot more memorable: She is leaving as a Grand Slam champion.

Vondrousova became the first unseeded woman to win Wimbledon on Saturday, coming back in each set for a 6-4, 6-4 victory over 2022 runner-up Ons Jabeur in the final.

"I don't really know what's happening now. It's an amazing feeling," Vondrousova, a 24-year-old left-hander from the Czech Republic, said during the trophy ceremony. "After everything I've been through — I had a cast last year (at) this time — it's just amazing that I can stand here and hold this. Tennis is crazy." After being sidelined from April to October, she finished last season ranked just 99th. She arrived at Wimbledon 42nd and was the first unseeded woman to even reach the final at the All England Club in 60 years — the last, 1963 runner-up



Billie Jean King, was seated in the front row of the Royal Box on Saturday alongside Kate, the Princess of Wales.

Following the match, King greeted Vondrousova with a hug and told her: "First unseeded ever. I love it."

Centre Court's retractable roof was closed for the final, shielding everyone from the wind that topped 20 mph (30 kph) outside, and that perhaps allowed Vondrousova's smooth lefty strokes to repeatedly find the intended mark. Her shots betrayed none of the sort of tension that Jabeur's shots did.

Vondrousova lost in the final of the 2019 French Open as a teenager. On this afternoon, she trailed in each set but collected the last four games of the first, then the last three games of the second.

From Selling Street Food To Dazzling India Debut, Jaiswal Scripts Rags-To-Riches Story

Agencies

From selling street food in Mumbai to winning the player-of-the-match award in his test debut in Roseau, India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is international cricket's latest rags-to-riches story. India thumped West Indies by an innings and 141 runs inside three days, a victory set up by Jaiswal's 171, which helped the visitors rack up 421-5 before they declared their innings.

It was a stellar display by the 21-year-old from Uttar Pradesh, who moved to Mumbai when he was 12. There he would sell 'panipuri', a traditional Indian snack, for pocket money and sleep in tents until a coach took him under his wing. The left-handed batsman has impressed in domestic cricket and was adjudged player-of-the-tournament in the Under-19 World Cup in 2020 after which Rajasthan Royals splashed out 24 million Indian rupees (\$292,508) to sign him for the Indian Premier League.

With India looking for a left-right combination at the top, especially



after Shubman Gill requested to move down to number three, Jaiswal was picked to partner captain Rohit Sharma and the debutant impressed immediately at the Windsor Park. "I used to think about playing for my country when I was young," Jaiswal said after collecting his player-of-the-match award.

"Emotional moment for me but this is just the start." "A lot of people have helped me in this journey. I

want to thank each and everyone...I want to thank the selectors and captain for showing faith and allowing me to express."

Rohit said he never doubted Jaiswal's talent and, during their opening partnership, kept telling the debutant that he belonged at the test level. "We knew about it (his talent). He's shown us in the past couple of years that he's ready for this big stage," Rohit said.

Carey Says He Would Repeat Bairstow Stumping If Another Chance Arises In Ashes

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey warned England he would repeat his controversial stumping of Jonny Bairstow if another chance arose in the rest of the Ashes series.

"I definitely would," Carey said on Saturday.

He has been berated by the reaction to him throwing down the stumps after Bairstow wandered out of his crease without checking if the ball was dead. It caused unprecedented scenes of uproar in the Lord's test two weeks ago.

England was chasing on the last morning. After the incident, the crowd accused Australia of cheating. The Australians were abused in the Long Room by Marylebone Cricket Club members. The club apologized. Lord's MCC, which owns Lord's and curates the laws of cricket, added Carey was in the right.



But England claimed Australia broke the unwritten spirit of cricket, prompting each country's prime minister to back their teams. Carey and the Australians continued to draw abuse from the crowd last week in Leeds, where England won to trim the visitors' lead to 2-1.

"There's been some nasty stuff been said but

it is the Ashes, and there was nasty stuff said before that as well," Carey said. "I feel really well supported, I think the whole group does."

"From our point of view, we've all got each other's backs and we've all supported each other. We understand what's important and who matters." The Ashes moves to Old Traf-

ford from Wednesday and Carey said he wouldn't hesitate to re-enact the stumping.

Carey explained he acted on impulse to have a shy at the stumps when he collected the ball after Bairstow ducked a Cameron Green bouncer and idly walked away.

"We were switched on to the fact that it was a bouncer plan and it felt like Jonny was pretty switched on to getting out of the way, he wasn't playing any shots," Carey said.

"When he ducked, his first movement was pretty much out of his crease, so instinctively I grabbed the ball, threw the stumps down and the rest is history."

"Once the ball has come off, it's up to the third umpire to deem it out or not out, or the on-field umpires... and it was given out. To see how much it has played out since then has been a little bit surprising." (AP)

CUET-UG Results Announced, 22,000 Candidates Score 100 Percentile

Agencis
The National Testing Agency on Saturday declared the results for the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG), which showed that over 22,000 candidates scored 100 percentile.

The maximum top scorers were in English, followed by Biology and Economics.
Over 11.11 lakh candidates had appeared for the second edition of the entrance exam.
While 5,685 candidates scored 100 percentile in English, 4,850 candidates got a top score in Biology/Biotechnology/Biochemistry, followed by 2,836 in Economics.
"The performance of every candidate has been evaluated using the equi-percentile method wherein normalised marks of each candidate have been calculated using the percentiles of each group

of students in a given session across multiple days for the same subject," said Sadhana Parashar, Senior Director, National Testing Agency (NTA).
"The role of the NTA is confined to the registration of candidates, conduct of the test, hosting of answer keys, inviting challenges, finalising answer keys, preparing and declaring results, and hosting scorecard."
"A merit list will be prepared by participating universities and organisations. The universities will decide about their individual counselling on the basis of the scorecard of CUET (UG) - 2023 provided by NTA," she added.
The CUET-UG is the second-largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of applicants. In its first edition, 12.5 lakh students had registered for the exam and 9.9 lakh had submitted their applications.

Fishing Gear Plastic Found To Cause Most Of Coral Reef Plastic Pollution

Agencis
Fishing gear plastic formed nearly three-quarters of the plastic debris documented through underwater visual surveys of coral reefs across the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans, new research published in the journal Nature said.

Revealing the extent of plastic pollution on coral reefs, an international team of researchers from the California Academy of Sciences (US), University of Sao Paulo (Brazil), University of Oxford (UK), and other collaborators found that debris increased with depth and is correlated with proximity to marine protected areas.

The team conducted more than 1,200 visual surveys across 84 shallow and mesophotic reef ecosystems located in 14 countries. Mesophotic, or 'twilight zone', coral reefs exist between 30 and 150 metres deep.

Of the total debris, 88 per cent was macroplastics larger than

about five centimetres.
Human-derived debris was found in nearly all locations studied, including some of the planet's most remote and pristine coral reefs, such as those adjacent to uninhabited islands in the central Pacific.
The lowest density of plastic pollution was seen in the Marshall Islands, a coral island group in eastern Micronesia (Oceania), while the highest was recorded at Comoros, an island chain off the southeast coast of Africa, at nearly 84,500 items per square kilometre.
The study found coral reefs to be more contaminated by plastics than other marine ecosystems that were evaluated, and that the contamination, increasing with depth, peaked in the mesophotic zone.
"It was surprising to find that debris increased with depth since deeper reefs in general are farther from sources of plastic pollution," said Luiz Rocha, Academy curator of ichthyology, and senior author on the study.

ISRO's First Human Spaceflight Programme Receives Major Boost With Chandrayaan-3 success



Agencis

The historic launch of India's third Moon mission, Chandrayaan-3 on-board LVM3-M4 rocket has given a major fillip to the country's first human spaceflight programme as the same launch vehicle with 'human rated' capability, would be used for the ambitious Gaganyaan mission.

The Bengaluru-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation is busy working on its flagship project, Gaganyaan, which envisages the demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400kms for 3 days and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in sea waters.

According to scientists at

Satish Dhawan Space Centre, here, the 44.3 metre tall LVM3 rocket which carried the Chandrayaan-3 on July 14, would be the launch vehicle with 'human rated' capability.

The heavy lift launcher of ISRO, consists of three stages—solid stage, liquid stage and cryogenic stage. For the Gaganyaan programme, LVM3 rocket is re-configured to meet the human rating requirements and has been christened as 'Human Rated LVM3'. ISRO said and it would be capable of launching the Orbital Module to an Low Earth Orbit of 400kms.

On Friday, the LVM3-rocket carrying Chandrayaan-spacecraft soared majestically and performed the operations as planned, officials said, indicat-

ing the reliability of the launch vehicle. LVM-3 is the heavy lift launch vehicle of ISRO for achieving a 4,000 kg spacecraft launching capability to the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

The LVM3 rocket is a three-stage launch vehicle consisting of two solid propellant S200 strap-ons and core stages consisting of L110 liquid stage, C25 cryogenic stage.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath said the first abort mission for Gaganyaan would be conducted by the end of August. ISRO has planned to launch an unmanned mission to orbit by the end of next year.

The test vehicle is currently ready here and the scientists are engaged in the assembly work of the crew module and crew escape system.

Understanding Time May Be The Key To The Race Against Climate Change

Press Trust of India

Warping our sense of time

Something has to change. Politicians and environmental organisations have invested millions trying to influence people's behaviour and tackle the climate crisis. But it's not working. No G20 country is on track to meet their climate goals.

So instead, researchers are turning their attention to the link between people's perception of time and the action they take on climate change.

One of the main areas researchers are exploring is how people interpret the vast time scales needed to comprehend climate change. People represent their life experiences on a mental timeline of past, present and future. But that timeline is not as straight as you might think. The nature of an event can influence how close or far into the past or future someone perceives it to be.

Traumatic past events can seem nearer in time, or more present, than neutral events. However, people seem to take the threat of negative events they anticipate in the distant future less seriously and perceive them as less risky compared to events closer to the present.

It's happening in your backyard

People who have suffered directly from climate change through floods, fires and extreme heat, often perceive the climate crisis as part of their present. However, people whose lives are just beginning to be touched by climate change perceive the time distance to be large. The crisis is still in their future. This doesn't mean people won't act unless their homes are devastated by extreme weather. But now-focused communication strategies that are highly localised may encourage more people to act.

We should be tailoring adverts to show how climate change is affecting people in their city, their local beauty spots, and how this is happening right now.

Clocks and calendars are systems to measure, record and manage time, which makes time seem like an objective concept. But research shows our experience of time is subjective, like our mental timeline.

For example, our sense of time changes as we age, often resulting in the sensation of time passing more quickly as we get older. Thoughts, feelings and actions affect our experience of time too.

It typically passes quickly when we are busy, happy and engaged, and slowly when we are sad, bored and isolated. This means we may be more perceptive to climate messaging depending on our mood and what's going on in our lives.

Our experience of time's cadence varies too. Some of the main rhythms include linear ('I'm only getting older'), cyclic (it's Monday again), progressive (look how much I've learned) and degenerative (we're hurtling toward the end times).

Researchers are trying to understand whether apocalyptic talk sparks action or nihilism. It's worth considering whether people would be more engaged in climate action if we framed the present as the bottom of a cycle, that, with the right intervention, can set humanity on a new upward swing, rather than a march toward Armageddon.

Context is everything

Culture also influences how people perceive time. Close your eyes and imagine a mental timeline of past, present and future. Is the past on the left or the right?

If you grew up in a left-right reading and writing household, chances are the past is on the left and the future is on the right. If you grew up in a right-left reading and writing household the past will be on the right and the future on the left.

Quick eats for busy people

Bun Maska

& Chai

Turkish doner kebab

Who Says Healthy Food Can't Taste Good?

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