

Uninvited Guests: Non-Native Species Reshape Kashmir's Biodiversity Landscape

Hirra Azmat

Srinagar: In Kashmir, the emergence of non-native species is posing a significant threat to the region's biodiversity.

Alien plant species in the mountains, Alligator gar and Wild Boar have been identified as the potential invaders, posing an imminent threat to the ecologically sensitive landscape.

As scientists and conservationists scramble to assess the extent of the invasion and its ecological implications, concerns mount over the potential long-term consequences for both the environment and

local communities dependent on these ecosystems. Long term studies and targeted interventions are being called for to combat the spread of these alien species before irreversible damage is done.

Spread of Non-Native plants in mountain ecosystems

High-elevation ecosystems around the world including the mountains of Kashmir Himalaya have been relatively untouched by non-native plants. However, this is changing as these non-native species are moving higher up the mountains to adapt to their preferred climate and in



response to human disturbances. A 2023 study published in Nature Ecology and Evolution journal has revealed an increase in the incidence of non-native species in mountainous regions, including in the Alps and the Himalayas.

Starting in 2007, researchers conducted surveys of non-native plants along mountain roads in 11 regions on five continents.

They found that over a 5-to-10-year period, the number of non-native species increased on average by approximately

WE SHOULD NOT IMPORT EVERY PLANT BLINDLY, UNLESS THERE ARE QUARANTINE MEASURES TAKEN or initial studies done to rule out their adverse invasive impact on the native biodiversity and natural ecosystems."

16% per decade across regions.

The results further showed that mountain environments are becoming "increasingly exposed to biological invasions, emphasizing the need to monitor and prevent potential biosecurity issues emerging in high-elevation."

Associate Professor, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Dr. Anzar Khuroo, told Kashmir Observer that there are generally different types of ecosystems. These include wetlands, tropical rain forests, the mountain eco-systems. **More on P10**

BSF Chief Reviews Security Along IB

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: BSF Director General Nitin Agrawal on Tuesday visited the International Border in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir and was briefed about the alertness of the troops to thwart drone and smuggling activities from Pakistan, an official said.

Agrawal arrived at the Jammu frontier headquarters of the force on Monday on a three-day visit to review the security scenario along the International Border in the Union Territory, a BSF spokesperson said.

The BSF chief was given a detailed presentation covering all critical aspects of border security and domination along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC) at the Jammu frontier headquarters by Inspector General of the force's Jammu frontier D K Boora on Tuesday morning, he said.

During his visit to Samba, the BSF DG was briefed about the recent threats being faced by the personnel of the force, ranging from tunnelling and cross-border smuggling by Pakistan-based elements.

Two Pakistani **More on P10**

Cop Held For Creating Ruckus At Eatery

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Two people, including a policeman, were arrested for allegedly creating a ruckus at a 'dhaba' along the Jammu-Pathankot Highway in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

The duo is accused of roughing up the staff of the eatery and also opening fire following a scuffle at Chak Sajjan village, a police official said.

He said a country-made pistol was recovered from the arrested people, while a search is on to nab their third associate who managed to flee.

In his complaint, dhaba owner Bhushan Singh claimed that the accused used abusive language while food was being served to them to which his staff objected. The accused, in a fit of rage, opened fire with a pistol and assaulted them physically. A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act, including attempt to murder, was registered **More on P10**

LG Calls For Lightened Up I-Day Celebrations



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed officials of his administration to illuminate in tricolor prominent buildings, tourist spots, border villages, besides organizing activities in the honour of the prominent personalities who contributed in nation building.

Chairing a meeting with senior administrative and police officers to review preparedness for August 15 celebrations across J&K, Sinha also stated that the Independence Day celebration is not a government function but the country's most sacred festival which is observed by the entire society with the spirit of oneness, one emotion.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta, LG's Principal Secretary Mandeep

Kumar Bhandari, administrative secretaries, ADGs, divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, and other officers, in person and through video conference.

The LG took appraisal of the campaigns and events planned by the district administrations and government departments in the run-up to the grand celebration on Independence Day.

"We all must work together as a single unit for the successful conduct of 'Meri Maati Mera Desh', 'Har Ghar Tiranga' across the Union Territory and 'Tiranga Yatra' in Jammu and Srinagar. I am confident that this year too people in huge numbers will participate in Independence Day events," he said.

He directed the district administration and departments to organise activities under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan'.

The LG also **More on P10**

Article 370 Hearing

No Question Of Brexit-Like Referendum: SC

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: There is no question of a Brexit-like referendum on abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday, as it grappled with the question as to whether its repeal was constitutionally legal. India, it said, is a constitutional democracy where the will of its people can be ascertained only through established institutions.

Britain's exit from the European Union. Britain's exit from the EU was actuated by a rise in nationalistic fervour, daunting immigration issues, and a distressed economy.

The remark by the five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud came following the submission by senior advocate Kapil Sibal that the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to

the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was a political act like Brexit where the opinion of British citizens was elicited through a referendum. This was not the case when Article 370 was repealed on August 5, 2019, he said.

Sibal was appearing for National Conference leader Mohammad Akbar Lone, who has challenged the abrogation of Article 370.

"The Parliament accorded its approval to the executive act to unilaterally change the provision of the Constitution as applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. That's the central question this court has to decide whether the Union of India could do it," he said.

Sibal has repeatedly questioned Parliament's power to abrogate Article 370 in the absence of the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. He has persistently maintained that only the constituent assembly, whose term expired in 1957, was vested with the power to recommend repeal or modification of Article 370, and since **More on P10**

IN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY, seeking the opinion of people has to be done through established institutions. So long as a democracy exists as it does, in terms of constitutional democracy, any recourse to the will of the people has to be expressed and sought through established institutions. You cannot therefore envisage a situation like Brexit type referendum"

Dengue Cases Likely To Surge In J&K, Say Experts

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As dengue cases are projected to surge post monsoon in Jammu and Kashmir, medical experts on Tuesday advised people to take 'pre-emptive measures' to combat the painful mosquito-borne disease in the absence of any vaccine.

Although dengue fever, usually caused by a virus carried by infected mosquitoes, has always been a serious health concern for the people, experts say there is no vaccine available for the disease and that using insect repellents and bed nets is the best possible remedy to protect themselves from falling prey to the virus.

While 6-7 cases of dengue have so far been reported in the Kashmir valley, as many as 25 people have tested positive in the Jammu division of the Union Territory.

Pertinent to mention here that the administration, in view of the rapid spike in the number of dengue cases in Jammu, has taken a slew of measures after taking an overall review of the situation.

The admin has ordered setting up of additional ten beds in each district hospitals and medical colleges of the Jammu division as the positive cases are expected to surge further after Monsoon.

Noted influenza expert and president Doctors Association of Kashmir (DAK), Dr Nisar-ul-Hassan said dengue performs unlike **More on P10**

BJP, KPs Welcome Reopening Of Ganjoo Murder Case

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP and several prominent Kashmiri Pandits on Tuesday welcomed the reopening of the Neelkanth Ganjoo murder case, with the latter saying "open wounds" are needed to be healed to restore the community's "shaken confidence".

The pandits also demanded the

reopening of all cases of killings of innocent people by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in the past three decades.

Nearly 33 years after retired judge Ganjoo was shot dead by militants, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) on Monday sought information from the general public to unearth the "larger criminal conspiracy" behind the killing.

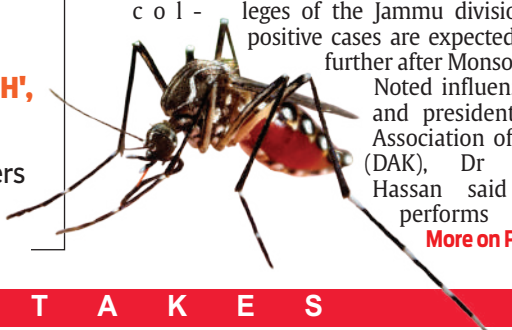
Ganjoo had sentenced Jammu Kashmir Liberation **More on P10**

Railway Police Asked To Step Up Vigil

A senior police officer on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review security arrangements at railway stations here and called for a close vigil to thwart any attempt by anti-national elements to disturb the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

Additional Director General of Police, Railways, Jammu and Kashmir, Sunil Kumar chaired the meeting and it was attended by Deputy Inspector General, Railways, Haseeb-ur-Rehman, Senior Superintendent **More on P10**

WE ALL MUST WORK TOGETHER AS A SINGLE UNIT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF 'MERI MAATI MERA DESH', 'Har Ghar Tiranga' across the Union Territory and 'Tiranga Yatra' in Jammu and Srinagar. I am confident that this year too people in huge numbers will participate in Independence Day events."



SHORT TAKES

451 Pilgrims Leave Jammu For Yatra

A batch of 451 pilgrims left a base camp for the Kashmir Valley under tight security on Tuesday to undertake the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, officials here said. The batch, the smallest so far, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in a convoy of 18 vehicles for the twin base camps in Pahalgam and Baital between 3.30 am and 3.45 am, the officials said. The 62-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,888-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced **More on P10**

AJKSCC Delegation Calls On LG

A delegation of All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan today. The delegation representing various Sikh organisations from across the UT, including elected members of Gurdwara Parbandhak Committees led by S Ajit Singh, Chairman JKSCC expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for various unprecedented developmental activities and new milestones of **More on P10**

PRI Member Charred To Death

A 38-year-old panch was charred to death in an accidental fire that damaged his home in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, a police official said on Tuesday. Gyan Chand, an elected Panchayati Raj Institution member, got trapped when his house caught fire at Katti village in the Panchari area on Monday. His charred body was recovered by rescuers, the official said. A buffalo was also killed in the fire, he said, adding **More on P10**

GOVT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DISTRICT EMPLOYMENT AND COUNSELLING CENTRE SRINAGAR

Mantoo House, Post office lane, Rajbagh Srinagar Kashmir
(Tele/Fax: 0194-2310313 E-mail: deandccsgr@gmail.com)

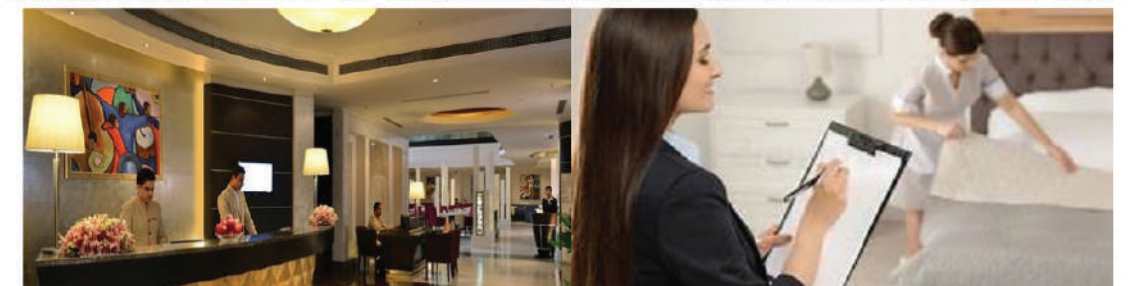
Invites Applications for Free Skill Development courses

Courses Available:

- HOUSE KEEPING (3 MONTHS)
- FRONT OFFICE (3 MONTHS)

Eligibility: 10th or above

Monthly stipend of Rs 1000/- per month will be given to the selected candidates through DBT Mode



The filled in application form should reach to the office of the Deputy Director, District Employment And Counselling Centre Srinagar by or before 15th of August 2023(4 PM) along with self attested photocopies of date of birth certificate, Educational qualifications and domicile

For registration click the below link or scan the code

<https://forms.gle/VxUyLkcukCLw7n5V7>



For further details contact:
deandccsgr@gmail.com
7006796665



To place an advertisement
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 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Study Finds How Pecans Curb Obesity, Reduce Inflammation

ANI
 Researchers discovered that pecans provide health benefits that may reduce inflammation and prevent obesity. The findings of the study were reported in the journal *Nutrients*. Obesity and diabetes numbers are increasing in modern society worldwide, and the trend in high-fat diet consumption is one of the main reasons besides lifestyle and genetic predisposition, said Luis Cisneros-Zevallos, Ph.D., professor of horticulture and food science in the Department of Horticultural Sciences in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and affiliate scientist in the Institute for Advancing Health Through Agriculture. People are searching for health-

er options, and we have now shown pecans are a healthy tool consumers have in their hands. According to Amit Dhingra, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Horticultural Sciences, Cisneros-Zevallos' investigation "provides scientific evidence supporting the traditional knowledge in the Americas that pecans are highly nutritious." Thanks to Dr. Cisneros-Zevallos work, we now know what potential mechanisms underlie that nutritional benefit, he said. Our department is focused on the areas of sustainability, wellness and food security, and this research illustrates the relevance of horticultural crops for human health. According to Cisneros-Zevallos, researchers used pecans and high fat diets on mouse models and discovered that nuts enhanced energy ex-

penditure while decreasing dysbiosis and inflammation. The research found that pecans influence adipose tissue lipolysis as well as mitochondrial oxidative metabolism in the liver and skeletal muscle. He also mentioned that the anti-inflammatory effects of pecans shown in the study lowered low-grade inflammation, which contributes to chronic inflammation and the development of a variety of common ailments. He further stated that pecans help people maintain their weight and prevent diabetes while eating a high-fat diet. The new functionality has the potential to turn pecans into a superfood that may be taken directly or used in the increasing markets of functional foods and nutritional supplements.

Press Release



The Snooker Academy Shopian and Shopian Sports Association congratulate Towkeer ul Haq and Waseem Raja who represented the District Shopian in 28th District Srinagar Snooker Championship organised by Jammu and Kashmir Billiards and Snooker Association held at Rajbagh Srinagar. Ghulam Hassan Khan, President of Sports Association Shopian and Shakir Ahmad Dahal General Secretary of Snooker Academy Shopian congratulated the two players who won the first round of the tournament and qualified for the second round. The Snooker academy Shopian wishes them good luck for the second round of the tournament.

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FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCATE SAMEER BILAL
 DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX, AT PULWAMA

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE PULWAMA

Caveat No. ____ of 2023
 In the case of:
Bashir Ahmad Dar,
 S/o Wali Mohammad Dar,
 R/o Malawaari Nawa, Pulwama.

(Caveator)

Versus
Public at Large

(Caveatee)

In the matter of Caveat application under sec 14B-A of C.P.C on behalf of Caveator.
 May it please your Honor,
 The caveat application is respectfully submitted as under:
 1. That the father of the Caveator has gifted land measuring 6 Marlas to the Caveator from his ancestral property and in addition to the joint possession of other ancestral properties, the Caveator has been handed over separately and independently the possession of above referred six marlas of land located at Mallawari Nawa Pulwama. The caveator had constructed a structure over the said piece of land and now intends to raise a house on the said land after demolishing the previous structure.
 2. That the Caveator is apprehensive that the neighbors, relatives or other family members of the Caveator may file a suit against the Caveator through representatives or attorneys to disturb the peaceful possession and such construction process of the caveator, and may succeed in getting an ex-parte order for the same.
 3. That, if any such ex-parte order is passed against the caveator, the caveator will suffer an irreversible loss and hardships as the caveator has invested his entire money in the above-referred establishment of a business unit. Hence it is necessary to serve prior notice of any such interim application to the caveator herein.
 4. That the principles of natural justice demand, the applicant is given a reasonable opportunity of being heard to put their case before this Hon'ble court, before passing any order by this Hon'ble court.
 5. That the copy of this application has been published in the newspaper and the associated newspaper is annexed herewith to this application.
 6. That a duly sworn affidavit as to the contents of the application is annexed herewith application.
 Prayer
 In the premises, it is therefore prayed that in the interests of Justice, the Caveator may be given an opportunity of being heard before an ex-parte injunction/ Order is passed by The Hon'ble Court on the presentation of suit or any civil appeal by the Caveatee against the Caveator.

Caveator through counsel
Adv. Sameer Bilal

sb

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer
J.V Forest Division Baramulla

e- NIT No. 17 of 2023-24 Dated 05-08-2023 (Retender)

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	Cost of Tender Document	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion
1	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Khud-Pora Forest, Baramulla Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=129 Scheme-CAMPA	8.828	17656	600	C,D	30 days
2	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Alraman Forest, Baramulla Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=111 Scheme-CAMPA	7.57	15140	300	C,D	30 days
3	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Seelbun Forest, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=478 Scheme-CAMPA	33.737	67474	1100	A,B	60 days
4	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Kitchama Forest, Baramulla Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=232 Scheme-CAMPA	15.796	31592	800	B,C	45 days
5	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Jabla Salamabad Forest, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=271 Scheme-CAMPA	19.06	38120	800	B,C	45 days
6	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Darmayani Forest, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=122 Scheme-CAPEX	8.524	17048	600	C,D	30 days
7	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Motal Sahora Forest, Uri Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=121 Scheme-CAPEX	8.534	17068	600	C,D	30 days
8	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Hajibal Forest, Doabgah Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=150 Scheme-CAPEX	10.208	20416	600	B,C,D	30 days
9	Construction and installation of Boundary pillars at Khadnyar Forest, Doabgah Range, J.V Forest Division No. of Pillars=55 Scheme-CAPEX	3.74	7480	200	D	15 days

The position of Codal Formalities n respect of above work(s) is as under

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

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

Publishing Date:	07-08-2023
Download Start Date:	07-08-2023 from 10:00 am
Bid submission Start Date:	07-08-2023 from 10:00 am
Bid submission End Date:	17-08-2023 from 4:00 pm
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	18-08-2023 at 11:30 am in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Kashmir North Circle Sopore.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed. Date will be notified separately.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

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

No. DFO/JV/Accts/2022-23/e-Tendering/77-80
 DIPP-6711/23 Dated:- 08-08-2023

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

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

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
 CNR: JKS603-024313-2023
 Date of filing 04.08.2023)

Syeda Dean D/o Peer Sufi Dean Makhdoomi R/O Makhdoom Sahi Srinagar A/P Akhoun Hello Point Dr. Ali Jan Road Bohlochpora. Soura Srinagar

Applicant

Versus
 Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar

Non-Aplicant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Syeda Dean D/o Peer Sufi Dean Makhdoomi R/O Makhdoom Sahi Srinagar A/P Akhoun Hello Point Dr. Ali Jan Road Bohlochpora. Soura, Srinagar has born on 16-08-1952 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars of Syeda Dean in the concerned register of births and deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 4th day of August 2023.

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

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

(PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTION FROM GENERAL PUBLIC
 CNR: JKS603-024014 -2023
 Date of filing 02.08.2023)

Aqib Hussain Wani S/o Niyaz Ahmad Wani R/o Hamdan Residency Dumail Chowk Sozeith Goripora, Srinagar

Applicant

Versus
 Registrar, Births and Deaths, SMC Srinagar


Non-Aplicant

WHEREAS an application has been made before me that Aqib Hussain Wani S/o Niyaz Ahmad Wani R/o Hamdan Residency Dumail Chowk Sozeith Goripora, Srinagar has born on 05-06-1991 the applicant has sought a direction from this court for registration of the birth particulars of Aqib Hussain Wani in the concerned register of births and deaths. Proclamation is hereby made that the any person having any objection(s) to this application may appear before this Court (or before me) to file objections within 07 days of this publication.

Dated, this 2nd day of August 2023.

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

Rasm-e Chaharum



With profound grief, we inform you of the sad demise of Mir Iftikhar Hussain, son of Mir Ghulam Hussain of Koolipora, Nowpora. He left for heavenly abode on Tuesday, August 8 around 9:10 am after a brief illness. Congregational Fateh Khwani will be held on Friday, August 11, at our ancestral graveyard Dalgate near Hyderia Hall at 6:30 am. Later, condolence meetings will be held at our residence Koolipora Nowpora near Imam Bargah throughout the day.

Bereaved Mir Shumail Hussain (Son) 7006085295)
 Mir Asif Ali
 Mir Javeed Hussain (7006594644)
 Mir Nisar Hussain and all nears n dears

From The Office Of Advocate Nisar Ahmad Bhat

In the case of:
 1. Aurangzeb S/o Late Gh. Mohd. Sheikh R/o Bulbul Bagh, Barzulla Srinagar
 2. Mst. Afshana Begum D/o Late Gh. Mohd. Sheikh R/o Chan- napora, Harwan Srinagar
 3. Mst. Sajida Begum Wd/o Late Gh. Mohd. Sheikh R/o Bulbul Bagh, Barzulla Srinagar

...Caveator

Versus
 Public at Large

...Non-Caveator

In the matter of : Caveat Petition in terms of Section 14B-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 lateron in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court.

S/d
 Advocate
 nj

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
 New Campus Bemina Srinagar
 Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-
Roll No: 2603257
 Class : 10th
 Year & Session Annual Regular 2018
 Registration: N17460570016
 Name : Fayaq Showket
 Father's Name: Showket Ahmad Malla
 Mother's Name : Nighat Begum
 Date of Birth:- 16-04-2004
 Residenc:- Patushay Bandipora




According to the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 18ARKAM- 1010307 be treated as "CANCELLED")
 No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)/BK/D/23
 Dated 06-07-2023

Assistant Secretary
Certificates, KD.
 BB r

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

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Regular 2020 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Mubashir Nazir
S/o: Nazir Ahmad Hajam
Roll No: 12618224
Year & Session : 2020 Annual Regular



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

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
 Board of School Education
 Sub Office Bandipora
 bb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my driving license bearing number JK0120230001034 and now intend to apply for a duplicate of the same. Any body having objection, if any, may file that with the relevant authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice falling which no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Mohammad Mustafa Mehdi
 S/o Syed Arshad Hussain
 R/o Nabdipora, Hawal Srinagar, 190011 J&K

ss

Public Notice

I have lost my Wallet from JVC Hospital Srinagar to Bemina Chowk Which contains Driving license, Pan Card, Aadhar Card, ATM Card & other Vuable documents and Some Cash. If anybody has found his/she is requested to report in Police Station Bemina.

Mehraj Ud din Kumar
 S/o Abdul Ahad Kumar
 R/o Palhallan

FKO

از عدالت سبج میونسپل کمیشن سربنگر
با اجلاس مہرین مشتاق

Mushtaq Ah. Bhat
 نام
 درخواست بزرگ اندراج تاریخ پیدائش اور وفات
 نام: Ghulam Mohd Bhat
 تاریخ وفات: 06-10-1982
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل سالک نے عدالت بڑائیں ایک درخواست بشمول حلقی بغرض اندراج تاریخ اور وفات اور فات R/o Munawarabad Bishember Nagar Srinagar مورخہ 02-08-2023 پیش کی ہے۔ لہذا کوام اناس کو بذریعہ اشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ عدالت درخواست کوئی مذکورہ امراض ہونے کی صورت میں اسپتال عدالت اشاعت اشتہار کے اندر دس یوم عدالت میں آکر پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے میں کوئی مذکورہ امراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تاریخ آئندہ عدالت بڑائیں 09-08-2023 کو دفتر ہے۔
 تحریر الصدر

سبج میونسپل کمیشن سربنگر
 nj

Lady Commits Suicide, Family Alleges Harassment By Husband

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A lady has allegedly committed suicide by jumping into river Jhelum near Rajbagh area of Srinagar here this morning while the family of the deceased woman has alleged harassment by her husband, which according to them compelled her to take the extreme step.

An official said the lady identified as Ulfat Jan (45), wife of Farooq Ahmad Malik of Sonwar, has jumped

into the river Jhelum near Rajbagh Srinagar, where the body was retrieved and taken to the hospital for medico-legal formalities.

As soon as the news about the suicide of the woman spread, a pall of gloom descended the area following which the nearby residents started visiting the residence in Sonwar, where a protest was held by the family members of the lady.

They alleged that the deceased was harassed by her husband, which forced her to take the extreme step.

As Srinagar Tops In JJS-2023, J&K LG, DC Congratulates JJM Team For Achievement

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The district administration Srinagar on Tuesday said that it will make every effort to fulfill the expectations of the people.

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Muhammad Aijaz Asad, while talking to the reporters, thanked the whole team of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) after the district was ranked at the top in the whole country in Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023).

Asad said that "People have high expectations upon the administration

and we will try our best to fulfill their expectations."

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also congratulated the Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar and the whole team of Jal Jeevan Mission.

"Heartiest congratulations to team @srinagaradmin @AsadamAijaz for securing top rank in "Front Runners" category during Jal Jeevan Survekshan 2023 (Oct '22 - Jun '23). Your dedication & hard work is truly commendable & serve as an inspiration to others," office of J&K LG tweeted

Two-wheelers Of Those Without Crash Helmets Will Be Seized: RTO Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari on Tuesday said the department will seize two-wheelers of those found riding their vehicles without crash helmets.

He also said that checking squads will be constituted soon to check the bike stunt activities so that an immediate action as per law will be followed in this regard.

Talking to a select group of reporters here, RTO Kashmir said, they have observed that the

people in Srinagar are riding two-wheelers without crash helmets.

"In this regard, a specific drive was carried and we have also suspended driving licenses of some of the violators and have also initiated a fine of Rs 1000. And now I would like to request especially the youth to wear a helmet before riding a two-wheeler and there is also a requirement of a helmet for pillion riders too. Likewise I would like to request the parents to keep a check on their children and not allow them to go outside without a helmet," he said.



Lal Chowk Will Appear Completely Different In days To Come: CS

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Describing historic Lal Chowk as a key component of the Srinagar Smart City project, J&K Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Tuesday said the area will appear completely different in the days to come.

Dr Mehta said the project will be completed before the 77th Independence Day and that the people of Srinagar would enjoy spending evenings at Lal Chowk.

The Chief Secretary was speaking to the media on the side-

lines of his visit to Lal Chowk to review progress of the ongoing Srinagar Smart City project.

He was accompanied by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad, Chief Engineer SSCL, Iftikhar Ahmad Kakroo and other senior officials.

Replying to a query whether the project (Lal Chowk) will be inaugurated before Independence Day, the Chief Secretary said yes it will be completed before August 15.

"Lal Chowk is one of the pri-

mary components of Srinagar Smart City Ltd. People of Srinagar would enjoy spending their evenings here like that of Jhelum Riverfront. It will have an entirely different look in the days to come, much more beautiful and attractive," Dr Mehta added.

It may be in place to mention that 99 percent of work of the historic clock tower or Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk has been completed and that the project is all set to be inaugurated ahead of the 77th Independence Day, being celebrated across India on August 15.

Interaction Cum Orientation Lecture Organized At SP College

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The College Admission Committee of Sri Pratap College, Srinagar today organized an Interaction cum Orientation Lecture on "Exploring the Four Year Undergraduate Curricular Framework (FYUGP) of Cluster University Srinagar and functioning of recently launched Higher Education Admission Portal" focusing National Education Policy-2020.

The program intended to orient and update the faculty members about the National Education Policy-2020 and train prospective students who intend to seek admission in S.P College about the

different functionalities of the admission portal.

The proceedings of the program started with the welcome address by the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Jeelani Qureshi who gave a detailed perspective on the theme of the program. He further, appreciated the organizers and congratulated the Convener for conducting the event on the theme which is very pertinent in present times.

Advisor, College Admission committee, Dr. Shazia Mushtaq presented introductory remarks about the program and highlighted the significance of National Education Policy.

The dignitaries who spoke during the Orientation programme included Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Shah, Consultant NEP University of Kashmir and Invited Speaker Prof. Zubair Syed Masoodi Assistant Professor, Department of Higher Education UT of J&K and Member NEP Cell, University of Kashmir.

Prof. Masoodi's expertise and in-depth knowledge of the National Education Policy-2020 and working of Higher Education Admission portal added immense value to the event, providing attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the policy's intricacies and implications.

• 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
- BUIBHARA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
 21 Muharram
 1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	4 :14
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:29
ISHA	9:00

This Day In History

- 48 BC- Caesar's civil war: Battle of Pharsalus - Julius Caesar decisively defeats Pompey at Pharsalus and Pompey flees to Egypt.
- 378- Battle of Adrianople: Goth army defeats Roman forces under Emperor Valens
- 681- Bulgaria is founded as a Khanate on the south bank of the Danube, after defeating the Byzantine armies of Emperor Constantine IV south of the Danube delta.
- 1173- Construction of the Tower of Pisa begins, and it takes two centuries to complete
- 1655- Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell divides England into 11 districts
- 1810- Napoleon annexes Westphalia as part of the First French Empire.
- 1831- 1st US steam engine train run (Albany to Schenectady, NY)
- 1842- US-Canada border defined by Webster-Ashburton Treaty
- 1848- Austria & Sardinia sign cease fire
- 1849- Hungarian Republic crushed by Austria & Russia
- 1855- Battle of Acapulco during Mexican Liberal uprising
- 1859- Otis Tuft patents the first passenger elevator in the US
- 1910- Alva Fisher patents electric washing machine
- 1920- Bulgarian & allied Peace of Neuilly-sur-Seine goes into effect
- 1942- Mahatma Gandhi & 50 others arrested in Bombay after passing of a "quit India" campaign by the All-India Congress
- 1945- US drops 2nd atomic bomb "Fat Man" on Japan destroys part of Nagasaki
- 1953- Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah arrested
- 1965- Singapore separates from the federation of Malaysia and gains its independence
- 1972- There is widespread and severe rioting in Nationalist areas of Northern Ireland on the anniversary of the introduction of Internment
- 1973- USSR launches Mars 7
- 1974- Richard Nixon resigns US presidency, VP Gerald Ford swears oath of office to become 38th US president
- 1976- USSR launches Luna 24, last Lunar flight to date from Earth
- 1990-12 Arab leaders agree to send pan-Arab forces to protect Saudi Arabia
- 1990- Russian spacecraft Soyuz TM-10 launches
- 1995- South Africa celebrates the first National Women's Day
- 1999- The Diet of Japan enacts a law establishing the Hinomaru and Kimi Ga Yo as the official national flag and national anthem.

From KO Archives

Abdullah Defends NC's Tie-Up With NDA

BANGALORE- Chief Minister and National Conference Supremo Farooq Abdullah today defended his party's tie-up with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) saying its aim was to bring in a stable government at the Centre. Abdullah, who is here to attend the Janata Parivar's unity rally, told reporters that there was no political party in the country that was communal and disapproved of branding any party as a communal one.

Referring to Kargil conflict, he said Pakistan should stop pushing infiltrators into Indian territory and desist from claiming any territory in Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. (PTI)

(Kashmir Observer, August 09, 1999)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, Mr. Danish Showkat Dhar and Miss. Tabasum Khaliq, Directors of KASHMIR TRAVEL EXPEDITIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of our proposed Adventure Tour Operator Unit under the name and style "M/s KASHMIR TRAVEL EXPEDITIONS PRIVATE LIMITED" Situated at Iqbal Colony 90ft Road, Srinagar under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, we will submit all the prior documents to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed Checklist prior to Registration of our unit as an Adventure Tour Operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before our case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/ Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, IRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail: iddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local news-paper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

Contact: - 7006061001

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

Subject:- Hiring of the Vehicle (Type Toyota Innova/ Mahindra Scorpio for a period of Thirty (30) days with all maintenance costs of vehicle/Road taxes having valid licensed Driver, excluding cost of fuel for the use of officials/officers in connection with the JKPWDOMS activities.

Reference :- This office No: 90 /2023-24 issued under endorsement No:8516-26 Dated:04.08.2023.

CANCELLATION

The subject work floated for tenders vide this office NIT No. referred to above shall and shall be deemed to have been cancelled abinito till further orders.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Construction Division No.II
 Srinagar (NM)

No.8773-80
 DIPP-6701/23 Dated: 08-08-2023

(Government of Jammu and Kashmir) Office of the Municipal Council Kupwara

(Short Term Tender Notice)

Sealed Quotation(s) affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 5/- are invited from registered Dealers/Contractors/Agencies/Suppliers/firms for purchase, supply and on rent basis of below mentioned items for celebration of Independence Day (15th Aug, 2023) which shall reach to the office of undersigned by or before 12-08 -2023 (Saturday) (up to 03:00 PM) either by post or by hand on the registered printed letter head, which will be opened on the same day or any other convenient day by the undersigned in presence of tenderers/suppliers who wish to remain present subject to the terms and conditions given below:-

- | | |
|-------|--|
| S. No | Name of items to be purchased/supplies/rented |
| 1 | Installation of (01) No of Pandala (30x30) at Town Hall Kupwara on rent basis. |
| 2 | Sofas on rent basis. |
| 3 | Tables on rent basis. |
| 4 | Providing of Chairs on rent basis. |
| 5 | Light refreshment like Tea Lipton with Bread, Dry fruits & water bottles small |
| 6 | Decorations/Lightening of town hall and other areas of Kupwara Town. |
| 7 | Cultural programme. |
| 8 | Printing of 10 No's of Certificates, and 50 No's of Invitation Cards for distribution among elected councillors. |

Terms and conditions

1. The intending Agencies/ Suppliers shall pledge a CDR of Rs. 2000/- (Three thousand only) to Chief Executive Officer/Accounts Officer Municipal Council Kupwara to be drawn from any registered Bank, without which the tender/quotation will not be entertained.
2. The Agencies/Suppliers shall quote the rates of the above items both in words and figures covered with transparent tap including GST.
3. The successful tenderers/Agencies/suppliers shall bear all taxes and fee (Whatsoever) at his own level under rules.
4. Any conditional quotation shall not be entertained.
5. The under signed reserves the right to accept or reject all the Quotation (s) without assigning any reason thereof.
6. Those Agencies/firms/Suppliers shall take part in tendering process who possesses GST-TIN/Aadhar.
7. The Agencies/firms/Suppliers found successful shall provide the complete supply as quoted above within (2) days, failing which the 2nd highest tenderer/supplier will be called without any notice.

No: MC/Kup/2023-24/1029-33
 DIPP-NB-2466/23 Dated:08/08/2023

Sd/= Chief Executive Officer
 Municipal Council Kupwara

Show Cause Notices Issued To 143 Pharma Firms After Inspections



Press Trust of India

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation along with state licensing authorities has conducted risk-based inspections of 162 pharmaceutical firms and issued show cause notices in 143 cases, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, he said stop production order has been issued in 40 cases, cancellation and suspension of product/section licenses in 66 cases, issuance of warning letter in 21 cases and in one case, an FIR has been lodged and three persons have been arrested as per the provisions of the Drugs Rules, 1945.

He also said that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a notification on May 22 for amendment in export policy of cough syrups, making it compulsory for cough syrup manufacturers to get certificate of analysis from a government-approved laboratory before exporting their products with effect from June 1.

Accordingly, more than 900 such cough syrup samples have been analysed and Certificate of Analysis (CoA) released as on date, Mandaviya said.

The manufacturing, sale and distribution of drugs in the country are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945. The regulatory control over the manufacture, sale and distribution of drug in the country is exercised through a system of licensing and inspection by the State Licensing Authorities (SLAs) appointed by the respective state governments.

Manufacturers are required to comply with the conditions of Licence granted under the said Act and Rules to manufacture any drugs for sale and distribution in the country, Mandaviya said.

When cases concerning quality or safety of drugs are reported, the matter is taken up with the State Licensing Authority (SLA) in order to take necessary action.

The SLAs are legally empowered to take action of violation of any conditions of such licenses, including prosecution in appropriate court of law, he said.

What US Said On Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan's Arrest

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The arrest of Imran Khan is Pakistan's "internal matter", a U.S. State Department spokesman said on Monday, declining to take a position on the legal troubles of the former prime minister and frequent U.S. critic.

Police arrested Khan in Lahore on Saturday after a court sentenced him to three years in prison for illegally selling state gifts. The guilty verdict could stop the opposition leader from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party from contesting a national election later this year. Khan denies wrongdoing and maintains the government and the powerful military - which has run the country for about half of its 75-year history - imposed fabricated charges on him.

"We believe that is an internal matter for Pakistan," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a press briefing on Monday, when asked whether the U.S. thought Khan got a fair trial.

"At times there are cases (around the world) that are so obviously unfounded that the United States believes it should say something about the matter. We have not made that determination here," Miller added.

Khan initially alleged that his ouster from office in a parliamentary vote last year was

backed by Washington and orchestrated by Pakistan's top generals. Washington and the military both denied this.

Analysts noted that the U.S. response to Khan's legal woes has been muted compared with the prosecution of other opposition figures around the world.

"I think Khan blaming the U.S. for his ouster last year certainly hasn't helped matters for him. The U.S. has since steered clear of commenting in any specific terms on Pakistan's politics," said Madiha Afzal, a fellow in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings Institution, a Washington-based think-tank.

Critic Of Washington Khan has been a critic of U.S. foreign policy almost throughout his political life. During his years as a rising politician, the former cricket star was among the fiercest critics of U.S. drone attacks targeting militants along the country's Afghan border, which he termed extrajudicial killings and a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty.

Day-1: Sparks Fly During No-trust Debate

Forced to bring motion to break PM's 'maun vrat' on Manipur: Oppn; govt calls it targeting of 'poor person's son'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Sparks flew on the first day of the debate on the no-trust motion moved by the Congress with the Opposition on Tuesday asserting that it was forced to do so to break Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) on Manipur and the treasury benches hitting back saying it was a no-trust vote against a "poor person's son" who has worked for the welfare of the people.

The opposition leaders at various points during the debate also invoked BJP veteran Atal Bihari Vajpayee to target the Prime Minister and remind Modi of 'rajdharm'.

Initiating the debate on the motion in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi raised a series of questions on Manipur, asking why the Prime Minister had not visited the state, why it took 80 days to break the silence on the state and why he had sacked Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

Launching a scathing attack, the Congress MP from Assam said it was a matter of grave concern that a government that talked about "one India" had created "two Manipurs - one living in hills and the other in the valley".

He also demanded that Modi should visit Manipur, lead an all-party delegation to the north-eastern state, and make sincere efforts to restore peace by meeting various organisations there.

The opposition grouping Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was



forced to bring the no-confidence motion as this was never about numbers but about justice for Manipur, he said.

"If Manipur is burning, the entire India is burning, if Manipur is divided, the country is divided. It was our demand that as the leader of the country, Prime Minister Modi should come to the House and speak about Manipur. However, he kept a 'maun vrat' (vow of silence) that he will neither speak in the Lok Sabha nor in the Rajya Sabha," the Congress MP from Assam said.

"Through the no-confidence motion we want to break his vow of silence," he said.

Intervening in the debate, Union minister Kiren Rijju said the Congress and other opposition parties have brought the no-confidence motion at a "wrong time and in a wrong manner." At a time when Prime Minister Modi has emerged as the world leader and the country was marching ahead to become a developed nation by 2047,

there was no need for such a motion against the government, the minister said.

Instead, the opposition should join hands with the government to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and work towards achieving the target set by the prime minister for the next 25 years, the minister added.

"Congress and opposition parties will regret bringing in the no-confidence motion at the wrong time and in a wrong manner," the minister said.

Gogoi said he would like to ask the prime minister why he had not gone to Manipur when Rahul Gandhi had gone as also Home Minister Shah and the minister of state for home (Nityanand Rai).

As the lower house took up the motion moved by Gogoi, there were heated exchanges between the opposition and treasury benches after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi wondered why Rahul Gandhi's name as lead speaker was withdrawn last minute.

Opposition Brought No-Confidence Motion To Test Its Own Unity: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the opposition brought the no-confidence motion against his government to test the confidence of its own alliance members in each other as the INDIA bloc is marked by distrust among its constituents.

In his address to BJP MPs at a closed-door meeting of its parliamentary party, he described the opposition alliance as "ghamandia" (marked by arrogance) and congratulated the party's Rajya Sabha members for the "semi-final" win in voting on the Delhi services bill, some of those present inside said.

Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal quoted Modi as saying that the opposition brought the no-confidence motion despite the fact that the government enjoyed a strong majority as its mem-



bers wanted to see if they were united or not.

Even in the voting on the Delhi services bill in Rajya Sabha, the government got more votes than expected as the debate showed that its bill was guided by the Constitution, the prime minister said.

Modi, sources said, noted that some opposition members had described the voting in Rajya Sabha as a semi-final before the 2024 Lok Sabha polls as he exuded confidence about the BJP's prospects in the national elections.

The Delhi services bill

secured parliamentary approval on Monday after the Rajya Sabha passed it with the support of 131 MPs while 101 of them voted against the legislation that will give the Centre control over bureaucracy in the national capital.

Exuding confidence about his return to power following next year's general elections, Modi told MPs that they will not have to push for railway ministry-related works during his third term after Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made a presentation, indicating that the ongoing development projects will take care of their demands.

The Modi government is now in its second term, with opposition parties forming the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) to prevent the ruling BJP-led NDA from coming to power for a third term under him.



2,600 Flights Cancelled, Thousands Without Power As US Braces For Storms

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: U.S. government offices in the Washington D.C. area closed early on Monday because of threatening weather as forecasters warned people across the eastern U.S. of possible tornadoes, damaging winds and large hailstones.

Fast-moving thunderstorms and powerful winds toppled trees and knocked out power for nearly 200,000 homes and businesses in neighboring Maryland and Virginia, according to tracking website PowerOutage.us. As many as 800,000 customers had lost power in the southern and mid-Atlantic states.

Though drenched with rain and pelted with some hail, the nation's capital had escaped any twisters by the time a National Weather Service tornado watch expired at 9 p.m. EDT (0100 GMT).

A coastal flood advisory remained in effect for Washington until 4 a.m. 0800 GMT.

The National Weather Service said more than 29.5 million people from Alabama to western New York state had been at risk of tornadoes on Monday, but none had been reported as of 9 p.m. EDT.

The Federal Aviation Administration ordered departing flights grounded at airports in New York, Washington, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Baltimore because of thunderstorms. The FAA said it was rerouting aircraft around the storms as much as possible.

Libraries, museums, the National Zoo, pools and other municipal and federal services in the Washington area were also closing early. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management said federal employees had to depart no later than 3 p.m.

FlightAware, a flight tracking site, said more than 2,600 U.S. flights had been canceled, including 102 at Washington Reagan National Airport and 35 at Washington Dulles. Another 7,700 U.S. flights had been delayed.

Gujarat Court Sets Aside 2019 Order That Sentenced Businessman To Life

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday quashed and set aside a 2019 order of a NIA court sentencing a businessman to life imprisonment for leaving a hijack threat note on a Mumbai-Delhi flight in 2017, saying the trial court sentenced him for the offence of hijacking "on the premise of evidence which is tainted with doubt."

Businessman Birju Salla was the first person to be booked under the stringent Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016.

The NIA had filed a chargesheet against him under sections 3(1), 3(2)(a) and 4(b) of the Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016. A division bench of HC Justices AS Supehia and MR Mendgen said the appellant (Salla) is acquitted from the offences under sections 3(1) and 3(2)(a) of the Act. As a sequel the sentence under section 4(b) of the Act is set aside, it added.

The HC also directed that ₹5 crore fine which Salla was ordered to pay be refunded in case it is already paid.

The special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Ahmedabad on June 11, 2019 sentenced Salla to life imprisonment under the Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, and imposed a fine of ₹5 crore for leaving a hijack threat note on a Mumbai-Delhi flight in October 2017.

Salla had become the first person to be booked under the stringent Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016, which replaced a vintage

law of 1982. He was also the first person to be put under the "national no fly list".

While quashing and setting aside the NIA court order against Salla, the HC said it does not subscribe to "the view expressed by the trial court convicting and sentencing the appellant for the offence of hijacking on the premise of evidence which is tainted with doubt."

It also directed that ₹5 crore fine which Salla was ordered to pay be refunded in case it is already paid, and his properties seized and ordered to be confiscated by the investigation officer under provisions of section 19 of the Act be released.

The high court also directed crew members of the affected flight to refund the amount of compensation in case the same was paid as per directions of the trial court.

The trial court had said ₹5 crore fine submitted by the convict shall be distributed among the crew members and passengers on board the affected plane.

"In the alternative, the state is directed to pay the amount which is paid to the crew members, and it will be open for the state to recover such amount from the crew members," the HC bench said in its order.

Salla was accused of creating a hijack scare by planting a threat note written in English and Urdu in the tissue paper box of the aircraft's toilet on October 30, 2017.

NEWS MAKERS

Maharashtra Farmer Installs CCTV Camera In Farm To Keep An Eye On Tomatoes

Press Trust of India

AURANGABAD: Heavy demand and skyrocketing prices of tomatoes have prompted a farmer from Maharashtra to install a CCTV camera on his farm to keep an eye on his plantation of the kitchen staple.

The red berries are being sold between ₹100 and ₹200 across the country.

The grower said he embraced digital surveillance for his farm at Shahpur Banjar, about 20 km from Aurangabad, after tomato thieves struck there.

Sharad Rawte told PTI that he cannot afford to lose more tomatoes, the most in-demand vegetable today. He said a crate of 22-25 kg of tomatoes is now being sold for ₹3,000.

mR Rawte said his farm is spread across 5 acres and he has grown tomatoes on 1.5 acres, which could easily fetch him ₹6-7 lakh.

"Around 10 days ago, 20-25 kilos of tomatoes were stolen from my farm in



Gangapur taluka. To protect the remaining crop that is yet to ripen, I've installed a CCTV camera worth ₹22,000," he said. The farmer said the camera runs on solar energy so he doesn't have to worry about its power supply. "I can also check the visuals anywhere on my phone," he said.

Rahul Gandhi Gets Back Tughlaq Lane Bungalow, May Shift Soon

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been re-allotted the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow a day after his disqualification as Lok Sabha member was restored following a directive of the Supreme Court, officials said on Tuesday.

The House Committee of the Lok Sabha decided to allot the same bungalow he was asked to vacate after Gandhi was disqualified as member of the lower house on March 24 as a result of his conviction and a two-year jail term awarded to him for the 'Modi surname' remarks.

"Mera ghar pura Hindustan hai (Whole country is my home)," quipped Gandhi when asked about being allotted the 12, Tughlaq Lane bungalow.



Sources said Gandhi has received the letter re-allotting the same house he occupied as Lok Sabha MP for the past almost two decades.

They said Gandhi would be shifting back to his residence soon. He is currently staying with his mother Sonia Gandhi, who is also the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

On Monday, the Lok Sabha Secretariat restored Gandhi's membership of the lower house after the

Supreme Court stayed his conviction in the defamation case.

In April, Rahul Gandhi vacated his official residence in central Delhi, in line with protocol, after he was disqualified as an MP in March following a Surat court's conviction in the criminal defamation case.

A disqualified MP is not entitled to a government accommodation and gets a month's time to vacate the official residence.

Rajasthan Cook Beaten To Death As "Food Did Not Taste Good": Cops

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: A cook at a restaurant was allegedly beaten to death by four people over food preparation in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, police said Tuesday.

The accused were in an inebriated condition at the time of the incident, the police said, adding all four have been detained.

The incident occurred in the Ramgarh police station area when the accused arrived at the restaurant late Monday night and got into an argument with the cook that the food did not taste good, Station House Officer Mukta Pareek said.

The accused severely thrashed the cook, resulting in his death, he said. The cook was identified as Shiv Deshmukh, a resident of Telangana.

The body has been kept at a hospital mortuary for post-mortem which will be conducted after the family members arrive, police said.

Machail Yatra Progressing Smoothly In Kishtwar



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The annual Machail Mata yatra in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district is picking up pace with over 30,000 devotees already paying obeisance at the 9,705-foot-high shrine, officials said on Tuesday.

With the partially-constructed Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road en route now accessible, the devotees can trek on foot to the shrine, cutting travel time by about two hours and making the journey less fatiguing compared to the steep and challenging terrains, they said.

The 43-day yatra in the scenic Paddar valley of Kishtwar commenced on July 25 and is scheduled to conclude on September 5. The footfall at the temple is likely to witness manifold increase with the arrival of holy "Charri Yatra" from Jammu to Machail on August 18.

"The yatra has been transformed into a more comfortable, enjoyable and safe journey for on-foot pilgrims with the opening of the PMGSY road by district administration Kishtwar on August 5," an official said.

This year, the district administration led by Deputy Com-

missioner Devansh Yadav has taken far reaching measures to facilitate the devotees to make their yatra a lifetime memorable experience, he said.

These include the installation of a first-of-its-kind 30 KW hybrid solar power plant, a 4G Airtel tower, and electricity to Machail Village, easing the arduous spiritual journey of the devotees, the official said.

Additionally, facilities such as tent city at Machail, Yatri Bhawan, Sapphire guest house and luxury mushroom tents at base camp Gulabgarh have been arranged to accommodate and host the devotees during their pilgrimage, he said.

He said the Machail Mata yatra holds immense spiritual and cultural significance and remains a cherished place of pilgrimage for devotees across the country. Describing the construction of PMGSY road as a "major milestone", the official said the department concerned successfully cleared the challenging rocky stretch on Machail road in a short span of time.

"Road cutting in a crucial rocky stretch has resulted in achieving significant progress on this road which is now being used by pilgrims up to Hamouri village for on foot journey," he said.

KASHMIR'S KILLER ROADS

135 People Dead In 1064 Incidents Since Jan 2023

Srinagar Records Highest Number Of 225 Accidents; Efforts On To Address Alarming Rise In Road Mishaps: SSP Traffic, Rural Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The first half of 2023 has witnessed a concerning surge in road accidents, resulting in 135 fatalities across Kashmir, reveals official data.

According to official figures a total of 1064 road accidents were reported in the valley since January 2023 to date, leading to 135 fatalities.

Srinagar district emerged as one of the most accident-prone areas, recording 225 accidents that claimed the lives of 28 people. Srinagar is followed by South Kashmir's Anantnag that saw 147 accidents and 25 deaths.

"Budgam reported 80 accidents, resulting in eight fatalities. In Kulgam, 74 accidents were reported, leading to the loss of 11 lives. Ganderbal district witnessed 83 accidents, with a death toll of 2 people. A total of 38 road accidents were recorded in Baniptora, resulting in three deaths. Pulwama experienced 59 accidents and four fatalities. Shopian saw 20 accidents and three tragic deaths," the official data reveals, adding that "Awantipora police district in south Kashmir reported 50 accidents, with 13 lives lost. Baramulla district reported 126 accidents, leading to 12 fatalities. Kupwara witnessed 57 accidents, resulting in seven deaths. Handwara reported 58 accidents,



with a death toll of nine people. Sopore saw 47 accidents and the loss of 10 lives."

Expressing concern over the distressing statistics, Superintendent of Traffic Police for Rural Kashmir, Ravindar Pal Singh, emphasized the efforts undertaken to address this alarming issue. "Special drives against traffic violations have been carried out rigorously, and awareness programs targeting drivers, students, and local communities have been conducted to encourage adherence to traffic rules and regulations," he said.

To enhance enforcement measures, he said several initiatives have been implemented, including the use of E-Challaning for streamlined penalties, breath analyzers to detect intoxication, and the installation of trash barricades. "Over-speeding is being tackled through a state-of-the-

art speed radar system, and violators are being promptly booked in accordance with provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. Special attention is being devoted to combat non-compliance with helmet-wearing, overloading, and reckless driving practices," he added.

"Efforts are also being focused on taking strict actions against habitual violators, including the cancellation of driving licenses, vehicle registrations, and permits for those involved in accidents resulting in fatalities," he said.

Singh urges drivers to follow traffic rules strictly: no speeding, wear helmets, avoid overloading, refrain from mobile use while driving, no stunts on bikes, and stay on the correct side of the road, ensure regular vehicle check-ups, drive sober, and possess a valid license and fitness certification—(KNO)

SKUAST-K Secures 3rd Erasmus+ Grant From European Commission

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing with its outreach efforts for internationalising higher education, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir has secured the third consecutive grant from European Commission for bilateral student and faculty exchanges and joint research through the Erasmus+ project.

Assistant Professor, Division of Plant Biotechnology, Dr Sajad Majeed Zargar, who is the coordinator of the SKUAST-K and EU joint programme, said the 'Erasmus+ KA171 Project' grant has been awarded as a joint academic and research collaboration initiative between SKUAST-K and University of Padova, Italy for three years from 2023 to 2026.

"This is a highly competitive grant funded by European Commission and governed by Italian National Agency," he said.

Under this bilateral arrangement, many students from SKUAST-K have already availed short-term academic and research fellowships for undertaking part of their research/training at the University of Padova, Italy. Last year two scientists from SKUAST-K also got the opportunity for undertaking teaching assignments at the University of Padova, Italy as visiting professors. The project will provide research opportunities for faculty and students of SKUAST-K to work at



the University of Padova, Italy and open avenues for hosting students from Italy at SKUAST-K. The project is an impactful initiative to improve the global footprint and improve the educational and research ecosystem. The joint research carried out under the project has already been published in high-impact journals like Critical Reviews in Biotechnology, Frontiers in Plant Science, Journal of Plant Proteomics, and BMC Plant Biology.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, congratulated Dr Sajad Majeed Zargar, the coordinator of this grant for this achievement and hoped that the collaboration between the two institutions will further strengthen the international outlook of the university. He emphasised that such efforts need to be scaled up in order to broaden opportunities for faculty and student capacity building as well as help the university become an active partner in global academic and research networks.

If Elected To Power, Will Restore Roshni Scheme: Azad

Observer News Service

DODA: Former Chief Minister and DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Tuesday said that he will stand like a rock to defend the interests of local people and will not allow anyone to take over the local resources since the people of Jammu and Kashmir are its primary stakeholders.

Azad lashed out over the prevailing regime and said that the misgovernance and lack of transparency in the system has pushed the people of UT to the wall and the government of India must hold the Assembly elections.

"It is unconstitutional to deny people for so long their democratic right to choose their representatives. Jammu and Kashmir which was one of the oldest states of the country cannot be governed administratively. We need development, good governance and public participation to keep democracy alive in this part of country," he said, while

addressing a gathering of workers at Bhagwah, Dessa in Doda.

Azad said whatever good he had done in Jammu and Kashmir as Chief Minister; the "present regime is destroying it brick by brick". "Be it Roshni scheme, or other socioeconomic projects all have been targeted and people are systematically disempowered," he said.

"Under the Roshni scheme people were empowered to secure their livelihood and the hospitals were built for proper treatment of patients, roads were built to connect people and economy. You can see now not only land rights were snatched, these hospitals have staff deficiency, roads are not maintained which has hit the economy of common people," he said.

Azad promised his workers,

if he is elected to power, he will restore the Roshni scheme and will create abundant job opportunities for the local youth, also assured employment to labourers since they are forced now to migrate to other states to earn their livelihood.

He also criticized those who are opposing Article 370 and said that he is hopeful of a positive outcome from the Supreme Court where the batch of petitions are being heard on day-to-day basis.

"Those who oppose Article 370 are actually ignorant of Jammu Kashmir's history, politics and geography. Article 370 was aimed to benefit the UT not any particular community, religion or region. We are hopeful Supreme Court will restore it since its abrogation was illegal," he said.

'MERI MATI MERA DESH'

SHGs Empowering Communities By Making Gobar Diyas

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The women self-help groups (SHGs) of Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) have taken a momentous stride towards sustainability and women empowerment by manufacturing Gobar Diyas.

As part of their commitment to the nationwide "Meri Mati Mera Desh" campaign, these SHGs have produced eco-friendly and innovative Diyas. The campaign, which aims to foster "Jan Bhagidari" in commemoration of India's 75 years of independence, has been embraced wholeheartedly by these women artisans.

Utilizing cow dung, an easily available and renewable resource, alongside natural colors, the SHG artisans from various rural areas in Jammu Division have showcased their expert craftsmanship and artistic vision by creating a breathtaking assortment of hand-painted designs that reflect the region's rich cultural heritage.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL
IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub: - Extension in bidding time for this Short-Term e-NIT No. 16 OF 2023-24, Dated: 25-07-2023 for below mentioned works: -

Part-1:- Electrical repair works at Lift Irrigation Scheme Zazna - B of MISD Ganderbal.

Part-2:- Repairs to arrest leakages in Rising Main at Lift Irrigation Scheme Beigh Mohalla Watlar of MISD Ganderbal.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's: -2023_IFC_223335_1, 2023_IFC_223335_2

EXTENSION NOTICE 2

Due to poor response to above mentioned sub-parts of this office above referred e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are again extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	16/08/2023 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	17/08/2023 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.
No. MIDS/Ts/ 1890-95
Dated: - 08-08-2023
DIPK-6651-23
DT: 08/08/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Srinagar



Bhatnagar Visits Nunwan, Chandanwari Base Camps

Reviews Arrangements, Facilities For Ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra

Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: In order to have first hand appraisal of all the arrangements and facilities put in place for smooth conduct of ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Tuesday visited Nunwan and Chandanwari Base Camps.

During the visit, Advisor Bhatnagar reviewed the various facilities put in place for the pilgrims, including accommodation, medical facilities, transportation, and security arrangements. He engaged in detailed discussions with the officials in charge of the base camps to gain insights about the services provided to devotees.

The Advisor, while interacting with officers at Base camps, emphasized on the collaborative efforts between various government agencies and local authorities to create a seamless experience for the pilgrims. "The success of the yatra is a result of the combined efforts of all stakeholders involved. I commend the dedication of our officials and the local communities in making this yatra a safe and cherished experience

for everyone," he said. Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that Shri Amarnathji Yatra holds great spiritual significance for millions of devotees and it is our responsibility to ensure that their journey is comfortable and secure.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to well-being of devotees, the Advisor said that the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra has already seen significant participation, with pilgrims from across the country converging to seek blessings at the sacred Amarnath cave. He appreciated all the stakeholders for successful conduct of yatra till now and asked them to continue with this momentum upto the successful culmination of holy yatra.

While interacting with pilgrims also, Advisor Bhatnagar urged them to adhere safety guidelines and cooperate with the authorities to ensure a successful yatra.

Senior officers of district administration and other line departments, officers of security agencies, camp directors and representatives of other stakeholder agencies also accompanied the Advisor during the visit.

Two Day Veshow Literary Festival Concludes

Programme Aimed At Promoting & Creating Awareness About Culture, Art & Heritage: DC Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: In an effort to promote the rich literature, art, culture, heritage and traditions, and Magun (Talent Hunt) Sadre, Young women Authors of Kashmiri, Kathi Manz Kath, Kashmiri Folk Literature, Mushaira, besides others.

The programme was organized by District Administration Kulgam in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

During this two days literary festival, multiple functions and literary sessions were held at the mini-secretariat Kulgam.

Giving details of the programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat said that this event was primarily aimed towards promoting and creating awareness about culture, art, heritage and literature among the

youth and people in general. He said during the two days festival various literary persons and artists from different districts of J&K and outside UT participated in the event. He expressed hope that it will have a successful impact in creating awareness among the public, especially the younger generation.

Till now, we have achieved great success in the areas of development and tourism, and now our focus is on the promotion of art, culture, literature & preservation of rich heritage, Dr Bilal said.

The two day festival witnessed different sessions including Sessions on Sirsov (Spiritualism in Kashmiri Literature), Tsrathaal, Magun (Talent Hunt) Sadre, Young women Authors of Kashmiri, Kathi Manz Kath, Kashmiri Folk Literature, Mushaira, besides others.

اطلاع عام

ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میری آٹھویں جماعت کی سرٹیفکیٹ کئی پرگم ہو گئی ہے۔ جسکی اب ڈیٹی کیٹ نکالی مطلوب ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ 7 دنوں کے اندر اندر پرنسپل گزر ہاؤس سکینڈری سکول پونٹو میں پیش کریں بعد ازاں کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

المستشر: منسیرہ اختر دختر مختار احمد ساکنہ والمیلیب

inf

از نیابت چہاگان

معاون: درخواست اجرائی ڈیپنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ جن دوران جائز ہوجے نوٹ شدہ والد کو نظام رسول شاہ ساکنہ پونچھ تحصیل پٹن

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ معاون الصدور میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بجز حصول ڈیپنٹ سرٹیفکیٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروئی ہے اس بارے میں پٹناری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے سائل کا والد مورخہ 08-03-2023 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے حوالیہ کی نکالت خود کرتا تھا اور بحسبیت لبر جوں کشمیر بلنگک و بطریقہ مزدور تھا متوفی کے بہیمانہ گارڈیل ہے

اقبال حسن شاہ 30 سال زیر تعلیم --
انجاز احمد شاہ 26 سال --
شادہ بیگم 57 سال گھریلو کام زبہ حوالیہ

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کتبہ نہیں ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی گھریلو کو کوئی غدر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد ازاں اخبار رسالت دن کا اندر آدے طے مذرا اعتراض وادالت حداد کو ذمہ دار قرار دیا جائے گا۔ بعد ازاں کوئی غدر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تایمب چہاگان
FKO

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 09-08-2023

Peace With Democracy

Kashmir has witnessed the end of a long turbulent period following the withdrawal of Article 370 in August 2019, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's said in his interaction with journalists on Sunday. Significantly, the LG added for good measure that the decision on assembly elections rests with the Election Commission of India, following the completion of the delimitation process and electoral roll revisions. This is after a long time that a top government functionary has referred to long delayed Assembly polls in the UT.

J&K has not had an elected government since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. Subsequently, on August 5, 2019, New Delhi abrogated Article 370 that granted J&K special status under India's constitution. Since then the Lieutenant Governor has taken over from Governor.

However, both the central and the UT governments have exhibited little urgency to hold Assembly elections. This despite the fact that the situation has visibly improved in the region. The militancy has progressively reduced over the last four years. This is borne out strikingly by the drastic drop in the number of militants and also the disappearance of unrest and stone throwing. And by that yardstick this is the most conducive atmosphere imaginable for a free and fair electoral exercise.

But there are no signs that Jammu and Kashmir is going to witness Assembly elections anytime soon. This too when the country is holding parliamentary polls next year. The former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had urged the election commission to hold Assembly polls simultaneously with general elections. However, there has so far been no response from either the commission or the central government. There is still some time left, giving people a reason to hope that the Assembly polls might be held. Around nine Assembly elections are due to be held across the country over the course of next nine months. And their outcome would be of a momentous significance for the country.

That said, J&K administration is gung-ho about peace holding in Kashmir from hereon. The LG Sinha said they have a roadmap for the union territory for the next 25 years stating that the conflict entrepreneurs were not happy with the situation in valley post abrogation of Article 370. He also revealed that in first seven months 1.27 crore tourists have already visited the region. This shows that the situation is headed in the right direction. But it is time, the prevailing peace is topped up with restoration of democracy.

OTHER OPINION

On Imran Khan's Arrest and Pakistan's Democracy

For the second time in three months, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has been arrested, this time after a conviction in a case involving the misappropriation of official gifts meant for the 'Toshakhana'. He was last arrested on May 9 in the 'Al Qadir' trust case charge sheet. The latest conviction, which carries a sentence of three years, means that he is now disqualified from Parliament for the next five years, and will not be able to stand for election in polls due by November. Last week, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif had announced that he would dissolve Parliament on August 9, after which an interim government will step in. It is significant that Mr. Khan's arrest came days before the transition. The legal battle Mr. Khan faces now is formidable, but he is by no means the first Pakistani Prime Minister to face jail time and disqualification. During his tenure, his government had pursued cases against former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif and Shahid Khaqan and other major Opposition leaders including former President Asif Ali Zardari. The common factor is that all these arrests appear orchestrated not so much by political rivalry, but due to problems with the powerful military. In Mr. Khan's case, he faced months of house arrest under former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, but subsequently came to good terms with the military. His stunning electoral win in 2018 was believed to have been achieved with General Qamar Bajwa's blessings. However, after they developed differences, Mr. Khan's political troubles began to mount.

The government's actions are excessive by any measure. The case Mr. Khan has been arrested for is just one amidst about 100 cases he has been charged in ever since he was ousted from office in April 2022. Apart from the litany of legal cases against him and his family, there has been a systematic attempt to prosecute leaders of his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. In addition, cases of terrorism, sedition and blasphemy against Mr. Khan and his colleagues indicate there could be more serious sentences to follow. At the same time, his ouster from power and the cases have not visibly challenged his popularity in Pakistan, going by the by-election results last October, and the anger after his arrest in May. In that sense, the fact that his conviction and arrest in the latest case were not accompanied by similar protests is not an achievement for Pakistan's government, but demonstrates the effectiveness of its establishment in silencing public expression. None of this augurs well for Pakistan's democracy.

The Hindu

Data Protection Bill Dangerously Overrides RTI Law



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

We live in a world which is driven by data. Indeed, sharing of data has a lot of benefits but data sharing is not safe as well, especially as far as personal data is concerned.

Many government as well as private sector organisations have personal data of citizens, clients and customers such as their names, addresses and contact details. Sensitive information like medical health data is also available.

If this personal information goes into the wrong hands, people could be harmed. Depending on the situation, they could become victims of identity theft, discrimination or even physical harm. That is the reason many countries have already enacted legislations to safeguard the personal data of their citizens.

Now, the Govt of India has also introduced the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 (DPDP Bill) in parliament. This bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday August 7th 2023 amid criticism from opposition parties and Right to Information Activists.

Although the law on data protection was much needed in India but some fear that provisions of the data protection bill will impact people's Right to Access to information under RTI Act 2005. The bill contains substantial penalties, which ranges between Rs 50 crore to a maximum of Rs 250 crore, for those found violating the provisions of this proposed law.

Objective of Data Protection Bill 2023

The basic aim of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023 is to establish a legislative framework for the protection of personal data. The law allows to oversee the personal data collected within India, both online and offline data that has been subsequently digitized isn't misused. As per the data protection bill 2023 if the data processing takes place outside India but involves offering goods or services to the people within the country, the provisions of this bill would apply automatically.

The Union Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology Mr Ashwini Vaishnaw had introduced the bill in the Lok Sabha on August 3rd 2023 in spite of the criticism from the opposition.

The opposition parties had been demanding to refer the bill to the standing committee for changes and modification. The Union Minister however defended the Govt's stand and called this bill a "normal bill" and moved it for discussion.

The proposed data protection law applies to all the business ventures, societies, groups, clubs or any other public enterprises. Even a sole trader or self-employed person working for himself or herself comes under the ambit of the new law. This means organisations or individuals having registered entities and only employ a handful of staff or not employ any staff at all, they too come under the purview of the proposed Personal Data Protection Law.

Background

In 2017, the Supreme Court of India declared the Right to Privacy a fundamental right, as this is "intrinsic" to our guarantee of "life and personal liberty" under the provisions of the Article 21 of the Constitution. To understand this in a more easy way, the citizens of the country in an age of

data are supposed to be granted the complete ownership of their personal data.

Unfortunately, the proposed Personal Data Protection legislation that is being debated, discussed and drafted since 2018 by the panel headed by Justice Srikrishna submitted a proposal to Govt in 2018. Several drafts were prepared and a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) was given several extensions to examine. The JPC on Data Protection Bill advised for extending the scope of this bill to cover non-personal data as well as specific breaches that may compromise the confidentiality, integrity or availability of such data. Among other

the right to demand the erasure and correction of data collected by the data fiduciary (company). Data principals will also have the right to nominate an individual who will exercise these rights in the event of their death or incapacity. Under the new Data Protection Bill there is a provision to establish a Data Protection Board (DPB) to ensure compliance with the Bill. In case of an unsatisfactory response from the Data Fiduciary, the consumers can file a complaint to the Data Protection Board.

DPDP Bill overrides RTI Act 2005
Several leading RTI activists

formation as many people would take advantage of data protection law by not sharing public information under the garb of personal information as mentioned in section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act 2005. The section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 reads:

"Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen

(j) information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the



Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw introducing the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, in the Lok Sabha during Monsoon session of Parliament, in New Delhi

things, it also wanted social media platforms that do not act as hands-off intermediaries to be held accountable as publishers for the content they host.

Principles of Data Protection

The usage of personal data by organisations must be done in a rightful manner through a transparent process. The personal data must only be used by the companies, organisations or any other legal entity for the same purpose for which it was acquired by them from people.

The data should be as minimum as possible and should be accuracy accurate as well. The personal data that is collected cannot be "stored perpetually by default" and the storage should be limited to particular fixed time duration and the data collecting organisations must ensure that no unauthorized collection or processing of the personal data is done.

The organisations and individuals who decide the purpose and means of the processing of personal data have to be held accountable for such acts.

Right to Consent

The Individuals need to give consent before their data is processed and "every individual should know what items of personal data a Data Fiduciary wants to collect and the purpose of such collection and further processing. Individuals also have the right to withdraw consent from a Data Fiduciary. The term 'Data Fiduciary', referring to any entity determining how personal data is processed. This encompasses organizations collecting data for services, research, or marketing. The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill (DPDP Bill 2023) has a provision of 'Significant Data Fiduciary' (SDF), which carries additional obligations. SDFs are determined based on factors like data volume, sensitivity, processes, turnover, and technology use. The proposed law makes it mandatory on data fiduciaries to safeguard personal data and privacy. The makes sure the consent is sought, requiring it to be informed, specific, clear, and reversible.

Data Protection Board

The data principal means the natural person/individual to whom the personal data relates. The Data principals will have

The amendments in the the RTI Act, 2005 through the DPDP Bill will severely restrict the scope of the RTI Act and adversely impact the ability of people to access information as many people would take advantage of data protection law by not sharing public information under the garb of personal information

like Aruna Roy, Nikhil Dey, Anjali Bhardwaj and many others across the country have been opposing some provisions contained in the DPDP Bill 2023. The activists had urged upon the Govt to adopt an extensive and rigorous pre-legislative consultation process for the proposed DPDP Bill, including ensuring dissemination of the draft bill through various modes and in multiple languages.

The Govt is said to have held only a handful of consultations and RTI campaigners were not invited in it.

Their main concern is the amendments made to RTI Act 2005 (section 8(1)(j)) by the DPDP Bill, 2023 passed in Lok Sabha. The amendments in the the RTI Act, 2005 through the DPDP Bill will severely restrict the scope of the RTI Act and adversely impact the ability of people to access in-

formation as many people would take advantage of data protection law by not sharing public information under the garb of personal information as mentioned in section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act 2005. The section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005 reads:

While speaking during the debate on the new Data Protection Bill, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury called it a "sinister move" to "trample" the Right to Information Act, 2005. He added that the change will introduce an "era of corruption" because personal data like assets and liabilities, and educational qualification of "corrupt government functionaries won't be revealed."

Civil society activists led by Aruna Roy in a letter to Govt said, "Through this amendment, all personal information can be denied, even if disclosure of that information is relevant to the larger part of public activity or in public interest as provided for in Section 8 of the RTI Act. This gives legal sanction for government entities, government functionaries and political executives to remain opaque in their functioning"

Conclusion

The enactment of Data Protection Law is a welcome step but the way section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act 2005 has been amended through this act is not a good decision at all. The Govt should have held more consultations before introducing this bill in Lok Sabha. The section 8(1)(j) of RTI Act 2005 prevents a public authority from sharing anyone's personal information on two main grounds - that the disclosure will have no bearing on any public activity, and that revealing such information would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual, unless such disclosure is justified in larger public interest. The DPDP Bill 2023 passed by the Lok Sabha says that the personal information of public officials will not be disclosed under the RTI Act 2005. The two key grounds, that such information could be disclosed provided it serves a larger public interest has been recommended to do away with.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder and Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir RTI Movement

Differently-abled Persons, Families & The Equalization Of Opportunities

M Ahmad

Differently-abled persons can be converted from tax consumers to taxpayers, from beneficiaries to benefactors, given the opportunity for self-development and provided with equal opportunities for education, vocational training and employment.

When we look back in time, we find that the beginnings of work for the disabled leading to better opportunities, more services and programmes were initiated in many cases either by the disabled themselves or by their families. Perhaps the best example of this is Louis Braille, the inventor of what is now come to be known as the Braille Script which has provided blind people with the most satisfactory means of reading and writing by touch. Braille indeed opened the floodgates of knowledge to the blind and removed one of the major obstacles in the path of equalization of opportunity for blind people. Leading organisations for disabled people in India providing educational, vocational training and employment services were established by family members. Mrs. Fatima Ismail, the mother of a Polio affected child was the founder of the Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped in Bombay. Mrs. Mithu Alur, the mother of a Spastic child established the Spastic Society of India. The motivating spirit behind the establishment of the organisation for the blind in the country was Mr. R. M. Alpaiwalla, a blind lawyer and its founder President for the first ten years.

Since the '70s, organisations of differently-abled persons have come into being in most countries. Perhaps the earliest of these organisations was the Blind Men's Association of Bombay established in 1974 by a group of blind persons. Today there are a number of similar organisations in India including the National Federation of the Blind and the All India Confederation of the Blind.

Economic independence is the most important factor that can lead to equalization of opportunity and meaningful existence with self-respect and dignity. In the developed and more affluent countries, economic independence can also be



secured through social security measures. In the developing countries, however, social security is virtually non-existent and hence employment with adequate wages is of prime importance. The disabled need jobs even more desperately than the able bodied but as may be expected with unemployment and underemployment plaguing the countries in the Third World, they find themselves on the lowest rung of the ladder. For most disabled people getting a job is difficult. By and large those who do succeed in finding jobs are able to do so in the lowest paid ones requiring little skill or ability – very often, far below their abilities and potential.

Education and vocational training facilities for the differently-abled people in most developing countries have remained stagnant. While science and modern technology have made tremendous leaps in the latter half of the 20th century opening up new avenues and new horizons for the able-bodied, the disabled are still being trained in traditional crafts and not in modern technology training and techniques. Differently-abled people themselves and their families cannot and should not wait for Governments and agencies / institutions to take action to improve the situation. They must now take steps themselves to initiate change. Most

Governments in the developing countries are faced with gigantic problems of economic growth, industrial development, social upliftment, health, building up of an infrastructure and so on. The disabled are only a small proportion of the general population and hence receive a low priority in their developmental plans.

Unfortunately, the organisations of the differently-abled have in recent years indulged in rivalry and infighting. This has resulted in dissipation of their energies. Much work needs to be done in developing countries. Organisations of the disabled could play a very important role in achieving equalization of opportunities

by coordinating their efforts and acting in cooperation with the agencies. Working jointly with the agencies they could become a strong force in persuading Governments to recognise the rights of the disabled and provide for equal opportunities.

The family plays the most crucial role in the life of a disabled person. Apart from basic personality traits of the person concerned, it is the attitude and the actions of the members of the family that determine the future course of the life of the disabled person. It is here that equalization of opportunities needs to and must begin. A differently-abled child rejected overtly or covertly by the family or at the other end of the scale given preferential treatment is most likely to grow up into an adult with unhealthy attitudes towards himself and towards society. It is imperative, therefore, that the family treats a disabled member as a part of the family without either rejection or "special" treatment. The family should provide equal opportunities of education, work, and socialization. This is the best training the family can provide and it is also a means of assuring that the disabled member is treated normally by other relations, friends and neighbours. Families can provide for some of the special needs of disabled people e.g. reading for the blind, assistance in mobility for the physically handicapped, interpretation for the deaf. Most important of all, the family can encourage and motivate independence to the extent possible depending upon the degree of impairment.

Differently-abled people in many developing countries are now taking the lead in promoting the setting up of much needed services and bringing about a change in attitudes towards disability. However, significant changes in attitudes and true equalization of opportunities will occur only when these people fully accept their responsibilities to contribute to the betterment of the community and society.

The author is Incharge, Abhedananda Home-Higher Secondary Institution for Specially-abled Children, Solina, Srinagar, J&K

The Hollywood writers' AI fight is everyone's fight

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and Austin Lentsch

Artificial intelligence is big business's new flavor of the month. Companies are rushing to showcase how they will be using new generative AI models, and the media is full of stories about the technology's transformative potential. There is no denying that it could significantly increase productivity. But who stands to benefit? The ongoing Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike may offer an answer.

Hollywood screenwriters are confronting a future that all knowledge workers will soon face – and without the benefit of union representation. At issue is how AI will be used, and by whom. Will TV and movie producers see AI as a way to replace writers and cut costs, or will they use it to create higher-quality content, empowering creative workers to be more productive and earn higher incomes?

We have been down a similar road before. In the early twentieth century, rapid improvements in manufacturing technologies such as moving assembly lines and electrical machinery led to a sharp increase in productivity. Henry Ford, a pioneer in applying these technologies, estimated that motor-enabled machinery "alone has probably doubled the efficiency of industry," while also making it possible to build much larger factories. But workers did not automatically share in these gains. On the contrary, that did not happen until new tasks had been created, and until workers had acquired enough bargaining power to demand higher wages. These are the two pillars of shared prosperity.

While Ford and his contemporaries certainly did automate some processes, their improved factories also introduced a lot of new activities that required human labor – from material preparation and machine maintenance to coordinating operations. These tasks expanded workers' contribution to production and translated into a big increase in the demand for labor. In 1899, the US car industry employed a few thousand workers, producing around 2,500 vehicles per year. By 1929, Ford and GM were each making 1.5 million cars annually (with total US auto production around 4.5 million), and the industry employed more than 400,000 people.

The second pillar is bargaining power. The famous sit-down strike at GM in 1936-37 was a key step in



achieving union recognition, improved working conditions, and higher compensation for workers. Over several decades, the new balance that developed between management and workers in automobile manufacturing contributed to rapid wage growth. Part of what made this possible was an emphasis on continually training and upskilling workers to handle new tasks. Both employers and employees benefited from the productivity gains.

By the 1960s, US auto production had doubled since the 1920s, with the four largest manufacturers employing 1.3 million workers – more than three times the industry's employment four decades earlier. Moreover, inflation-adjusted profits for the dominant firms, GM and Ford, were around five times higher than in previous decades.

The rise of organized labor in the auto industry

also established a model of capital-labor negotiations for other industries to follow. Imagine what would have happened if manufacturing companies attempted to adopt "worker-less factories" in the 1950s, as some had started advocating. Productivity growth (not to mention shared prosperity) would have suffered greatly as the human contributions to technical work, design, maintenance, inspection, and creative problem-solving were undermined or lost.

Today, we are confronting equally revolutionary changes, now that executives are considering how to apply generative AI to all components of knowledge production and distribution. Leading tech-focused companies face many of the same choices that car manufacturers had to make at the beginning of the twentieth century. Should powerful

new technologies be used to automate knowledge work and sideline workers? Or could AI become a tool to boost worker productivity and creativity? Much will depend on whether workers have a voice, and on how such choices affect productivity and product quality.

There are grounds for thinking that the WGA strike could be more important even than the struggles for union recognition at Ford and GM's factories a century ago. For starters, Hollywood's creative workers are uniquely well-organized and powerful compared to workers in other industries. If they fail, other knowledge workers will stand even less of a chance of shaping the future of work and technology.

The choices ahead of us are epochal, because there is an obvious temptation for movie producers to choose the low road of "just automate everything you can." This approach may be profitable in the short term if it allows for more shows to be cheaply produced, with fewer screenwriters, actors, and other staff. But studio profits and high-quality output are not the same thing. There still is no substitution for human ingenuity and creativity. Look past the hype, and it should be clear that predicting the next word in a sentence and aggregating the "wisdom" available on the internet are unlikely to generate superior artistic output – even if large language models could produce mediocre sitcoms.

The low road is especially costly because of what it misses. Generative AI could become a tremendously beneficial tool in the hands of creative artists, by helping with research and the development of new ideas. If we can find our way to this high road, AI could drive further technological progress and bolster the returns from human ingenuity.

Much is riding on the writers' strike. Obviously, it would be a disaster for workers if they are sidelined by movie studios. Knowledge workers – and, indeed, all workers – should hope that the WGA and its members succeed in showing not only how unions can raise wages in the short term, but also how technology can be used to support creativity, rather than simply displacing it. — Project Syndicate

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

Study Finds How To Treat Food Allergy Diseases In Children

ANI

Researchers have discovered a new treatment for chronic immune system disease that can prevent children from eating.

Food allergies or airborne allergens cause eosinophils, a type of white blood cell, to accumulate in the lining of the oesophagus, causing eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE). This shortens the oesophagus and thickens the oesophageal wall, making swallowing difficult and causing food to become stuck in the throat.

The disease affects approximately one in every 2,000 adults, but it is more common in children (1 in every 1,500), where symptoms can be more difficult to diagnose and pose greater risks, as difficulty feeding can lead to malnutrition, weight loss, and poor growth.

The new study, published in Nature Communications Biology, discovered that the disease is caused by Interleukin-18 (IL-18), a protein involved in the innate immune response that, when produced in excess, can cause inflammation.

When a food allergen enters the body, it activates

a pathway that regulates the innate immune system, causing the release of proinflammatory proteins such as IL-18. This results in the production of eosinophils, which cause esophageal damage.

The study discovered that inhibiting this pathway, known as the NLRP3 pathway, and the release of IL-18 successfully prevented the development of EoE from both food and airborne allergens.

"Parents and doctors may not be aware of this, but this is a very prominent and serious disease in the pediatric population, and it is increasing in number because

it is directly related to food allergens, which are also on the rise," said lead author Dr. Anil Mishra, director of the Eosinophilic Disorder Center at the Tulane University School of Medicine.

"In this study, we show that after treating the disease in animals, the disease is gone and completely in remission." The findings are crucial for a disease that was not identified until the 1990s. For many years, EoE was misdiagnosed as gastrointestinal reflux disease (GERD), despite GERD medication being ineffective in treating EoE.

Air Pollution Could Be Driving Rise In Antibiotic Resistance, New Lancet Study Finds

Press Trust Of India

Controlling air pollution could aid in reducing antibiotic resistance, which is when disease-causing microbes are able to resist the drugs designed to kill them, according to new research published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal.

The association between PM2.5 air pollution and increase in antibiotic resistance has strengthened over time, with enhances in PM2.5 levels leading to larger increases in antibiotic resistance in more recent years, the analysis found using data for 116 countries from 2000 to 2018.

Sources of PM2.5 include industrial processes, road transport, and domestic coal and wood burning.

Previous research indicates 90 per cent of the world's population, or 7.3 billion people, are directly exposed to unsafe average annual PM2.5 levels, with 80 per cent of them living in low- and middle-income countries.

PM2.5 air pollution was one of the leading factors driving antibiotic resistance, accounting for 11 per cent of changes in average antibiotic resistance levels globally, this study found.

Further, every 1 per cent rise in air pollution was linked with an increase in antibiotic resistance of between 0.5 and 1.9 per cent, depending on the pathogen, or the disease-causing microbe, the study covering nine bacterial pathogens

and 43 types of antibiotics found.

The highest levels of antibiotic resistance were found to be in North Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, while levels in Europe and North America were found to be low.

Misuse and overuse of antibiotics still remain the main drivers of antibiotic resistance. However, evidence suggests air pollution



also contributes to the spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and resistance genes, the study said.

PM2.5 air pollution-driven antibiotic resistance was also linked to an estimated 480,000 premature deaths in 2018, leading to additional economic costs of USD395 billion, the analysis said.

Owing to their huge populations, India and China are expected to face the greatest impact of PM2.5 changes on premature death toll from antibiotic resistance.

By 2050, levels of antibiotic resistance worldwide could increase by 17 per cent under no changes to

current air pollution policies, the authors' modelling suggested.

India is expected to experience a 2.5 per cent increase in antibiotic resistance resulting from a 10 per cent increase in yearly PM2.5 levels.

In other scenarios, such as increased health spending, controlling air pollution, improving drinking water and reducing antibiotic usage, the level of antibiotic resistance could be greatly reduced, the study said.

or example, limiting PM2.5 to 5 micrograms per cubic metres in the atmosphere (recommended by the World Health Organization) could decrease global antibiotic resistance by 17 per cent by 2050. It could further reduce premature deaths linked to antibiotic resistance by 23 per cent and save USD 640 billion annually, the study said.

"Antibiotic resistance and air pollution are each in their own right among the greatest threats to global health. Until now, we didn't have a clear picture of the possible links between the two, but this work suggests the benefits of controlling air pollution could be two-fold: not only will it reduce the harmful effects of poor air quality, it could also play a major role in combatting the rise and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria," said lead author Hong Chen, Zhejiang University, China.

Future research should investigate underlying mechanisms of how air pollutants impact antibiotic resistance, the study said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Department Of Rural Development And Panchayati Raj Office Of The Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Ganderbal

Ground Floor Mini Secretariat Complex Ganderbal-191201

e-mail:dpoganderbal786@gmail.com

Subject: Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Solid Waste Management in District Ganderbal.

On behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the eligible and interested agencies are hereby invited for the execution of a Solid Waste Management Plan in District Ganderbal in (1) Cluster of CD-Block Kangan/Gund.

1. BACKGROUND:

The Solid Waste Management program aims to implement effective and scientific waste management practices in Ganderbal, in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). The program will cover the two CD Blocks comprising 44 Gram Panchayats in the Ganderbal district, in the following 1 cluster of CD Blocks:

The cluster-wise details of households of 2 CD Blocks is as under: -

S.No	CLUSTER	Name of CD Block	No of Households	Total Households
01	II	Gund	5802	19766
02		Kangan	13964	

2. SCOPE OF WORK:

The contracting agency will be responsible for the following processes:

Solid Waste Collection

- Sanitation and door-to-door collection of both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from all households of one of the three designated clusters covering all households, shops, factories, industrial establishments, etc. at least thrice a week.
- A Panchayat-Haqla-wise schedule of waste collection shall further be notified in consultation with the concerned Block Development Officers.
- The intending agency shall collect all types of waste-door-to-door waste, waste formal ready installed dustbins, and legacy waste so that the objective of OD Plus is obtained.
- Ensuring segregation of waste preferably at the household level and mandatorily at the already constructed segregation shed-sites.
- Effective and scientific management and disposal of collected waste in an environmentally sustainable manner. A weekly review/report shall be submitted by BDO concerned to ascertain the effectiveness of weekly disposal.

Revenue Collection

- Conducting a fresh survey, in consultation with the field functionaries of the Rural Development Department, to update the household data and include commercial factories, business units, institutions, shops, etc. Collection of monthly Fees/Charges from the households preferably in digital mode.
- Revenue generation through sustainable waste management practices, such as selling segregated dry waste to authorized dealers.
- % (to be decided through EOI) of the Fee/user charges so collected has to be deposited in the bank account of the concerned Gram Panchayat on a monthly basis.

Maintenance

- Maintenance and upkeep of departmental garbage collection vehicles, and e-rickshaws used for waste collection and ensuring their dedicated use only for solid waste management purposes.
- The Vehicles used for waste collection shall be departmental only and the agency has to use these Vehicles/e-rickshaws by engaging its own staff and ensuring the vehicle's maintenance in all respects.
- The intending agency shall be responsible for the smooth handing over of all assets (Vehicles/machinery/Civil Structures and possession of the sites in good condition to the concerned department after completing the allotment of one year (without any damage)

Manpower & Machinery

- The contracting agency has to engage sweepers/ waste collectors, Drivers, and Management staff with a unique uniform having a unique logo, the design and details of which shall be conveyed to the contracting agency later.
- The contracting agency has to operate and maintain all three-carts, garbage collection vans, and machinery at its own level and has to bear the electricity, POL, and maintenance /repair charges of the machinery. The contracting agency will be required to obtain necessary permissions/approvals from the BDO concerned for repair, and maintenance of the existing machinery, if required, at any time.

Dispute Resolution and Penal provision

- In case of any dispute, the Block Development Officer of the concerned Block shall be the first appellate authority, the 2nd appellate authority shall be the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Ganderbal and the third appellate & final authority shall be the District Level Committee for implementation of SBM-G with Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal as its Chairperson.
- The contracting agency shall have to report to the Block Development Officer of the concerned Block in case of any violation by any Household/establishment for imposing a fine. Further, the agency may be required to paste color-coded
- In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the Ganderbal District Court shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

IEC endeavors and inciting behavioral change

- The contracting agency shall chalkout a plan for a sustained IEC campaign for inciting behavioral change among the people through various means. The means could be composing appealing and effective sanitation jingles played through over head speakers of waste collection vehicles on a regular basis, organizing special sanitation drives by involving local youth clubs, students, and Self Help Groups, organizing monthly felicitation ceremonies for best cooperative and complying Panchayats in consultation with the BDO concerned and the District administration, etc.. Monthly IEC plans, 10 days in advance, to be submitted to the concerned BDO for review and approval.
- The contracting agency shall influence the general public through its best possible sanitation services and shall motivate and convince them to segregate the waste at the source besides reducing the use of Single Use Plastics.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The contracting agency must meet the following criteria:

- The agency can be a sole proprietor, registered contractor, registered partnership firm, limited liability partnership, public limited company, private limited company, society or NGO, etc.
- The agency must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees Fifty Lakh) for the last three years.
- Previous experience in managing public utilities as a PPP/out sourcing and knowledge of waste management, including running decentralized solid waste management processes, will be advantageous.
- Additional experience in community mobilization and IEC activities will be preferred.
- The agency must deposit a Cash Deposit Receipt (CDR) of Rs.50,000 (fifty thousand rupees) pledged to the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Ganderbal.

4. CONTRACTING PROCESS:

- Interested agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelopes addressed to the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Ganderbal, by 18-08-2023 upto 2PM.
- The envelopes will be opened on the next day 19-08-2023 at 3PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives.
- The EOI will be followed by Technical Evaluation and Financial Evaluation.

5. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- The selected agency will be awarded a one-year contract, which may be extendable based on its performance and the necessity of the Department.
- The agency shall adhere to all the terms and conditions specified in the EOI document.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any EOI without assigning any reason thereof, in the interest of the government, department, and public funds.

6. SUBMISSION OF EOI AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Interested agencies must submit their sealed envelopes containing the EOI to the following address: Office of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Mini Secretariat Complex, Duderhama Ganderbal, Jammu and Kashmir Email: dpoganderbal786@gmail.com
- For any inquiries or clarifications regarding the EOI, interested agencies may contact Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Ganderbal, at the above-mentioned address via email.

7. NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:

The results of the EOI evaluation will be communicated to the eligible agencies through official communication channels.

8. LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- The selected agency must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards during the execution of the Solid Waste Management project in Ganderbal.
- The contracting agency has to adhere to a) the Environment protection act 1986, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and the bylaws drafted and passed by the Gram Panchayats in letter and spirit.
- Sub-contracting shall not be allowed and shall be considered illegal.
- The contracting agency has to submit an affidavit duly attested by a Judicial Magistrate affirming therein the commitment to bear all costs related to damage, theft, or loss incurred to the vehicles /machinery of the department during the execution of the SWM project.
- In matters pertaining to any disputes, or repercussions arising, the Ganderbal District Court shall hold exclusive jurisdiction and serve as the ultimate deciding body. 'Repercussions' in this context refer to any adverse consequences, claims, disputes, legal actions, or related incidents that may arise.

The process of technical Evaluation will be done by a designated committee based on the score for the solutions & procedures provided by the agencies to transform the entire solid waste management into an efficient, effective, and sustainable one in the specific cluster of CD Blocks.

SD/-

Assistant Commissioner Panchayats
Ganderbal

No.: ACP/Gbl/SBM-G/2023-24/2414-20
DIPK-6692/23 Dated: 08-08-2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg

Cancellation Notice

Refer to this office e-NIT NO: - 13 OF 2023-24 DATED: 27-07-2023 for Supply, Bed formation and Transplanting of Broad-leaved healthy pickings Plants standard quality (not less than 2 feet with good collar diameter) including all mechanical carriage & loading /unloading at Zerim Nursery Tangmarg (complete job) having advertised cost of Rs. 4.67 Lacs is hereby cancelled due to technical errors in e-NIT & BOQ.

SD/-

Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division
Tangmarg

NO: - DFO/TNG/Accts/2023-24/103-9

DIPK-6656/23

Dated: -08/08/2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

E-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject: - Registration of Camping Agency under the name and style "Surf raw Village Camping Agency" situated at Surf raw Kangan Ganderbal.

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Major S/o Mr Ali Mohammad Major R/o Nigeen Bagh, Srinagar has approached this office online for registration of Camping Agency under the name and style "Surfraw Village Camping Agency" situated at Surfraw Kangan Ganderbal under the provisions of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, the applicant has submitted below mentioned documents in support of his case.

- Form XIV.
- Domicile.
- State subject.
- Receipt PHE Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal.
- PDD Payment Receipt.
- Pan Card.
- Adhar Card.
- Character Certificate Police.
- Land Holding Certificate.
- Sale Deed.

Whereas, grant of registration certificate is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said Camping agency and does not confer any right of ownership of the camping agency or any other entitlement in respect of property dispute and shall also not regularize any unauthorized structure and encroachment on Government Land;

Now therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011 before the request of applicant for registration of Camping Agency is considered the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Organizations/Departments, etc. that in case of any objection, the same should reach to this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. Objections received beyond period of 7 days will not be entertained and registration shall be granted to the above mentioned unit under rules after submission of all documents/formalities.

No: Reg/379/DTK

DIPK-6654/23

Dated: 08/08/2023

SD/-

Deputy Director Tourism
Registration Kashmir

Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft, Anantnag's Mushqbudji Rice Receive GI Tag

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant developments, Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft from Rajouri district and Mushqbudji Rice of Anantnag district of have received the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

The process for GI Tagging of nine products was started by NABARD in consultation with Department of Handicrafts & Handloom and Department of Agriculture in December 2020, during the difficult times of COVID. The GI tags have now finally been granted to these two products after a long legal process. In total, four products have been granted

reaches of the Kashmir valley especially in Anantnag district. The cooked Mushqbudji Rice is unique and possesses a harmonious blend of taste, aroma and rich organoleptic properties.

Geographical Indications (GI) is a form of Intellectual Property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics linked to that location.

After GI tagging only an authorized user has the exclusive rights to use the Geographical Indication in relation to these products. Due to this, no person can copy it from beyond



GI tag with NABARD support.

Chikri is a pale, honey colored, fine grained soft wood found in hill ranges of Rajouri district of Jammu province. The Chikri woodcraft of Rajouri is characterized by intricate carving and detailing.

Similarly, Mushqbudji Rice is a premium variety of short bold aromatic rice grown in higher

their geographical areas. This will prevent unauthorized use of these registered Geographical Indication goods by third parties, will boost exports and promote their brands at international level, thereby promoting economic prosperity of producers and related stakeholders including contribution to GDP of the country.

Public Sector Banks Have To Be Very Fast With Public Dealing: Parliamentary Committee

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Citing increased workload, a parliamentary committee has said public sector banks have to be very fast with public dealing besides being absolutely updated on the latest technology.

In its latest report, the panel also said the pattern of recruitment examination needs to be changed from time to time taking into account the nature of the work of the bankers so that accuracy and speed of the prospective candidates are properly evaluated.

"The philosophy of speed and accuracy required by bankers are changing from time to time. Around 10 years back, the workload and the nature of work perhaps did not need any speed or accuracy.

"But today, speed and accuracy play a very important role owing to the hundreds of central and state schemes being executed by the bankers and the nature of pro-poor schemes launched by the government," the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice has said.



The Committee emphasised that because of the technology being used nowadays, whether it is e-banking or online banking, "public sector banks have to cater to large number of customers including the Jan-Dhan Yojana account holders and hence bankers have to be very fast with public dealing and also absolutely updated on the latest technology".

"They should not face any kind of glitches and slow down in the process of service delivery," said the panel's 131st report on the "Review of Functioning of Recruitment Organisations of Government of India".

It cited Pilot Aptitude Battery Test (PABT) -- conducted exclusively to measure the aptitude of a particular person, whether he will fit in the mission or the job -- and sought to know whether any such examination is being conducted or contemplated by the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

Price Of Tomatoes, Chilli Heated Up Veg And Non-Veg Thalis By 34%, 13% In July



IANIS

NEW DELHI: The cost of preparing a vegetarian thali at home has gone up by 34 per cent while that of a non-vegetarian thali went up by 13 per cent in July as compared to the input prices that prevailed in June 2023, CRISIL said in a report.

According to the report, in July, the cost of cooking a vegetarian thali at home stood at Rs 33.7 (June rate Rs 26.3) whereas the cost of non-vegetarian home meal was at Rs 66.8 (June rate Rs 60).

According to CRISIL, a vegetarian thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato,

and potato), rice, dal, curd, and salad. For a non-vegetarian thali, chicken has been considered instead of dal.

Broiler prices for July 2023 are estimated.

CRISIL said out of the 34 per cent rise in the cost of vegetarian meals, 25 per cent can be attributed to the 233 per cent hike in tomato price last month.

In June, the tomato price was Rs 33/kg and shot up to Rs 110/kg in July.

Tomatoes aside, the other ingredients that heated up the cost side last month as compared to June were the prices of onion that went up by 16 per cent, potato by 9 per cent,

chilli 69 per cent, and cumin by 16 per cent.

However, given the lower quantities of these ingredients used in a thali, their cost contribution remains lower than some of the vegetable crops, CRISIL said.

On the other hand, the cost of a non-vegetarian thali rose at a slower pace as the price of broilers, comprising more than 50 per cent of the cost, likely declined 3-5 per cent on-month in July, the report notes.

"A 2 per cent on-month decline in the price of vegetable oil provided some respite from the increase in cost of both thalis," the report said.

Akasa Air Eligible For International Routes, Operates 900 Flights Every Week

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Akasa Air has flown 4.3 million passengers with over 900 flights per week, besides becoming eligible to fly internationally with a fleet of 20 aircraft in its first year of commercial operations, which it completed on Monday, the airline said in a statement.

Owned by SNV Aviation Pvt Ltd and founded by former Jet Airways CEO, Vinay Dube along with others, Akasa Air commenced operations with its maiden flight taking off from Mumbai for Ahmedabad on August 7, 2022.

In its first year of commercial operations, Akasa Air served 4.3 million passengers with a 4.9 per cent market share, and crossed the milestone of operating over 900 weekly flights with a published network of 35 unique routes across 16 destinations, the airline said in a statement on Monday. Also, the airline said, it has carried over 25,000 tonnes of cargo across its network during this time.

Akasa has during the period



also registered a passenger load factor of over 84 per cent since the start of operations, with a steadily growing record of close to 90 per cent in the current financial year, it said.

"We feel extremely fulfilled to have successfully executed our ambitious and unprecedented scale-up over the last 12 months. Our first year has given us a strong operating and financial platform to execute on our continued growth ambitions," said Dube.

He further said, "Our first year has built the foundation for the long term, and we feel incredibly optimistic as we continue to invest in our future." Earlier this month, the added 20th aircraft-B 737-8-200, to the fleet, which made it qualified to start its flight services on international

routes.

Akasa has already stated it plans to fly on international routes by December this year.

Akasa Air has placed a firm order of 76 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft--23 B737-8s and 53 high-capacity B737-8-200 aircraft--powered by CFM LEAP-1B engines.

In addition, the airline said, it remains fully committed to placing a three-digit aircraft order by the end of 2023.

Akasa Air also said it continues to invest in training and has set up several learning academies in key cities across the country. The airline also said it has also recently installed B737 - 8200 Max Mid Exit Door to ensure that the cabin crew is equipped to deal with emergencies in its newly-inducted aircraft, from the get-go.

RBI's Rate-Setting Panel Starts 3-Day Deliberations On Monetary Policy

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Amid expectations of another status quo on the key interest rates, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed high-powered rate-setting panel MPC on Tuesday began its three-day meeting to firm up the next bi-monthly policy.

The decision of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would be announced on Thursday, August 10, by Governor Das.

Experts are of the view that the central bank may continue with the pause on the repo rate as concerns on the inflation front and keeping the borrowing cost stable to maintain the economic growth momentum persist.

The borrowing cost, which started rising in May last year, has stabilised with the RBI keeping the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February when it was raised from 6.25 per cent. Later, in the two bi-monthly policy reviews in April and June, the benchmark rate was retained.

BofA Securities in a report said it expects the RBI MPC to deliver a hawkish hold on August 10 while retaining the stance as withdrawal of accommodation.

"We don't see the recent tomato price spike to push the MPC to hike rates right away, we have seen such episodes in the past," it said.

Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO of Housing.com, said market analysts expect the central bank to opt for maintaining the

current status quo on both interest rates and policy stance.

The RBI is closely monitoring inflation figures, particularly in light of the recent significant surge in prices of essential food items, including vegetables, he said.

"Given the ongoing global economic uncertainties and persistent geopolitical risks, it is likely that the RBI will continue to exercise a cautious approach and keep interest rates unchanged, leading to a rate pause in its upcoming policy decision," Agarwala added.

The government has tasked the central bank to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The central bank factors in the CPI to arrive at its bi-monthly monetary policy decision.

Puneet Kaura, Managing Director & CEO of Samtel Avionics, an MSME which majorly manufactures products for defense and railways opined that it is going to be a tough call with regard to the interest rate for the Reserve Bank as both the Federal Bank and European Central Bank have raised their benchmark interest rates.

"It is expected that the RBI will continue with a pause for the third time in a row as inflation is likely to be benign in the wake of a good monsoon. The MSME sector which faces problems in getting institutional credit at competitive rates, however, would want the rates to come down," he said.

28% GST On Face Value In Casinos, Online Gaming, Horse Racing Will Increase Revenue Collection: FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the 28 per cent GST on full face value of supplies in casinos, race courses and online gaming will result in higher revenues.

The online gaming segment grew by 28 per cent in 2021 to reach USD 1.9 billion, as per NITI Aayog estimates referred in the Draft National Policy for Growth of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comic & Extended Reality sector in India prepared by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Sitharaman said casinos are currently paying 28 per cent GST on Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

Online gaming industry supplying actionable claims and some horse race clubs are currently paying GST at the rate of 18 per cent on platform fees/commission ranging from 5



to 20 per cent of the full face value, while some horse race clubs are paying 28 per cent on the full face value.

Sitharaman said online gaming companies supplying actionable claims and some horse race clubs paying 18 per cent on platform fee/commission are disputing the 28 per cent levy on actionable claims in the form of betting and gambling before various legal fora.

"It is anticipated that the levy of 28 per cent on full face value, as recommended in the 50th GST Council meeting, will result in increase of revenue from current levels," Sitharaman added.

Trai Recommends No Licence Fee On Permits For Telecom Infra Firm

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Telecom regulator Trai on Tuesday recommended the government creates new permits for digital infrastructure service providers but no licence fee is imposed on the companies.

Entities registered under the proposed licence will be able to provide both active infrastructures like mobile antennae and base stations and passive infrastructure as service to telecom operators except core network elements and spectrum, according to Trai's recommendation on "Introduction of Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Authorization under Unified Licence".

"The Authority recommends that the new category of licence be called 'Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) Licence'," The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in its recommendations.

The regulator has recommended an entry fee of Rs 2 lakh and an application processing fee of Rs 15,000 on DCIP permits.

"The Authority recommends that there should not be any licence fee applicable to DCIP authorization," Trai said.

Earlier, DoT had introduced Infrastructure Provider II licence which allowed companies to establish digital networks, provide transmission capacity, leasing and sale of end to end bandwidth and such firms were required to pay a licence fee.

The government had discontinued IP II licences in December 2005 as telecom tower companies opposed paying any licence fee for providing infrastructure.

At present, entities that own and operate active network elements are required to pay an 8 per cent licence fee.

Trai has recommended that the proposed DCIP licence should not be standalone licence, but an authorization under Unified Licence.

"The Authority recommends that enabling provision should be made by DoT for DCIP Licensees to purchase radio equipment without assignment of any spectrum," Trai recommended.

Govt Lost Rs 1 Lakh Cr In Taxes In FY'21 Due To Corporate Tax Cut: MoS Fin

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government lost a little over Rs 1 lakh crore in 2020-21 on account of a cut in corporate taxes, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Tuesday.

In September 2019, the government announced a cut in base corporate tax for then existing companies to 22 per cent from 30 per cent; and for new manufacturing firms, incorporated after October 1, 2019, to 15 per cent from 25 per cent. Companies opting for these new tax rates had to forego all exemptions and incentives. The effective tax rate for existing units, after considering surcharges and cess -- such as Swachh Bharat cess and education cess, which are levied on top of the income and corporate tax rates -- is 25.17 per cent as compared to 34.94 per cent earlier. For new units, it is 17.01 per cent as against 29.12 per cent previously.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Chaudhary had said the estimated revenue loss (due to reduction in corporate tax) in FY 2020-21 has been reestimated to be Rs 100,241 crore.

In February, the Minister had informed Parliament that the revenue loss in 2019-20 fiscal due to reduction in corporate tax rate from 30 per cent to 22 per cent was Rs 1,28,170 crore. As per the corporate tax collection data shared by Chaudhary, in fiscal 2022-23 the provisional revenues stood at over Rs 8.28 lakh crore, higher than over Rs 7.12 lakh crore in 2021-22.

Credit Card Default Rises To Rs 4,072 Crore In FY23

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Credit card default rose to Rs 4,072 crore or 1.94 per cent at the end of March 2023, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"As per the inputs received from RBI, in respect of defaults in credit cards, the gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) in credit cards was Rs 3,122 crore in March-2022 and Rs 4,072 crore in March-2023, while credit card outstanding in March-2022 and March-2023 was Rs 1.64 lakh crore and Rs 2.10 lakh crore, respectively," Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

GNPAs in credit cards have declined from 3.56 per cent in March 2021 to 1.91 per cent in March 2022, and stand at 1.94 per cent in March 2023 against the schedule commercial banks' GNPAs of 3.87 per cent in March 2023, he said.

Replying to another question, Karad said, the total number of frauds as reported by the coop-

erative banks during FY23 was 964 with amount involved to the tune of Rs 791.40 crore.

During FY22, the total number of fraud was 729 and the amount involved was Rs 536.59 crore as against 438 frauds involving Rs 1,985.79 crore in FY21, he said.

All cooperative banks are required to comply with the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from time to time, he said.

Compliance to RBI guidelines issued to banks is examined on sample basis during the supervisory assessment of the banks and any non-compliance observed is taken up with the banks for rectification apart from initiating supervisory/enforcement action against the bank, as deemed fit, he said.

RBI and NABARD have informed that they undertake measures for strengthening fraud risk management in banks, including issuing caution advisories, advising banks for rotation and mandatory leave of staff, compliance monitoring, cyber security advisories, etc., he said.

In a separate reply, Karad said,

as per inputs received from public sector banks, several steps have been taken to ensure ethical debt collection practices.

Banks conduct auction of the properties through online portals, as per their board approved policy framed under the guidance of fair practices code issued by Reserve Bank of India, and applicable laws and regulations of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, he said.

Banks also issue public auction notices of properties in two newspapers, i.e. in English as well as in vernacular local language, he said.

Further, he said, multiple valuations are obtained from empanelled/registered valuers to calculate reserve price of auction and the same is fixed with the approval of competent authority.

Besides, he said, RBI as part of its supervisory assessment, reviews adherence to its guidelines, and non-compliance observed are taken-up with banks for rectification apart from initiating supervisory/enforcement action, as deemed fit.

Uninvited Guests:

the latter usually start from 1500-2000 metres above sea level.

Dr Khuroo explained that the mountain ecosystems relatively remain untouched and less human-inhabited. Lately, these high-elevation areas are witnessing a change due to the expanding tourism sector and rise in road constructions. "This has resulted in an increased human foot-print in these ecologically fragile areas. Subsequently, some new types of seeds, alien plants or insects are getting introduced there along with the human and vehicular movement. Most of them are not able to adapt in the new habitat as they come from warmer regions. However, with changes in climate and increasing anthropogenic pressures, some of these alien plants are able to acclimatise," he said.

The botanist, with two-decade long experience in this area of research, pointed out that over a period of time, few of the acclimatised species can turn invasive and start proliferating the habitats of native flora. "With the result, they outcompete and slowly dislodge plant species that have evolved specifically to live there."

For example, in Kashmir Himalaya, Dr Khuroo elaborated, the Mexican water lily, (*Nymphaea mexicana*) has proliferated across the Dal Lake. It is a species of aquatic plant that is native to the Southern United States and Mexico. "This plant species has a rapid growth rate and becomes weedy in dams, ponds and rivers. We are already witnessing the monopolization of this alien plant species in Dal which clearly shows its invasive characteristics."

Another example of invasive plant species in mountain ecosystems of Kashmir is *Leucanthemum vulgare*, commonly known as the ox-eye daisy. It was introduced in the valley around the 1950s-1960s. That time, it was growing in flower beds within gardens and parks. "Over a period of time, it has escaped and presently covers a large portion of Gulmarg and other meadows. This is how the diversity rich meadows are getting overpowered by these single invasive species," Dr Khuroo said.

Similarly, Kashmir Himalaya is also seeing an increase in the growth of ornamental flowers like Lupin in high-elevation areas like Gulmarg. It belongs to the legume family Fabaceae. Earlier, its cultivation remained restricted to the hotel parks. "Like other invasive plant species, it is also escaping the flower beds and is now found on a large scale in the meadow. Currently, the plant species extends its growth towards forest gaps. It means the plant in near future will continue to grow at cost of other native flora," he said.

Dr Khuroo emphasized that mechanical removal treatments are usually the first ones to look at when evaluating an invasive plant removal project. These procedures do not require special licensing or introduce chemicals into the environment. "Similarly, we can collect the seeds of the native plants in the autumn season. It's the time of the year when plants make grass and disperse its seed. We can identify the target invaded area and remove the invasive plants from it. This should be followed by mixing the soil with native seeds. This way, we can aim for the ecological restoration of the native plants," he detailed.

He added, besides public awareness, the relevant Government departments like Floriculture, Agriculture, Forests can also put in place some regulations. "We should not import every plant blindly, unless there are quarantine measures taken or initial studies done to rule out their adverse invasive impact on the native biodiversity and natural ecosystems."

Alligator gar sighted in Dal Lake

In May this year, a non-native predator fish, Alligator Gar was found in Dal Lake in Srinagar. Dr. Irfan Ahmad, Professor & Head, Div. of Fish Genetics & Biotechnology, Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST, Kashmir explained that Alligator Gar is a native to North America and Central America primarily from the Mississippi River basin. It is an invasive torpedo-shaped freshwater fish with razor-sharp teeth, and is the largest species in the gar family.

"Gars have relatively short, broad snouts with two rows of sharp teeth in the upper jaw; other gars only have one row of teeth, and diamond-shaped interlocking (ganoid) scales. It can grow up to 8 feet long and weigh more than 300 pounds," he said.

He elaborated that Gars can live and hunt in both fresh and saltwater. The alligator gar is one of the top predators in its natural freshwater environment. It is an ambush predator that lies in wait for prey and then attacks with its large jaws. Besides, they can live for many decades. "They are considered monsters of fresh waters. They grow very fast when young, but growth slows with age."

Dr Ahmad emphasized that the reason behind the appearance of Alligator Gar in the Dal Lake is that people buy such fish for home aquariums without realising the size they grow to. Once that happens, they release the fish in the nearest water body.

"When you introduce any new species in an alien environment, the theory of invasion says the new species will fill an ecological niche in the environment. It will do so by breeding exponentially so that there are maximum chances that it survives and secures its place," Dr Ahmad pointed out.

The scientist added, for example, the Common Carp and Trout were introduced in 1956 and 1900 for the economic upliftment of people. Since its introduction (Common carp), the population of native fish species like Schizothorax or Snowtrout has declined drastically. This is because its faster growth, hardy characteristics suited the culturally eutrophicating water bodies which proved to be an exciting factor for the local ichthyofauna. The breeding and feeding habits have also contributed to some extent.

"Research shows that the total catch composition of Schizothorax has reduced to less than 15 percent while as the common carp comprises of 80-85 percent. Amid the establishment of common carp as major catch and other exotic fish species, the sighting of alligator gar is disturbing," he said.

Dr Ahmad said, however, only one specimen of gar has been found in Dal Lake so far. "Also, we are not sure whether it was male or female. There is more probability of this specimen being sexually immature as of yet. It takes more than 5 years for a female alligator gar to mature and more than two years for the male."

He stressed that the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority should keep a close vigil on the functioning of the lake by pressing in their men and machinery. "Besides, the authorities can place hoardings at important places and conduct awareness programmes on how to prevent our ecologically sensitive aquatic habitats from the invasive species. For instance, they can talk about ethical fish keeping which if we plan to own an exotic pet, do your research and plan ahead to make sure you can commit to looking after it. It's not just large fish that can cause havoc. Grass carp and small ornamental fish species popular in aquariums can be just as great a threat to native fish species."

Wild Boars pose a threat to critically endangered Kashmir Stag

Wild boar or wild pig (*Sus scrofa*) is not native to Kashmir region but is said to have been introduced during the time of Maharaja Gulab Singh (1846-1857). The animal was mainly introduced in Dachigam national park and some selected areas which were used for hunting adventures.

Intesar Suhail, Wildlife Warden of Shopian district in South Kashmir told Kashmir Observer that the species almost vanished in the mid 80's. However, the wild pig showed signs of revival in 2013 after a gap of 30 years. It was spotted by a camera trap installed by SKUAST-Kashmir in Dachigam national park. Although, there is no population estimation done on wild boar as of yet, we have recorded its occurrence in Limber and Lacchipora wildlife sanctuary in North Kashmir, Shopian and Achabal in South Kashmir.

"It's quite possible that the wild pig resurfaced due to the change in climate and warmer winters as it cannot survive in extreme cold," Suhail said.

The wildlife expert noted that the wild pig is regarded as an ecological hazard for the local flora and fauna. "One of most eminent threats posed by the animal is its feeding pattern. They have the ability to uproot and destroy vegetation, which is essential for the survival of many native animal species in the region. Boars are omnivores and will eat a wide range of plant and animal matter. However, as opportunistic feeders, they will eat much of what they come across on the forest floor. Moreover, wild boar population can increase rapidly. It is a prolific breeder can give birth to a litter size of six to eight individuals in a single time."

He explained, secondly, it poses a threat to the critically endangered Kashmir stag aka Hangul. Both the animals share the same habitat, therefore puts wild boar in direct competition for critical resources like shelter, water, food etc, with the Hangul and other animal species.

"Also, food scarcity increases for Hangul in winters. It remains restricted to lower Dachigam in the extreme cold. Since the wild pig shares same habitat as Hangul, there are chances that it might not leave enough food for the latter. Besides, one positive outcome can also emerge out of it. The wild pig might offer an alternative prey to predators like leopard. But all these factors need to be studied and investigated properly," Suhail said.

BSF Chief Reviews

intruders were shot dead by the BSF in two separate incidents in the Ramgarh sector of Samba and the Arnia sector of Jammu on July 25 and 31, respectively.

Over four kg of heroin and some Pakistani currency were recovered from the slain intruder in Ramgarh.

"A special emphasis has been given to drone threats posed by Pakistan from across the border," the spokesperson said, adding the director general of the BSF was also shown the all-round domination strategy of the force on the International Border.

He said that in the evening, Agrawal took part in a 'Prahari Sammelan' and lauded the Jammu frontier for maintaining the highest degree of professionalism in dominating the border effectively.

The director general also interacted with jawans on the ground and praised them for their dedication and professionalism, the spokesman said.

Cop Held For

and the accused policeman Joginder Singh of Samba and ex-serviceman Balwinder Singh of Kathua were arrested, the official said.

No Question Of

it ceased to exist after 1957, the constitutional provision according special status to J&K, assumed a permanent character.

During the third-day of the hearing on the pleas challenging the Centre's August 2019 decision, Sibal repeated his contention before the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gawai and Surya Kant.

"This court will remember Brexit. In Brexit, there was no constitutional provision (in England) seeking a referendum. But, when you want to sever a relationship which has been entered into, you must ultimately seek the opinion of the people because people are at the centre of this decision not the Union of India," Sibal asserted.

CJI Chandrachud was, however, not impressed.

"In a constitutional democracy, seeking the opinion of people has to be done through established institutions. So long as a democracy exists as it does, in terms of constitutional democracy, any recourse to the will of the people has to be expressed and sought through established institutions. You cannot therefore envisage a situation like Brexit type referendum," he told Sibal.

He concurred with Sibal's view that Brexit was a political decision but said, "Within a Constitution like us there is no question of referendum."

Sibal said the repeal was a political decision taken unilaterally by the executive and it cannot be called a decision that was in consonance with the Constitution.

Sibal, who argued through the day, said whether Article 370 was a temporary or permanent provision does not matter now. He said the ultimate question is whether the Union of India can terminate that relationship which was constitutionally recognised under Article 370.

"It is irrelevant. Temporary or permanent does not matter. The manner it was done is a fraud upon the Constitution. It is a politically motivated act. Executive orders are political acts not constitutional acts. Permanent or temporary at the moment is not the issue."

"The reason why I am saying this is because maybe there is a constitutional way of doing it. Though, I am not addressing that (issue) nor have they (Centre) resorted to constitutional methodology. If they resort to it, it will be tested in the court of law," Sibal said.

Sibal has been insisting that Parliament could not have assumed the role of the constituent assembly to repeal Article 370.

He questioned the Centre's decision of dividing the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and said the Constitution did not allow it.

"You cannot divide Madhya Pradesh or Bihar into two union territories. This is a representative form of democracy. In this case, where are the voices of people of Jammu and Kashmir? Where is the voice of representative democracy? Five years have passed...have you had any form of representative democracy? This way the whole of India can be converted into Union Territories," he said.

Sibal said though the Constitution is a political document, one cannot manoeuvre or manipulate it as courts are not silent.

"That's not how you interpret a Constitution. It is a political document but you cannot misuse it politically. What is a Constitution? It's a set of values. Values on the basis of which people will represent themselves and their voice will be heard. If you do such executive acts and silence the voices of people, what is left of democracy? "All I can say is that this is the historic moment, historic not for the present but for the future of India. And I hope this court is not silent," Sibal said while concluding his arguments.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will continue on Wednesday when senior advocate Gopal Subramanian will advance his arguments for the petitioners.

Several petitions challenging abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which split the erstwhile state into two union territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh - were referred to a Constitution bench in 2019.

Once We Cease

my view is that the doctrine of the basic structure of the Constitution has a very debatable jurisprudential basis. I would not say anything more than this."

In the landmark Kesavananda Bharati verdict of 1973, the top court had propounded the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution and held that certain fundamental features such as democracy, secularism, federalism and rule of law cannot be amended by Parliament.

During the hearing on Tuesday, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for National Conference leader Mohd Akbar Lone who has challenged the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution which had accorded special status to erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, referred to Justice Gogoi's statement made in the Upper House.

Sibal contended that the manner in which the Centre abrogated the special status of J and K cannot be in any way justified "unless a new jurisprudence is brought so that they (Centre) can do whatever they like as long as they have a majority".

He said, "now one of your esteemed colleagues has said that in fact basic structure theory is also doubtful".

Responding to Sibal's submission, CJI Chandrachud said, "Mr Sibal, when you refer to a colleague, you have to refer to a sitting colleague. Once we cease to be judges, whatever we say, they are just opinions and are not binding."

It may be recalled that CJI Chandrachud had at a public event in January this year had called the basic structure doctrine a 'North Star' that guides and gives certain direction to the interpreters and implementers of the Constitution when the path ahead is convoluted.

The basic structure principle became the ground for setting aside several Constitutional amendments, including the quashing of the amendment and the corresponding NJAC Act on the appointment of judges in the higher judiciary.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who is appearing for the Centre in the Article 370 case, intervened when Sibal made the submission and said proceedings in Parliament cannot be discussed before the court just like the court's proceedings are not discussed in Parliament.

"Mr Sibal is addressing here, since he wasn't there in Parliament yesterday, he should have responded in the Parliament."

Sibal, who is an independent MP of Rajya Sabha, agreed with Mehta's submission and said he was not in Parliament on Monday during the debate on the GNCTD amendment bill.

Delivering the Nani A Palkhivala Memorial Lecture in Mumbai on January 21, CJI Chandrachud had said craftsmanship of a judge lies in interpreting the text of the Constitution with the changing times while keeping its soul intact.

"The basic structure of our Constitution, like the North Star, guides and gives certain direction to the interpreters and implementers of the Constitution when the path ahead is convoluted," he said.

"The basic structure or the philosophy of our Constitution is premised on the supremacy of the Constitution, rule of law, separation of powers, judicial review, secularism, federalism, freedom and the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation."

The remarks by the CJI came days after Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar had questioned the Kesavananda Bharati case verdict and said

he does not subscribe to its conclusion that Parliament can amend the Constitution but not its basic structure.

Dhankhar, who is the Rajya Sabha chairman, had said the verdict set a bad precedent and if any authority questions Parliament's power to amend the Constitution, it would be difficult to say "we are a democratic nation".

He had asserted that parliamentary sovereignty and autonomy are quintessential for the survival of democracy and cannot be permitted to be compromised by the executive or judiciary.

Addressing the 83rd All India Presiding Officers Conference in Jaipur on January 11, Dhankhar said the judiciary cannot intervene in lawmaking.

"In 1973, a wrong precedent (galat parampara) started. In 1973, in the Kesavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court gave the idea of basic structure saying Parliament can amend the Constitution but not its basic structure. With due respect to the judiciary, I cannot subscribe to this," Dhankhar, who has been a Supreme Court lawyer, said.

LG Calls For

asked for active involvement of common citizens, public representatives, youth clubs, civil society, self help groups, NCC Scouts and Guides, Army veterans, ex-servicemen, prominent citizens and educational institutions in the celebration of Independence Day.

Sinha suggested the Culture Department to come up with the monographs on martyrs.

"He directed the officers for tricolour illumination of prominent buildings, tourist spots, border villages, and organizing activities in the honour of the prominent personalities who contributed in nation building," an official spokesperson said.

Railway Police

of Police, Government Railway Police (GRP), Jammu, Mohan Lal Kaith, SSP GRP Katra, Sanjay Kumar Kotwal, an official said.

He said security arrangements in and around railway stations came up for a detailed review with a focus on the forthcoming Independence Day and the ongoing Anarnath Yatra.

Kumar directed the officers to keep extra vigil in order to thwart any nefarious designs of anti-national elements and anti-social elements on the ground.

He also passed necessary directions for investigating crimes in a professional manner on a merit basis.

The ADGP directed for optimum use of available manpower and asked for the setting up of Railway Special Branch (RSB) teams and anti-drug squads to monitor the situation at the railway stations, the official said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Udhampur-Ramban range, Suleman Choudhary chaired a meeting in Udhampur district along Jammu-Srinagar national highway to review security arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day.

Senior officers of police, CRPF and intelligence agencies attended the meeting which discussed threadbare the prevailing law and order situation, the presence of terrorists and attempts to revive terrorism, a police spokesperson said.

He said the meeting also took an overview of the surveillance of underground workers of terrorists and surrendered terrorists.

Addressing the meeting, the DIG emphasised the strengthening of checking points along the National Highway to keep a check on the transportation of drugs and weapons.

He also called for proper coordination among the Army, BSF, CRPF and Police for area domination with more attention on minority pickets and timely sharing of actionable information among all the agencies for surveillance of anti-national and anti-social elements in the district.

Dengue Cases

Covid-19 as there is no vaccine available for the disease.

He said Covid-19, a respiratory illness, caused by the virus known as SARS-CoV-2 is a communicable (contagious) virus, while dengue is caused through the bite of an infected Aedes species. He, however, said those having tested positive for dengue fever in Kashmir so far have a travel history.

The accumulation of stagnant water in waterlogged areas, according to the DAK president, provides an excellent breeding environment for Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for carrying the dengue virus.

However, he said the effect of dengue has always been insignificant in Kashmir as the patients having been tested positive had a travel history outside the valley into the neighboring states and that most of the patients, he said had duration of stay between 21-30 days in dengue prevalent areas.

"There is no specific treatment for dengue. However, preemptive measures like using insect repellents and the bed nets can reduce the incidence of dengue, although there is no vaccine available for the virus," Dr Nisar told Kashmir Observer.

"There is every possibility that a person once tested positive for dengue can again be infected as there is a long-term immunity to the type of virus that infects the individual, he said, adding, "Dengue causes a high fever and the signs and symptoms, include headache, muscle, bone or joint pain, nausea, vomiting, pain in eyes, swollen glands and rashes."

State Surveillance Officer, Dr Harjeet Rai told Kashmir Observer that the vector borne disease (dengue) cases are expected to rise after monsoon and that the people must take preemptive measures to avoid getting infected.

He asked people to use mosquito repellents and wear full sleeves shirts so as to save themselves from the Aedes mosquitoes bite, which he said choose to breed in stagnant water accumulated by water logging mainly during monsoon.

He said the dengue case usually goes up in September and October months when monsoon is over and that dengue mosquitoes breed in tires, barrels, plastic drums and jerry cans. But there are various other indoor and outdoor breeding sites for the Aedes mosquitoes.

Dr Rai said the health department may go for fogging, a conventional technique used to combat Aedes mosquitoes and prevent

dengue disease, in case it takes the shape of an epidemic.

"Since there is no vaccine available for the disease, we recommend people to use mosquito repellents and bed nets to prevent themselves from being bitten by the Aedes mosquito. Wear full sleeves shirts, long socks and long pants when going out," Dr Rai added.

Replying to a question on the impact of Dengue in Kashmir, he said so far six positive cases with travel history have been detected in Kashmir that too through the rapid testing from a particular diagnostic lab.

He asked people having symptoms of dengue fever to adopt the proper procedure of testing other than rapid antigen testing.

He also advised people to spare at least ten hours on ten Sundays in getting their environment clean so that the Aedes mosquitoes won't have a breeding environment.

When contacted spokesman, Directorate of Health Service Kashmir, Dr Mir Mushtaq Ahmad said the prevalence of dengue has always been negligible in Kashmir compared to Jammu and that people need not to panic as the cases so far reported in the valley are nominal.

BJP, KPs Welcome

Front (JKLF) founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat to death in the 1960s in a case related to the murder of police officer Amar Chand.

He was shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar in November 1989 and was among the prominent Kashmiri Pandits to be targeted before the mass migration of the community from the valley a few months later.

Senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta lauded the reopening of the Ganjoo murder case and assured the Kashmiri Pandit community that their every unaddressed issue would be addressed appropriately soon.

Reacting to the reopening of the case, Director of Jonaraja Institute of Genocide and Atrocities Studies Dilip Kaul told PTI, "Though a baby step, we welcome it and request the people having knowledge about the murder to come forward to play their part in providing justice to the victim family."

The SIA, through a communique, has appealed to all persons familiar with facts or circumstances of the murder case to come forward and share any account of events which has a direct or indirect bearing on the investigation of the instant case.

Kaul said he sees the development as a "tacit admission of the failure of state investigating authorities as the murder had taken place when the community was living in the valley. He was high on the hit-list and the government was complacent in saving his life."

He said the reconciliation with open wounds is not possible and so is the denial of justice. "It should have been done much earlier but still we welcome it as open wounds need to be healed and the victim families provided justice."

He said the government should not restrict it to one case and instead reinvestigate all cases of killings of innocent people to restore lost confidence among the community members.

Titu Ganjoo, a constitutional expert, said the SIA's resounding call for truth unequivocally vindicates the community's unwavering advocacy for recognition, justice and accountability for the targeted brutality endured.

He pitched for the enactment of an anti-genocide law to prevent largescale atrocities against a community.

Convener of the Kashmiri Pandit United Front (KPUPF) Satish Kissu also welcomed the reopening of the murder case and insisted that all killings, irrespective of victims' religion, be reinvestigated if the government wants to unravel the conspiracy and provide justice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former General Secretary of the All State Kashmir Pandit Conference (ASKPC) T K Bhat said the reopening of the case was a good step but came very late.

"The timing of reopening of Ganjoo's case ahead of general elections next year creates a doubt in the minds of the community that the BJP wants to cash in on the development for garnering votes. They are in the government for the last nine years and should have done it before rather than at the fag end of their government," Bhat said.

He said they have talked about return and rehabilitation of the community but failed to provide any roadmap till date. "We feel that we are being remembered only at the time of the elections and no sincere effort is made to address our pain and problems."

Social activist Sunil Pandita said it is better late than never and called for setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe all cases of killings and arson so that people's confidence in the system is restored and such things do not occur again.

451 Pilgrims Leave

from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 1.

The traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route was chosen by 303 pilgrims, including 26 women and 20 seers. The shorter but more challenging 14-kilometre Baltal route was preferred by the remaining 148, including 25 women.

So far, more than 4.23 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the cave shrine. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August 31.

AJKSCC Delegation

governance in the UT.

The delegation of prominent Sikh community members put forth several issues pertaining to the community, including provision of reservation for the microscopic minority, introduction of Punjabi Language in the School Education in JKUT. They also discussed the matter of allotment of land for the reconstruction of historical Gurudwara Charan Kamal Asthan Guru Nanak Sahib Ji at Village Ser Manjla (Ram Nagar), Udhampur.

The Lt Governor assured the members of delegation for redressal of the genuine issues and demands put forth on priority.

PRI Member

that the cause of the fire was accidental.



Srinagar Premier League: ARCO FC Beats STFC 2-0

THURSDAY 10-08-2023	FC1	SCFA	9	2:00 PM
THURSDAY 10-08-2023	JK UNITED FC	KASHMIR AVENGERS FC	9	4:30 PM
FRIDAY 11-08-2023	LONESTAR KASHMIR FC	GALAXY FC	9	8:30 AM
FRIDAY 11-08-2023	NOVELTY FC	IQBAL SPORTS FC	9	3:00 PM
SATURDAY 12-08-2023	STFC NATIPORA	JHELM FC	9	8:30 AM
SATURDAY 12-08-2023	JK POLICE FC	ARCO FC	9	3:00 PM
SUNDAY 13-08-2023	REAL KASHMIR FC	KASHMIR MAHARAJA FC	9	2:00 PM
SUNDAY 13-08-2023	JK BANK ACADEMY	AG'S OFFICE XI	9	4:30 PM

CHECK OUT THE FULL FIXTURES LIST

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a 2023 Srinagar Premier League match on Tuesday, ARCO FC defeated STFC Natipora 2-0 at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The first half of the match remained goalless as both teams tried to find goal-scoring opportunities.

However, the second half of the game proved to be a different affair as ARCO boys found the back of the net early in the second half through Sujit. ARCO added a second after a swift counter attack that saw Basit convert the opportunity. The match ended 2-0 in ARCO FC's favor.

The Srinagar Premier League will continue today, Wednesday, August 9, at Synthetic Turf TRC, with two Round 9 matches on schedule.

Twenty teams remain in the competition, with clubs like FC1, Downtown Heroes FC, J&K Bank XI attracting huge crowds with their brand of football.

Today's schedule features two games with four high-flying teams. Ali Jana FC lock horns with Kashmir Panthers FC at 2 pm, while JK Bank FC take on Star Kashmir FC at 4:30 pm.

The tournament is organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with JKFA and JKSC.

District Wushu C'ship Concludes In Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: District Wushu Championship 2023 Bandipora concluded on Tuesday at Government Higher Secondary School Ajas here.

The two-day event witnessed participation of as many as 330 participants including a good number of female athletes. The organized by District Wushu Association of Bandipora in collaboration with J&K Sports Council and

District Administration Bandipora. The participating athletes representing different schools and clubs of district Bandipora.

The Syed Jaffar-u-Din Bukhari Memorial Islamic Public School, Ajas bagged the overall 1st position securing 9 gold medals, while Government Higher Secondary School, Ajas with 3 gold medals was placed second.

Many eminent personalities and dignitaries from the district attended the closing ceremony.

YSS Anantnag Holds U-17 Inter School Cricket Final



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Department of Youth Services & Sports Anantnag Zone Mattan on Tuesday held the final match of the Inter School Zonal Level Cricket for Under-17 boys at Sports Stadium Mattan.

The match was played between HSS Mattan and HS Akad. The toss was won by HS Akad who batted first and set a target

of 96 runs. In reply HSS Mattan achieved this target easily just in 13 overs.

A prize distribution ceremony were held at the same venue by special guests Principal HSS Mattan Bashir Ahmad, ZPEO Mattan Fahmeeda Akhter, Sports Analyst Lal Mohammad Ganie, Senior PEM Mohd Ashraf Shah, Senior PET Javid Ahmad Malik and other officials of Zone Mattan.

India Win 3rd WI T20, Keep Series Alive



Press Trust of India

PROVIDENCE: Suryakumar Yadav was back to his disdainful best as India stayed alive in the series with a seven-wicket win over the West Indies in the third T20I here on Tuesday.

West Indies skipper Rovman Powell's whirlwind 40 not out off 19 balls pushed the hosts to 159 for five after Kuldeep Yadav (3/28) stemmed the flow of runs in the middle overs.

Debutant Yashavi Jaiswal (1) and Shubman Gill (6) got out cheaply in run chase before Suryakumar came up with a special 83 off 44 balls to help India gun down the target in 17.5 overs.

Tilak Varma (49 not out off 37) was happy to play second fiddle to his senior Mumbai

Indians teammate in their 87-run stand. Tilak missed his second straight fifty in his debut series as skipper Hardik Pandya (20 not out off 15) hit the winning six. West Indies lead the five-match series 2-1 with the next game to be played in Lauderdale, Florida, on Saturday.

Suryakumar, who had a quiet tour up till now, flicked his first ball for a boundary. It is almost impossible to stop Suryakumar when he is finding the gaps at will and that is what the West Indies bowlers had to endure on Tuesday. His innings comprised 10 fours and four sixes with the highlight being the picture perfect straight hit over pacer Obed McCoy's head.

After Suryakumar's dismissal in the 13th over, skip-

per Hardik and Tilak did the needful.

Earlier, Kuldeep got rid of the dangerous Nicholas Pooran (20 off 12) and a well-set Brandon King (42 off 42) in the 15th over to wrest momentum from the West Indies. In an unusual occurrence, the start of the game was slightly delayed as the 30-yard circle was not marked.

After opting to bat, the West Indies enjoyed their best start of the series with King and Kyle Mayers (25 off 20) sharing a 55-run stand.

Brief scores: West Indies 159 for 5 in 20 overs (Brandon King 42, Rovman Powell 40 not out; Kuldeep Yadav 3/28)

India 164 for 3 in 17.5 overs (Suryakumar Yadav 83; Alzarri Joseph 2/25.)



Anil Kumble's Way To Tackle India-Pakistan Matches Is...

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: India are set to play Pakistan in the Asia Cup and the World Cup in the coming two months, and legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble said to take it as just another game of cricket.

The former India captain has an outstanding record against Pakistan in both Tests and ODIs, having taken 81 wickets from 15 Tests, including snaring all 10 wickets in an innings (10/74) in 1999 at New Delhi.

In 34 ODIs against Pakistan, Kumble has grabbed 54 wickets. "In our times, the word was 'lose even to Kenya but not to Pakistan'. There was pressure and expectation on the players.

"That's how the matches between India and Pakistan are being played and the key is to treat it as just another match," Kumble said here while speaking during the launch of Pitch-side, the memoir written by veteran cricket administrator Amrit Mathur.

The function was also attended by former India batter and the current NCA chief VVS Laxman and former India wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani.

The 10-wicket haul against Pakistan is still a much-cherished moment for Kumble.

"I did not go onto the field thinking of a 10-wicket haul, though that is the dream of any bowler.

"However, in the next Test match against Pakistan, the Asian Test Championship at Kolkata, I was struggling to take even one wicket. That is the game of cricket for you," he said. Kumble had ended that match with figures 1 for 139 as Pakistan defeated India by 46 runs at the Eden Gardens in February, 1999.

Mathur was India's team manager during the 2004 tour to Pakistan.

He remembered the tight security which was given to the Indian team during that trip.

"Pakistan was ready to give any amount of security to us. There were police vehicles in front and behind our team bus, a helicopter above the team bus, Rapid Action Force in all major road points and snipers on top of buildings en route to the stadium, especially in Karachi.

"At one point, even players were feeling why we need so much security, but overall the tour went off well," said Mathur.

Barcelona & Madrid Face Uncertainty Ahead Of Spanish League Season

The Associated Press

MADRID: Barcelona couldn't bring back Lionel Messi, and lost two other stalwarts in Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba. Real Madrid couldn't sign Kylian Mbappé — so far at least — and saw veteran striker Karim Benzema leave for Saudi Arabia.

The Spanish league begins this week with the title favorites facing a transition year and squad changes that might open the door for other challengers.

Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid could be the team to take advantage after keeping most players in a squad that offered the best soccer in Spain at the end of last season. Real Sociedad is another outsider lurking after a strong fourth-place finish.

BARCELONA'S CHANGES

Barcelona, still not fully healthy financially, saw Busquets and Alba join Messi at Inter Miami, but it brought veteran Ilkay Gundogan from Manchester City to try to boost its chances of successfully defending its first league title since Messi left a couple of years ago.

Barcelona coach Xavi is also likely to keep Ousmane Dembélé after rumors of a transfer involving the France forward quietened recently. Dembélé was one of Barcelona's main



weapons in attack last season, along with Robert Lewandowski, the league's top scorer.

Xavi will still rely on the talent of Pedri and Gavi, who are now more experienced and more mature than when they debuted.

It didn't hurt Barcelona's confidence to beat Madrid 3-0 in a preseason game last month in the United States, when Dembélé scored one of the goals. "It's always good to win a clásico," but there's still a lot to improve," Xavi said.

REAL MADRID'S LOSS

Madrid will be without Benzema, last year's Ballon d'Or winner, for the first time in more than a decade. The French striker was the team's top player the last few sea-

sons, leading its attack after Cristiano Ronaldo's departure. Benzema's exit will put more responsibility on the Brazilian duo of Vinicius Júnior and Rodrygo, who last season showed some signs that they could be ready to take on greater leadership roles.

Spain striker Joselu came on a loan from Espanyol to try to help make up for Benzema's absence, and Bellingham will add freshness to a midfield that will likely see the last seasons of veterans Toni Kroos and Luka Modric.

Also leaving the team were Eden Hazard, Marco Asensio and Mariano Diaz. Coach Carlos Ancelotti stayed to finish his contract despite repeated calls for him to join Brazil's national team.

Asian Games Hockey: India, Pakistan In Same Group

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian men's hockey team has been clubbed alongside arch-rivals Pakistan and will play the big-ticket match on 30 September in the Asian Games, while the women's side has South Korea and Malaysia among others in its pool.

Placed in Group A, besides Pakistan, the Indian men have Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore and Uzbekistan against whom they will begin their campaign on 24 September.

The Group B in men's section comprises South Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand and Indonesia, while the women's teams in Group B will comprise of Japan, China, Thailand, Kazakhstan and Indonesia.

After playing Uzbekistan, the Indian men's side will lock horns with Singapore on September 26 and Japan on September 28 before rounding off their group campaign with games against Pakistan and Bangladesh on September 30 and October 2 respectively.



While the women's side, who are also in Pool A, will be up against Hong Kong and Singapore besides South Korea and Malaysia.

The Indian women will start their campaign against Singa-

All hockey matches will be played at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou, China. The men's final will be played on October 6, while the women's title clash will be held the very next day.

Messi's Exit Leaves A Big Hole At PSG As The Club Frets Over Mbappe & Neymar

The Associated Press

PARIS: There's a big hole in the Paris Saint-Germain locker room where Lionel Messi used to sit. The way things are going at under-pressure PSG, Kylian Mbappe may also soon be vacating his spot — and maybe even Neymar too.

Soccer fans around the world took a greater interest in watching the French league last season when PSG boasted superstars Messi, Mbappe and Neymar in attack.

Those PSG fans who thought it wise to jeer the record seventh-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi last season may be regretting it now. Even more so if the club sells Mbappe to stop him leaving next summer for free as he intends.

With Messi gone to Inter Miami, it should fall to Mbappe

and Neymar to lead the attack. But with Mbappe mired in a transfer standoff and Neymar still feeling his way back from his latest injury, there's a possibility neither will start the home game against modest Lorient on Saturday.

Mbappe could be left out as PSG tries to sell him. PSG has received a world record \$332 million bid from Saudi Arabian team Al-Hilal for Mbappe, who is widely thought to want to join Real Madrid next season on a free transfer, complete with a massive signing-on fee. Mbappe has been training alone and was left off the recent tour to Japan and South Korea.

PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi is reportedly hugely disappointed at Mbappe, having offered him a massive contract to sign a new contract in May last year reportedly worth 6 million



euros (\$6.6 million) per month. Messi's move to Miami came after Argentina's World Cup winner didn't sign the contract

extension that Qatar-backed PSG offered him. If Mbappe goes as well, it would further deprive the French league of some star

quality, dampening early interest in the season particularly outside of France. "It's a decision that goes beyond the players. It's a question for the directors," PSG captain Marquinhos said. "You always want great players next to you, I hope there will be a good solution so that he can come back and help us this season." France's leading sports daily L'Equipe said on Monday evening that Neymar, who is under contract until 2025, also wants to leave this summer. PSG did not comment.

Losing Mbappe and Neymar would be a massive blow to the prestige of the French league, which opens with Nice hosting Lille on Friday night, but would also be the wake-up call PSG needs after yet another season of complacency and over-reliance on Mbappe and other star performers. For while PSG won a re-

cord 11th French title last season, the second half of the campaign was dismal. Unbeaten before the World Cup started in November, PSG lost 10 matches overall in 2023 in all competitions.

PSG lost three home games in the league at Parc des Princes, which was once a fortress, including back-to-back defeats to Rennes and Lyon without scoring a goal. Even Lorient, which finished in 10th, won 3-1 in Paris, while a 3-1 defeat in Monaco saw Marquinhos and Neymar arguing with sporting director Luis Campos, who is now at odds with the club's hierarchy. Christophe Galtier was fired and the former Barcelona coach Enrique was hired to replace him.

The pre-season tour saw PSG winning only one of its four games. Although Neymar scored twice in the last game — a 3-0 win against South Korean side

Jeonbuk — the intensity for this Saturday's game against Lorient will be higher and Enrique may not risk starting him.

But this gives a chance for fringe players and new recruits, like former Real Madrid attacking midfielder Marco Asensio, to stake an early claim. Striker Hugo Ekitike and midfielder Fabian Ruiz were both disappointing last season and need to bounce back.

Mbappe's 16-year-old brother Ethan Mbappe will be hoping to get some playing time in a midfield which could yet lose Italy veteran Marco Verratti to Al-Hilal after 10 years with PSG.

If Verratti and Mbappe leave, PSG's season will start with a negative vibe surrounding the club and increase optimism that a contender can last the distance after Lens finished second by just one point last season.



Jammu & Kashmir Badlav aur Vikas ke 4 saal

Chaar Saal Bemisaal

For the Love of the Wild: Marking Milestones in Wildlife Conservation



The **first ever Zoo of J&K**, spread over 70 ha area in the Natural green setting of Shivalik Foothills, opened to public in May 2023.



Dachigam adjudged as the best in management effectiveness evaluation exercise by the WII; Hangul-recorded a population of 289 in March 2023, a 58% increase over the 2015 population. Hangul Breeding Centre in Tral, languishing since 2008, revived and completed in 2023.



J&K added two more **2 RAMSAR sites** (Wetlands of International Importance) - Shallabugh & Hygam in 2022, taking the tally to 5, the 4th highest in the country.



1st ever Management Plans of various **Wetland Conservation Reserves prepared**, and comprehensive restoration taken up systematically, resulting in a record number of **migratory birds - 13.28 lakh**, during February 2023 against 8.25 Lakh in 2020, sighted in J&K.



J&K now figures in the **Global Snow Leopard Map** – the first ever successful camera trap captures of Snow Leopards at Kishtwar High Altitude National Park and Thajwas Wildlife Sanctuary recorded in 2022.



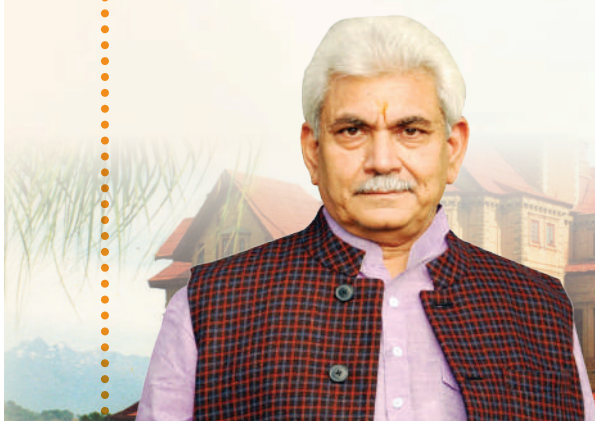
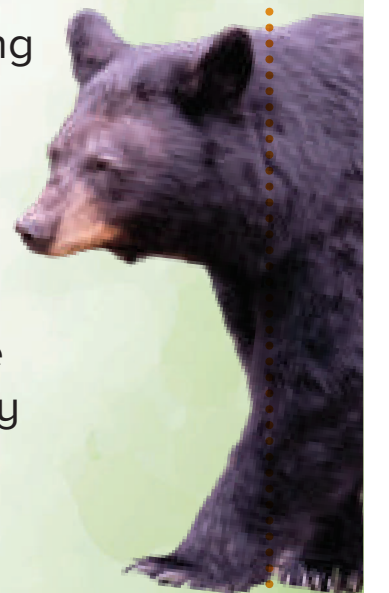
Initiative taken for Eco-Tourism Promotion include, Hangul Eco-Stop, Hokersar Eco-Stop, Gharana Eco-Stop, Trek Routes, Online booking of Wildlife Huts, Online entry permission for Dachigam National Park, Training of Eco-Guides



First ever **Wild Animal Health Care & Diagnostic Centre** established at Dachigam. For the first time, 05 Wildlife Rescue Centers accorded recognition by the Central Zoo Authority.



Wildlife Conservation Awards **1st ever Wildlife Conservation Awards** instituted in 2021 by the J&K Government to promote conservation efforts. 29 persons awarded so far.



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR