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Hot, Humid Weather To Continue In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar, Aug 16: As maximum temperature remained 1-2°C above normal at most places of Jammu and Kashmir, the weather department on Monday said no significant relief from hot and humid weather conditions was expected for the next few days.

"Today, maximum temperature remained 1-2°C above normal at most places of J&K. Same conditions are likely for the next 2-3 days. No Significant relief from hot & humid conditions expected," a meteorological department official here said.

"From 16th-22nd August, mainly hot, humid & dry weather is expected in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

However, he said, there was a possibility of rain/thundershower at isolated places towards late afternoon and evening during the period "although chances are less". As regards More on P10

Mobile Addiction Causing Communication Disorders Among People In J&K: Survey

57.6 Percent Females, 42.4% Males In Kashmir Identified To Have Communication Disorders

Srinagar: A new survey on disorders communication has revealed shocking details about the mobile phone addiction among the people, mostly the younger genera-tion of Jammu and Kashmir.

The door-to-door survey was conducted by the Health Parliament, the International Patients' Union and the Delhi Branch of the Indian Speech & Hearing Association in Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi from May to June 2023.

In the twin regions of Iammu and Kashmir, over 6000 individuals from 1257 families were surveyed.

In Kashmir, 57.6% of the females and 42.4% of males were identified to have communication disorders, whereas, in



Ministry of Finance

Government of India

Returns

Jammu, 66.4% of the male population and 33.6% of the female population were identified with communication disorders.

Notably, the survey revealed a prevalence rate of 3.05% for communication disorders in the Delhi-NCR area, 6.17% in

Kashmir and 2.4% in Jammu. The survey was conducted by professionals and student volunteers in the field of speech and hearing to identify individuals with communication disorders.

specific Among

Amnesty Schemes

under GST

THE STUDY'S RESULTS HAVE SIGNIFICANT **IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE** PROFESSIONALS, policymakers, and researchers. Understanding the prevalence rates of different communication disorders helps in resource allocation and targeted interventions."

communication disorders examined during the survey, language disorders were the most prevalent, accounting for 19.73% of cases. Fluency disorders followed closely, representing 13.46% of reported cases. Speech Sound disorders and voice disorders were also significant contributors, constituting 14.19% and 7.49% of cases, respectively. Ear and hearing issues were the most communication disorders, with a substantial prevalence rate of 53.47%.

In addition to the primary communication disorders, the study also investigated less common conditions. Balance (vestibular disorders) and associated complaints were reported by 4.87% and 7.06% of participants, respectively. It is essential to acknowledge these less common disorders to ensure comprehensive diagnosis and appropriate support for affected individuals.

Furthermore, the study highlighted that 19.85% of participants More on P10

Man Gets Life Term For Killing Minor Son

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A court in Ramban on Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for poisoning to death his two-year-old son in the Jammu and Kashmir district about 10 years ago.

District and Sessions Judge, Ramban, RS Jasrotia convicted Mohd Shafi, a resident of Ind village, in the murder of his son Mohd Suleman, a police spokesperson said.

He said the boy was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his home on October 30, 2013 and during the course of inquiry, it came to the fore that Shafi had given poisonous insecticide to the child, causing his death.

Accordingly, a murder case was registered on November 30, 2013 and the chargesheet was filed against the accused in the court on January 26, 2014, the spokesman said.

He said Shafi was finally awarded rigorous imprisonment for life and slapped with a More on P10

ARTICLE 370 HEARING

SC Asks If Parl Can Enact Law To Divide J&K Into Two UTs

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Wednesday asked whether Parliament could have enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which divided the erstwhile state into two union territories, during the subsistence of President's Rule in

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill was tabled and passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2019 and was tabled and passed by the Lok Sabha the next day. It received presidential assent on August 9, 2019.

headed by Chief Justice DY



Chandrachud posed this question to senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, which

370 of the Constitution, contested the imposition of President's Rule in the erstwhile state on December 19, 2018 and its extension on July 3, 2019 for six

A five-judge bench has, apart from challenging the abrogation of Article All Schools To Be 'Disabled

Agencies

Srinagar: Following the directives of National Human Commission (NHRC), School Education Department Wednesday said that it will make all 'schools disabled friendly' by 2024 and will ensure all provisions for specially abled students.

School Director of Education Kashmir while referring to the directives of NHRC asked all Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of the region to implement Section 45 of Rights of persons with disabilities Act.

Section 45 of Rights of persons with disabilities Act says that "All existing public buildings shall be made accessible in accordance with the rules formulated by the Central Government within a period not exceeding five years from the date of notification of such rules"

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Friendly' By 2024: DSEK "PART II - (2) The appropriate Government and the local authorities

shall formulate and publish an action plan based on prioritization, for providing accessibility in all their buildings and spaces providing essential services such as all primary health centres, civil hospitals, schools, railway stations and bus stops".

"The department of School Education shall endeavor to make all schools disabled friendly by 2024 and in this connection access audit of all schools, on priority High and higher secondary schools need to be conducted within the next three months in consultation with persons with disabilities and the organizations working for the disability sector," DSEK said.

It also said that the department of School education More on P10

Centrally Heated Vande Bharat Trains In J&K Soon

Agencies

Srinagar: Integral Coach Factory is all set to roll out Vande Bharat trains with central heating facilities inside the compartments for the Jammu and Kashmir next year, an official said here on Wednesday.

The official said these trains will have heating facilities inside the compartments and for the water lines and will also have special pipes to prevent freezing and breaking.

He said that this is part of the plan to design and manufacture different variants of the Vande Bharat trains.

"This train will have improved interiors, and bestin-class passenger amenities as provided in Vande Bharat trains. A specially designed locomotive will be connected to the train at each end for push pull operation, to enable it to travel faster," he added. The official More on P10

E S

Avail the Benefits and become a Compliant Taxpayer

GST Amnesty Scheme

Late fee for filing of FORM GSTR-4 returns for the quarters from July 2017 to March 2019 or for the F.Ys. from 2019-20 to 2021-22 has been reduced to:

Nil for Nil returns

Assessment order

• ₹ 500/- (₹ 250/- CGST + ₹ 250/- SGST) for other than Nil returns

if returns are filed on or before 31.08.2023

For Non-Filers of GSTR-4 | GSTR-9 | GSTR-10 |

For Revocation of Cancellation of Registration

For deemed withdrawal of Best Judgement

Maximum late fee is restricted to ₹ 20,000/-(₹ 10,000/- CGST + ₹ 10,000/- SGST) for filing of Annual Return in FORM GSTR-9 for any, of the F.Ys. from 2017-18 to 2021-22, if filed on or before 31.08.2023

Late fee for filing of Final Return in FORM GSTR-10 has been reduced to ₹ 1,000/- (₹ 500/- CGST + ₹ 500/- SGST), if filed on or before 31.08.2023

Registered persons whose registration was cancelled on or before 31.12.2022 due to non-filing of returns, may file application for revocation of cancellation of registration after filing of all returns pending upto the effective date of cancellation of registration alongwith payment of due tax, interest, penalty and late fee thereon on or before 31.08.2023

Best Judgement Assessment orders issued on or before 28.02.2023 for non-furnishing of valid FORM GSTR-3B returns will be deemed to be withdrawn if such returns are filed on or before 31.08.2023 alongwith payment of due tax, interest and late fee thereon

For more details, please refer

Don't miss

this opportunity!

Last date has

been extended till

31.08.2023

Notification No. 22/2023-Central Tax dated 17.07.2023 read with Notification No.02/2023 -Central Tax dated 31.03.2023 and Principal Notification 73/2017-Central Tax dated 29.12.2017

Notification No. 25/2023-Central Tax dated 17.07.2023 read with Notification No. 07/2023-Central Tax dated 31.03.2023

Notification No. 26/2023-Central Tax dated 17.07.2023 read with Notification No. 08/2023-Central Tax dated 31.03.2023

Notification No. 23/2023-Central Tax dated 17.07.2023 read with Notification No. 03/2023-Central Tax dated 31.03.2023

Notification No. 24/2023-Central Tax dated 17.07.2023 read with Notification No. 06/2023-Central Tax dated 31.03.2023

For more details, please scan



smugglers were arrested and cattle being smuggled to Kashmir valley from Samba district rescued, police said on Wednesday. A vehicle used

Arrested In Samba

wo notorious bovine

2 Bovine

Smugglers

for smuggling of bovines in Rakh Amb Talli falling under the jurisdiction of Samba police station was seized, they said. The arrested smugglers have been identified as Teg Ali and More on P10

843 More Leave For Amarnath Yatra

batch of 834 pilgrims on Wednesday left a base camp here for the Kashmir Valley under tight security to undertake the annual Amarnath pilgrimage, officials said. The 39th batch comprising 614 males, 146 females, 67 seers and seven children left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, in a convoy of 27 vehicles. More on

Teenager Drowns In Sindh Stream

teenager died on Wednesday after drowning in Sindh stream in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Haziq Imtiyaz lost balance and slipped into the gushing waters of Sindh stream near the newly constructed Wayil Bridge on Wednesday afternoon, reports said. Instantly, an operation was launched to rescue the teenager. More on P10

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs









Mother's Healthy Diet Can Ensure Good Brain Health Of Her Grandchildren

Press Trust Of India

others who eat apples and herbs during their early pregnancy could be pro-tecting the brain health of their children and grandchildren, a Monash University study using genetic models has found.

The discovery is part of a project that found a mother's diet can affect not just her child's brain but also those of her grandchildren.

Published in Nature Cell Biology, the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute study found that certain foods could help prevent the deterioration of brain function.

This study used roundworms (Caenorhabditis elegans) as the genetic model because many of their genes are also found in humans, allowing insights into human cells. The researchers found that a

certain molecule present in apples and herbs such as basil, rosemary, thyme, oregano, and sage helped in reducing the breakdown of communication cables needed for the brain

to work properly.
Senior professor Roger Pocock, with his team, investigated nerve cells in the brain that connect with each other through about 8,50,000 kilometres of cables called axons. For axons to function and survive, essential materials need to be transported along an internal structure that contains microtubules.

KHAWAJA FAMILY

BEREAVED.

It is to inform with grief and sorrow

that wife of Late Khawaja Qazim

Ali resident of Gund Khawaja Qasim

and sister of Haji Ghulam Hussain

Khawaja resident of Nabdipora

Zadibal left for heavenly abode

on 16th August Wednesday 2023

after a brief illness. She was buried

in her ancestral graveyard at Gund

She was pious, down to earth and

Her congregational prayers would be

held on 18th August Friday 2023 at

the residence of Haji Ghulam Hussain

Khawaja at Nabdipora Zadibal. The

congregational prayers will be held

at the house of her brother Haji

Ghulam Hassan Khawaja resident of

BEREAVED:

9419002857

9469042512

9906030000

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account as Tawheed Khursheed while my correct name as per aadhaar is

Tawheed Alam Bhat which needs to be corrected. If anybody

having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/he

objection in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Ragreth

within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this

ازعدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹر کٹ جج (بنک مقد مات)سرینگر

بااجلاس:اروندشرما

بنام

Masrat Ara

دعوي وصولياني رقم مبلغ =/Rs:190712/

اشتهار بمراد آگاهی بنام

R/o: Koolipora Khanyar Sgr مقدمه مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں مدعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم کی قبیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی

۔ اِلا نہ تو پیۃ جدید پر مدعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعہ معن تعمیل لائی

گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استدائی مدعاعلیہ/مدعالیم جو بذر بعیہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ

لبذا آپ کو بذریعه اشتهار مبزامطلع کیاجا تا 'پ کُه آپ بغرض پیردی ابراء مبذا بعنوان

بالامورخد18.08.2023 اصالتاً يا وكالتاً بروقت كچيري حاضرآ كرمقدمه منزاك

پیروی کریں _بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی تحریر

ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج بنک مقد مات سرینگر

=/Rs:190712 زيهاعت عدالت مذاب

J&K BANK B/U: KHANYAR SGR

R/o Lachman pora kerawa danoodar, SK Airport.

notice. After that no objection shall be entertained

Masrat Ara W/o: Altaf Ahmad Bhat

Tawheed Alam Bhat

S/o Khursheed Ahmad Bhat

Branch J&K Bank Rangreth

ag

Nabdipora Zadibal all day.

staunch believer of Ahlubait [A.S]

Khawaja Qasim.



Pocock explained that a malfunction that caused the axons to become fragile can lead to brain dysfunction and neurodegeneration.

He said his team used a genetic model with fragile axons that break as animals age. We tried to find whether natural products found in the diet can stabilise these axons and prevent breakage, he explained.

We identified a molecule found in apples and herbs that reduces axon fragility -- ursolic acid. How? We found that ursolic acid causes a gene to turn on that makes a specific type of fat. This particular fat also prevented axon fragility as animals age by improving axon transport and therefore ts overall health.

Pocock said this type of fat, known as a sphingolipid, had to travel from the mother's intestine, where food is digested, to eggs in the uterus for it to protect axons in the next generation. He said while the results were promising, they still need to be confirmed in humans.

This is the first time that a lipid/ fat has been shown to be inherited, he said. Further, feeding the mother the sphingolipid protects the axons of two subsequent generations. This means a mother's diet can affect not just their offspring's brain but potentially subsequent generations. Our work supports a healthy diet during pregnancy for optimal brain development and health, Pocock said.

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar [J&K), Ph.0194-2477949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops. Desktops. Printers, Photocopiers. Faxes, ,CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges,

Style"M/s Exotic Escape Tour and Travels, situated at "New Airport Road Humhama, Srinagar, **Public Notice**

Whereas, I Mr./Ms. Irshad Ahmad S/o/D/o/W/o Mr .Abdul Ahad Sheikh R/O Sheikhpora, Chattergam, Budgam 191113 Kashmir intends to apply in

the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Exotic Escape Tour and Travels, situated at "New Airport Road Humhama, Srinagar "Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificaté, Qualification Certificaté, Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years, (Character Certificate (Police Department , (Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000 ,(Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card, (Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor(and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/Adventure tour operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12 before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is of general Public/Financial hereby notified for information Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id-:ddtreg 123 @gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

ازعدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقد مات)سرینگر

بااجلاس:اروندشر ما

بنام

Yasmeena

دعوىٰ وصولياني رقم مبلغ =/Rs:116565

اَشْتَهَارْ بَمْراد آگاهی بنام

مقدمه مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں مدعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم کی فٹیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی

۔ اِلا نہ تو پیۃ جدید پر ہرمدعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم دستیاب ہوئے اور نہ ہی بذریعیمعن تعمیل لائی

گئے۔ بدین وجہ حسب استدائی مرعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم جو بذریعہ اشتہار مذامطلع کیا جاتا

ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ

لہٰذا آپ کو بذر بعیہ اشتہار بذا مطلع کیا جا تا 'ے کہ آپ بغرض پیروی ابراء ہذا بعنوان

بالامورخد18.08.2023 اصالتاً يا وكالتاً بروفت كچيري حاضرآ كرمقدمه منداكي

پیروی کریں _بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی تحریر

ایڈیشنل ڈسٹر کٹ جج بنک مقدمات سرینگر

=/Rs:116565 نريهاعت عدالت بذاب

Yasmeena W/o: Parvez Ahmad Waja

J&K BANK B/U: KHANYAR SGR

ASF ENTERPRISES

Toners Registered Government order Suppliers.

J&K BANK B/U: KHANYAR SGR

Guddi Fayaz دعويٰ وصولياني رقم مبلغ =/Rs:175670/

R/o: Anderwari Khanyar Sgr مقدمه مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں مدعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم کی تعمیل کرانے کی بسیار کوشش کی گئی ۔ إلا نه تو پية جديد پر مدعاعليه/ مدعاليم دستياب ہوئے اور نه ہى بذر يعيم عن تعميل لا كَي م گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استدائی مدعاعلیہ/ مدعالیم جو بذریعہ اشتہار بذامطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ

بالامورخد18.08.2023 اصالتاً يا وكالتاً بروقت كچيري حاضراً كرمقدمه منداك پیروی کریں۔بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی گئریر الديشنل دُسٹرکٹ جج ُ بنک مقد مات سرينگر

ازعدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹر کٹ جج (بنک مقد مات) سرینگر بااجلاس:اروندشرما

J&K BANK B/U: KHANYAR SGR

دعوىٰ وصولياني رقم مبلغ =/Rs:1,33,718 اشتهار بمراد آگاهی بنام

Mubeena W/o: Abdul Majeed Khar R/o: Abi Karpora Khar Mohalla Sgr ىقدمەمندرجەعنوان الصدر مى**ں م**دعاعلىي^لر مدعالىم كى<mark>غمىل كرانے كى بسياركوشش كى گئى</mark> ۔ إلا نه توبية جديد بر مدعاعليه/ مدعاليم دستياب ہوٰئے اور نہ ہى بذر بعي^{معن تق}يل لا ئى گئ۔بدین وجہ حسب استدائی مدعاعلیہ/مدعالیم جو بذر بعیداشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ

بالامورخد18.08.2023 اصالتاً يا وكالتاً بروقت كجيري حاضرآ كرمقدمه بذاك پیروی کریں ۔بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی نُح بر

The Jammu And Kashmir **Board Of School Education**

New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th)under Roll No:. 312003030 Session: Annual Regular Year 2023 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/ parent/Board against my Mother's Name a Shameema Begum instead of Shameema

Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary. Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Aabroo Jahan F/N: Ab Sattar Magray M/N: Shameema Begum DOB: 05-06-2008

Residence: Lowdara Bandipora

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK04C 2032 whle travelling from Poshkhar To Magam . Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Javaid Ahamd Mir

S/o Muzaffar Ahmad Mir R/o Alamnaag Poshkhar Budgam

ازعدالت ایدیشنل ڈسٹر کٹ جج (بنک مقد مات) سرینگر

بااجلاس:اروندشر ما J&K BANKLTD B/U: SOURA SGR (Plaintiff)

بنام

Ghulam Nabi Bangroo (Dependant) دعوى وصولياني رقم مبلغ =/Rs:165036.54

اشتهار بمراد آگاهی بنام

Ghulam Nabi Bangroo S/o: Abdul Salam Bangroo R/o: Nallabal Nowshera Srinagar (Dependant) مقدمه مندرجه عنوان الصدريين مدعاعليه/ مدعاليم كانعيل كرانے كى بسيار كوشش كى لِيْ _إلا نه تو پية جديد پر مدعاعليه/ مدعاليم دستياب هوئ اور نه بي بذريعة عمل تعيل لا في مَّىٰ ـ بدين وجه حسب استدا كي مرعاعليه/ مدعاليم جو بذر يعداشتهار منزامطلع كيا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ =/Rs:165036.54 زرساعت عدالت بذا ہے۔

لبندا آپ کو بذریعه اشتهار مذامطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض پیروی ابراء مذابعنوان بالامورخه19.08.2023 اصالتاً يا وكالتاً بروقت كچيري حاضرآ كرمقدمه بذاكي پیروی کریں۔بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی بعمل لائی جائے گی شخریر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج بنگ مقدمات سرینگر

> ازعدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقد مات)سرینگر بااجلاس:اروندشرما

اشتهار بمراد آگاهی بنام

Guddi Fayaz W/o: Fayaz Ahmad Sofi

=/Rs:175670 ازیهاعت عدالت مذاہر۔ لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار مذامطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض پیروی ابراء مذابعنوان

Mubeena

=/Rs:1,33,718زيهاعت عدالت مذاہے۔ =/Rs:1,33,718زيهاعت عدالت مذاہے۔ الہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار مذامطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض پیروی ابراء مذابعنوان ایڈیشنل ڈسٹر کٹ جج بنگ مقد مات سرینگر

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the mother's name of my daughter, Zehra Babar, a student of 5th class at Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School, Rajbagh from Ishrat Babar to Ishrat Rasool (as per official records). Anybody having any objection may contact the school authority within a period of 7 days. No objection will be entertained after stipulated time.

Babar Hafeez F/o Zehra Babar Mob: 9419069038

zd

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the mother's name of my son, Muhammad Ahaan Babar, a student of 4th class at The Kashmir Valley School, Humhama from Ishrat Babar to Ishrat Rasool (as per official records). Anybody having any objection may contact the school authority within a period of 7 days. No objection will be entertained after stipulated time.

Babar Hafeez F/o Muhammad Ahaan Babar Mob: 9419069038

From the office of Advocate Rugiva Aziz

In the case of: Munawar Abbas s/o Ghulam Mohammad haiam R/o kathimadan alamgari bazar sgr.

(Caveator)

PUBLIC AT LARGE

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap-peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa-rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order. Sd/advocate

از عدالت جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ فسٹ کلاس (منگمرگ) بااجلاس توقيل احدمير

> یائل اسائلہ Nazir Ahmad Dar رخواست بغرج اندراج تاريخ پيدائش

Javid Ahmad Dar

14-03-2011

معامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل /سائلہ نے عدالت مذامیں ایک درخواست بشمول بیان حلفی بغرض اندارج تاریخ پیدائش Safoora Nazeer & Javid Ahmad Dar S/D/O: Nazeer Ahmad Dar R/o Bunsharan

مورخہ2023-08-14 پیش کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کو بذریعیاشتہار مطلع کیاجاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریااعتراض ہونے کی صورت میں اپنے عذرات شعاعت اشتہار کےاندردس یومعدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے۔ بعد گز رنے معیاد کوئی عذر اعتراض قابل قبول نبين موكار تاريخ آينده عدالت مذامين 2023-88-28

جود يشل مجسريك فسك كلاس (فنكمر ك)

Safoora Nazeer

BMG

ازعدالت سب جج سپیش مومائل مجسریث پنج کلس کشمیریرونیس سرینگرPT&E) ماکل /سائلہ:Subreena Jan **بنام** رجٹرار بڑھس اینڈڈ قیمس درخواست بغرج اندراج تاریخ پیدائش

> Subreena Jan تاريخ پيدائش 1994-199

سعامله مندجه عنوان الصدر میں سائل/سائلہ نے عدالت بذامیں ایک درخواست شمول حلفی بغرض اندارج تاریخ پیدائش Subreena Jan D/o Irshad Ahmad Rather R/o Wanganpora Eidgah Srinagar

مورخہ 2023-08-04 پیش کی ہے۔لہذاعوام الناس کو بذر بعِداشتہار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست کوئی عذریا عنراض ہو نے کی صورت میں اینے مذرات اشعاعت اشتہار کےاندردس یوم عدالت میں آ کر پیش کرے _ بعد گزر نے معياد كوئى عذريا اعتراض قابل قبول نهيس موگا۔ تاريخ آينده عدالت منزاميس 17-08-2023 كومقرر ہے۔

سب جج سپیثل مو ہائل مجسٹریٹ پینجرٹکس سرینگر

اطلاععام

میں مظہر نذیراحمد ڈار (پشو) ولد غلام رسول ساکن بمنہ نے ایک يلاك نمبر 207 (1B) سيكثر 1B سائز (30x50) شاه جمدان كالوني بمنه میں معراج الدین کنگو ولد غلام نبی ساکن گزربل چھتہ بل سری نگر سے خریدا تھا۔أب مظہر کو مذکورہ بلائٹ نمبرائیے نام برکرنا مطلوب ہے۔اِس سلیلے میں اُ گرکسی شخص کوکوئی اعتراض ہے تو وہ سات دِن کے اُندراً پنا اعتراض یا عذر تحریرااً ایس ڈی اے سری نگر کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔معیاد گز رنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض پاعذر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نذىراحد ڈار (پثو)ولدغلام رسول ساكن بمنه

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KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Thursday | 17-08-2023

Aspirants Urge Admin To Clarify Whether PG Electronics Can Apply For CRC Posts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Students who have already completed their masters in electronics have requested the education department to clarify if they are eligible for posts of 'cluster resource coordinator for teaching support '.

Last week, the education department advertised posts of Cluster Resource Coordinators for teaching support and 55 posts for physics subjects.

Scores of PG electronics aspirants said the department has not clarified whether they can apply or not and if they will be treated at par with PG physics.

They said as education evolves, "interdisknowledge ciplinary increasingly becomes important and the field of Electronics shares fundamental principles with Physics and is fundamentally the applied branch of Physics, MSc Electronics students possess a solid foundation in scientific principles, mathematics, and analytical thinking - all of which are essential qualities for a Physics lecturer".

"By opening the eligibility criteria to MSc Electronics graduates, we can tap into a pool of potential educators who can bring a fresh perspective and valuable insights to the Physics department," aspirants added.

The CSIR conducts NET in Physical sciences in which all applied branches of Physics including electronics are eligible to appear.

'Their diverse backgrounds can enrich classroom discussions, foster cross-disciplinary collaboration, and bring real-world applications to traditional Physics concepts," they said.

They requested the School Education Department to review and consider amending the eligibility criteria for lecturer positions in the Physics department and include MSc Electronics post graduates.

"This change can not only enhance the quality of education but also encourage cross-pollination of ideas between different scientific disciplines," they said.

They requested the higher ups to look into the matter at the earliest.

the completion of the

included a pre-place-

ment talk, a written test,

a group discussion and

Prof. Geer Mohammad

Ishaq said over the past

two years more than

one thousand (1,000)

vacancies have been

made available for the

students for placement

in various companies

ment for a leading tele-

com tower management

company, Indus Towers,

is underway at present

for our electrical engi-

neering students", he

said adding, CCPC will

continue such placement

(SMC), Athar Amir of-

ficially inaugurated the

Ground C throwing it

open for sports activities

and training that began

with the inaugural cer-

emony of the JKPL, a

Twenty20 (T20) cricket

laborative project be-

tween the university and

the organizers and pro-

ship between KU and

JKPL a healthy relation in terms of effective uti-

lization of sports infra-

structure and organizing

sports events, the vice-

chancellor said this will

act as a platform to pro-

mote sports culture and

training of young and

talented youth

The ground is a col-

Terming the partner-

tournament.

moters of JKPL.

drives in future as well.

personal interviews.

Director,

through CCPC.

"Campus

The selection process

CCPC,

recruit-

evaluation process.

KUs CCPC Conducts Recruitment

Drive For Pharmacists

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Univer-

sity of Kashmir's Cen-

tre for Career Planning

and Counseling (CCPC)

in collaboration with

the Department of Phar-

maceutical Sciences or-

ganized a recruitment

drive for pharmacists

through HLL Lifecare

Limited, a central public

sector enterprise under

the Ministry of Health

ducted here at CCPC by the company officials.

A total of 106 candidates

appeared in the inter-

views for the nosts of

Assistant Pharmacists

and Pharmacists, out of

which 30 candidates are

likely to be selected by

the company soon after

Observer News Service

Srinagar: To encourage

the culture of sports and

to provide the best qual-

ity facilities and infra-

structure to youth, the

University of Kashmir

(KU) inaugurated the

long-awaited 'Ground

C', a newly established

sports ground at the

varsity's main campus,

while officially inau-

gurating the Jammu

and Kashmir Premier

League (JKPL) Wednes-

versity of Kashmir, Prof

Nilofer Khan in presence

of Deputy Commissioner

(DC), Srinagar, Moham-

mad Aijaz Asad and

Commissioner, Srinagar

Municipal Corporation

Shahi Jhan Bhat

Vice-chancellor, Uni-

day here.

VC KU Inaugurates Ground

C, JK Premier League

Interviews were con-

and Family Welfare.

An elderly man (vegetable seller) rowing shikara in Dal interiors amidst scorching heat on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat **Kashmir Shrines, Grand Mosque Offers Polish**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A nine-member foreign tourist group from Poland while exploring the beauty and spirituality of Srinagar city Wednesday said the spiritual atmosphere at mosques and shrines of the city is sole soothing that gives solace to every visitor

Heaping praises on the great architecture of Jamia Masjid and other major shrines in Srinagar, the group said they felt peace and were mesmerized by the beauty and wood work and other craft at mosques and shrines of Srinagar.

'We are on a week's visit to India and will be spending two days in Kashmir," said Ellic, a group member, who is a nature lover, during the group's visit to historic Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta, Srinagar.

"We are nine members and have visited Jamia Masjid Srinagar and a few important shrines of the city. We were captivated by the great art of the grand Masjid of Kashmir and other shrines including Hazrat Sultan-ul-Arifeen (RA) at Hari Parbat, we felt a unique and soothing atmosphere

Tourists Profound Experience Of Spirituality

He said the spiritual atmosphere especially during their visit to Jamia Masjid and other shrines was quite awesome. "Seeing people praying, crying and seeking blessings from God moved us all. Shrines here are beautiful and give solace to every visitor," said Ellic. He said in Srinagar there are so many shrines of sufi saints. "Even though the weather is a bit hotter than Poland, we are feeling happy and comfortable here. The shrine at Hari Parbat gives a breathtaking view of the entire Srinagar city. There is great art, wood work and Kashmiri craft used in almost all shrines which we don't have in Poland."

Praising the tall minarets of Jamia Masjid, Ellic said that it's a decade's old marvel and needs to be preserved. "Mighty pillars and calligraphy inside the masjid

are unique and beautiful. We feel touched. We also feel lucky to be here. God gave us a chance to explore the mosques and shrines of Srinagar," he said.

Another group member said since their country is close to Ukraine, they were observing developments there closely post Ukraine-Russia war. "In Srinagar, we felt a lot of noise of vehicles moving around, but peace prevailing in the air and on ground makes one feel comfortable," he said.

All the nine-members of the group while terming the greenery of Srinagar a nature's gift called for preserving the beauty of the City. Pertinently, J&K LG Manoj Sinha in his Independence Day speech yesterday (August 15) at Bakshi Stadium stated that this year 59 per cent increase was seen in the foreign tourist arrivals while negative travel advisories imposed on J&K by some foreign countries will go away soon.

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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132 PATTAN: 01954-293507 QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS



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



ZUHR ASR Magrib

FAJR

PRAYERS

4:22

12:35

5:21

7:20

8: 47

29 Muharram 1445

This Day In History

ISHA

1180- Yoritomo Minamoto leads uprising against Kiyomori Taira who installed his grandson, Emperor Antoku, to the throne

- 1544- A French city of Saint-Dizier seized by Imperial army of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V during Italian
- 1585- Antwerp surrenders after 8 months siege by **Duke of Parma**
- 1717 France, Russia & Prussia sign agreement
- 1743- Sweden & Russia sign peace treaty
- 1787- Jews are granted permission in Budapest Hungary to pray in groups
- 1788-Losantville, Ohio (now Cincinnati) founded
- 1795- Slave revolt at Knip plantation, Curacao 1796- British defeat Batavian navy in Saldanha Bay,
- South Africa 1808- Napoleon asks King Louis for Holland brigade
- towards Spain
- 1835- Solymon Merrick patents wrench
- 1836- British parliament accept registration of birth/ marriage/death
- 1859-1st air mail (in a balloon) took off from Lafayette,
- 1862- Confederate troops under Edmund Kirby Smith
- 1863- Federal batteries & ships attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina
- 1869- 1st international boat race (River Thames, Oxford beats Harvard)
- 1870- Mrs Esther Morris becomes 1st US woman magistrate (South Pass, Wyoming)
- 1876- Richard Wagner's opera "Götterdämmerung"
- premieres in Bayreuth 1877- American astronomer Asaph Hall discovers Mars'
- moon Phobos 1879- Ferdinand de Lesseps forms French Panama
- 1883- The first public performance of the Dominican
- Republic's national anthem, Himno Nacional
- 1891- Electric self-starter for automobile patented
- 1892- Russian/French generals Obruchev/Boisdeffre
- signs Double Alliance
- 1897 W B Purvis patents electric railway switch

Canal Company

- 1903- Joe Pulitzer donates \$1 million to Columbia University & begins the Pulitzer Prizes in America
- 1904- Boston's Jesse Tannehell no-hits Chicago White
- Sox, 6-0 1904 -George H. Reid succeeds John Watson as Prime
- Minister of Australia
- 1905- Dutch government of Theo de Meester begins
- 1907- Bishop forbids Christian membership of Dutch
- 1908- Bank of Italy (now Bank of America) opens new HQ, the Bank of Italy building at Clay & Montgomery,
- 1908- Booth Tarkington & Harry Leon Wilson's play "Man from Home" premieres in New York
- 1908- Projection in Paris of the very first animated cartoon, "Fantasmagorie" realized by Émile Cohl
- 1914- Lithuiana surrenders to Germans
- 1915- German troops over run Kovno, Lithuiana
- 1916-Bulgarian offensive in Macedonia

Netherlands

- 1917- Italy declares war on Turkey
- 1918- British troops attack Baku, Azerbaijan 1918- Turkish troops overthrow Caukasus
- 1924- French-German trade agreement signed
- 1933-Soviet Union test GIRD-R1 rocket ("Object 09")
- 1938- 1st aircraft owned by US Forest Service in service (Oakland)
- 1940- Hitler orders total blockade of Great Britain 1944- Russian troops arrive at Austria-Prussia border 1945- Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta declare Indonesia (Dutch East Indies) independent from the
- Sd/-

Media Expert Prof Jethwani Interacts With Students At MERC

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Professor Jaishri Jethwaney, a renowned communication and marketing consultant and the director of marketing and advertising at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) New Delhi, engaged in an enlightening interactive session with students from the Media Education Research Centre (MERC) at Kashmir University.

The session was attended by the students including the fresh batch of the PG students, besides the faculty members and scholars of the department.

During the engaging discussion, Prof Jethwaney shed light on the evolving media ecosystem and its interconnectedness with technology. Her insights provided a comprehensive understanding of the intricate world of media dynamics to the participants. "In the dynamic landscape of

the media ecosystem, our reactions to its ever-changing nature are crucial," Professor Jethwaney said, adding, "The media, as a multifaceted subject, presents an array of perspectives. When we examine the pluralistic nature of media, the collective influence of various outlets, such as mass media, becomes evident."

insights navigated through the intricate web of media infrastructure and supply chains. "The media infrastructure and the intricate supply chains are the unseen gears that facilitate the flow of information. Understanding the dynamics within media, encompassing politics, entertainment, advertising, and even crime, becomes a key component of engaging with its multifaceted nature," she said.

She discussed the public health scenario in India, particularly the hesitancy surrounding vaccinations. "Our work on public health, especially among children, remains paramount. However, we acknowledge the presence of vaccine hesitancy, a challenge we confront while communicating crucial information," she said.

In a dynamic session that echoed the ever-evolving nature of media, Professor Seema Sangra shed light on the paradigm shift occurring in the industry.

Accompanying her, Professor Seema Sangra, an Associate Professor at Amity University Dubai, engaged students in a thoughtful discourse about the media landscape, its importance, and its transformative potential.

SKUAST SKASHMIR

DIVISION OF FRUIT SCIENCE FACULTY OF HORTICULTURE

Main Campus Shalimar Srinagar-190025 Email:-drsimnani@skuastkashmir.ac.in No: AU/DOFS/NTFMB/1683 Dated: 16-08-2023

AUCTION NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public and the timber dealers in particular that open auction of approximately 40 No. of trees of different species at Nut Tree Fruit Mother Block behind the Division of FST main campus Shalimar shall be held on 21st August, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Division of Fruit Science, Shalimar. Accordingly, all the interested individuals/contractors/parties are informed to be present on the scheduled date & time for conducting the said auction.

The terms & conditions of the auction can be had from the office of Division of Fruit Science during working hours. However, the Divisional Auction Committee reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Dr. Shamim A.Simnani

S/O Khalil Mohd Bhat R/O Lane 2nd New Theed Harwan, Srinagar

PASSPORT CORRECTION

I,Shahi Jhan Bhat Son of Khalil Mohd Bhat resident of Lane 2nd New Theed Harwan Srinagar, hereby announce through this

newspaper that in my passport bearing number K6934227,in

which my name is written as Shahi Jhan instead of Shahi Jhan

Bhat, which is very much required to be corrected. In this regard, if

any person or organization has any objection, he should file the

same in the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within seven

days. No excuse will be accepted after the expiry of the period.

x_r

Himachal Pradesh Surpasses Average Rainfall For Entire Monsoon In 54 Days



Press Trust of India

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh has already received 742 mm of rainfall in 54 days of monsoon this year against a season's average of 730 mm it records between June 1 and September 30, a weather official here said on Wednesday.

The rainfall recorded in the state this July broke all records for the month in the last 50 years, Shimla Meteorological Centre Director Surinder Paul told PTI.

He added that the towns of Manali, Solan, Rohru, Una, Ghamroor, Hamirpur and Keylong broke previous records of rainfall in a single day for the month on July 9 when the state witnessed unprecedented downpours.

Himachal Pradesh received 223 mm of rainfall in four days from July 7 to 10 against an average of 41.6 mm for the corresponding period, Paul said.

The state is currently witnessing its second spell of tor-rential downpour which began last Sunday. The official said the monsoon will be subdued in the next few days and become active again on August 25.

Widespread heavy to extremely heavy showers lashed

Press Trust of India

IMPHAL: Cinema returned to

strife-torn Manipur on Tuesday after more than 20 years when

a Bollywood movie on surgical

strikes against Pakistan was

screened at a makeshift open

Vicky Kaushal-starrer "Uri:

The Surgical Strike" was at-

tended by a large number of

by the Hmar Students Associa-

tion (HSA) to express its opposi-

tion to the ban on Hindi movies

imposed in September 2000 by

'Revolutionary People's Front', a

political wing of the proscribed

People's Liberation Army, a val-

"It has been over two decades

since a movie was screened

in our town. The Meiteis have

banned Hindi movies for a long

long time. "Today's move is to

defy the anti-national policies

of the Meitei groups and to

show our love for India," Ginza

Vualzong, spokesperson of

Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Fo-

rum, said in a brief statement.

itself as the voice of Kuki tribes.

movie, the national anthem

The organisation describes

Before the screening of the

ley-based Meitei terror group.

people at Rengkai (Lamka).

air theatre in Churachandpur.

Uri Publicly Screened In

Manipur Over 20 Years Since

Insurgents' Bollywood Ban

several parts of the state this

soon season has reached 327. Losses suffered by the state since the onset of the monsoon on June 24 has crossed Rs 7,200 crore, officials have said.

season. As per official figures,

the death toll in the rain fury

in Himachal Pradesh this mon-

The death toll in the rain fury in Himachal Pradesh rose to 57 on Wednesday with the body of a woman being pulled out of the debris of a collapsed Shiv temple near Summer Hill here, officials said.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Tuesday that a nearly 157 per cent surge in rainfall over the past few days has resulted in extensive damage across Himachal Pradesh and about 60 people have been killed in the last three days.

The Education department had ordered closure of all schools and colleges in the state on Wednesday due to inclement weather and the Himachal Pradesh University has suspended teaching activities till August 19.

About 800 roads are blocked in the state and the losses suffered by the state since the onset of monsoon since June 24 has crosses Rs 7,200 crore, officials said.

was played at the open air the-

atre, located 63 km from the

ing widespread ethnic clashes

between majority Meitei and

tribal Kuki communities since

May 3 and so far over 160 peo-

screening is to show "our defi-

ance and opposition to terror

groups which have subjugated

"Join us in taking a pledge to

The HSA said the last Hindi

film that was publicly screened

in Manipur was "Kuch Kuch

week of the ban in 2000, rebels

had burnt 6,000 to 8,000 video

and audio cassettes and com-

pact discs in Hindi collected

from outlets in the state.

Officials said that within a

continue our fight for freedom

the tribals for decades".

and justice," it appealed.

Hota Hai[®] in 1998.

On Monday, the HSA said the

ple have been killed.

capital city.

YouTube To Remove Videos **Promoting Ineffective And Harmful Cancer Treatments**

oogle-owned YouTube on Tuesday said it will remove content that promotes "cancer treatments proven to be harmful or ineffective" or which "discourages viewers from seeking professional medical treatment".

The company said that moving forward, it will streamline dozens of its existing medical misinformation guidelines to fall under three categories -Prevention, Treatment, and

"These policies will apply to specific health conditions, treatments, and substances where content contradicts local health authorities or the World Health Organization (WHO)," said Dr Garth Graham, Director and Global Head of Healthcare and Public Health Partnerships. The platform will remove

content that contradicts health authority guidance on the prevention and transmission of specific health conditions, and on the safety and efficacy of approved vaccines.

This will encompasses content that promotes a harmful substance for disease prevention and content that en-



courages unproven remedies in place of seeking medical attention for specific conditions, like promoting caesium chloride as a treatment for

"We will remove content that disputes the existence of specific health conditions. This covers content that denies people have died from COVID-19," said Matt Halprin, VP and Global Head of Trust and Safety.

Starting from Tuesday and ramping up in the coming weeks, YouTube will begin removing content that promotes cancer treatments proven to be harmful or ineffective, or content that discourages viewers from seeking professional medical treatment

This includes that promotes unproven treatments in place of approved care or as a guaranteed cure, and treatments that have been specifically deemed harmful by health authorities.

For instance, a video that claims "garlic cures cancer," or "take vitamin C instead of radiation therapy" would be removed, said YouTube.

The company is also publishing a playlist of engaging, informative cancer-related videos from a range of authoritative sources.

"We are collaborating with Mayo Clinic on new video content to share information on a variety of cancer conditions." said YouTube.

Krishna Janmabhoomi: **Supreme Court Pauses Mathura Demolition Drive For 10 Days**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today ordered status quo with regard to the demolition drive being carried out by railway authorities to clear illegal constructions near the Krishna Janmabhoomi in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose, Sanjay Kumar and SVN Bhatti issued notice to the Centre and others in the

"Let there be status quo as re-

gards the subject premises for a period of 10 days. List after one week," the bench said.

The lawyer, appearing for the petitioner Yakub Shah, told the bench that 100 houses have been bulldozed.

"There are 70-80 houses left. Whole thing will become infructuous. They conducted the exercise on a day when Uttar Pradesh courts were closed,"

The matter pertains to demolition of settlements near the Krishna Janmabhoomi.



"Played Pivotal Role": PM's **Tribute To Atal Vajpayee On Death Anniversary**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tributes to BJP stalwart Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his death anniversary and said In-dia greatly benefitted from his leadership.

In tributes to the former prime minister, PM Modi said he played a pivotal role in boosting India's progress and taking it to the 21st century in

a wide range of sectors. "I join the 140 crore people of India in paying homage to the remarkable Atal Ji on his Punya Tithi," he said.

The first-ever prime minister from the BJP, Vajpayee is credited with popularising the party beyond its base and running a coalition government successfully for six years, during which he pushed reforms and boosted infrastructure.

He died in 2018 at the age of 93.

Words Like Eve-Teasing, Prostitute, Housewife May Soon Be Out Of Legal Lexicon, Supreme Court **Launches Handbook On Gender Unjust Terms**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Words like eve-teasing, prostitute, and housewife may soon be out of the legal lexicon and will be replaced by terms like street sexual harassment, sex worker and homemaker. The Supreme Court on Wednesday launched a handbook that contains a glossary of gender unjust terms and suggests alternative words and phrases which may be used.

As soon as a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud assembled to hear arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the CJI announced the unveiling of the handbook. "This is to assist judges and the legal community to identify, understand ... stereotypes about women in legal discourse," he said.

In a press release, the apex court said the 'Handbook on Combating Gender Stereotypes' seeks to empower judges and members of the legal community to identify, understand and counteract harmful stereotypes about women.

The handbook features a glossary of gender-unjust terms and proposes alternative words and phrases



for use in legal documents, including pleadings, orders, and judgments. The compilation identifies common stereotypes about women and demonstrates the inaccuracies of these stereotypes and how they can impact the application of the law," the release said.

It said the handbook encapsulates the prevailing legal doctrine on crucial issues, particularly those involving sexual violence.

"In its entirety, the handbook aims to equip judges with the knowledge and tools to critically evaluate their own reasoning, writing and to ensure that justice is served fairly and equitably," the release said, adding it is a significant step towards a gender- just legal

It said the launch of the handbook marks a significant milestone in the journev towards a more just and equitable society.

By equipping judges and

the legal community with the tools to identify, understand, and reject stereotypes, it is aimed to pave the way for a more inclusive, impartial, and gender-just legal system, the release

"The ground-breaking initiative under the directions of the Chief Justice of India Dr Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud is aimed at fulfilling the Indian judiciary's goal of eradicating pre-conceived gender stereotypes from judicial discourse, especially those concerning women, it said.

In the 30-page handbook, the top court has given a list of stereotypical words and suggested alternative terms for being used in legal discourses and judicial pronouncements.

The handbook says that instead of using words like 'seductress", "whore" or 'woman of loose morals", the word "woman" has to

CBI Mobilises 53 Officers Including 29 Women To Probe Manipur Violence Cases

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In a major mobilisation, the CBI on Wednesday deputed 53 officers, including 29 women, drawn from its units across the country to probe Manipur violence cases, officials said.

The team which includes three DIGs - Lovely Katiyar, Nirmala Devi and Mohit Gupta - and Superintendent of Police Raiveer will report to Joint Director Ghanshyam Upadhyay who will supervise the overall probe, they said.

It is understood to be first of its kind mobilisation where such a large number of women officers have been simultaneously pressed into service, they said.

Sources said that several of these cases being probed by the CBI may attract provisions of the Scheduled Castes and the Atrocities) Act, 1989, which can be probed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police rank officer.

Two Additional Superintendents of Police and six Deputy Superintendents of Police - all women - are also part of the 53-member force, they said.

Since the Deputy Superintendents of Police cannot be supervisory officers in such cases, the agency has sent three DIGs and one SP to supervise and monitor the investigations, they said.

Besides 16 inspectors and 10 sub-inspectors will also be part of the team, they said.

Normally when such a large number of cases are handed over to the CBI, the agency depends on the state concerned to provide manpower as well, officials said.

NEWS MAKERS

Woman Coach Who Accused Haryana Minister Of Sexual Harassment Suspended

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: A junior athletics coach, who levelled sexual harassment allegations against Haryana minister Sandeep Singh, has been suspended from services over alleged violation of conduct rules.

The suspension orders were issued by Haryana's sports department director Yashendra Singh on August 11. The reasons for the suspension have

though not been mentioned. However, official sources told PTI that her services have been placed under suspension over alleged indiscipline and violation of the service conduct rules.

The services of the junior athletic coach are placed under suspension with immedi-



said the order.

"During the suspension period, she will be entitled for subsistence allowance as admissible under Rule 83 of Haryana Civil Services (General) Rules, 2016..," added the

order. Meanwhile, the woman coach alleged that pressure is being mounted on her for

the past few months and said she will continue to fight the case even if her services are terminated. She said she is contemplating to move the court against her "unjustified" suspension.

When asked who was putting that pressure, she said "media knows everything". "They have suspended me, but have not given any reason for the same. I have been pressurised for many months and this is yet another way to put pressure on me by the government," the

coach said. "And I know the reason why they have suspended me because I am not going back on this case...Let them terminate my services, but I will fight for my rights. I will seek justice from courts," she added. The coach said that she has been doing her work with "great discipline and regularity". "But I am not anyone's slave.

I am not going back even one step. Let them even terminate my services, but I will fight for my rights," she added. The coach further said that

"if anyone is placed under suspension, under the rules he or she is given a warning". "They directly handed over the suspension order. On Fri-

day, I was made to wait and not allowed to mark my attendance in register (at the place of her posting). And no official of the sports department told me that I had been suspended. On Monday evening, they handed over the suspension letter at my residence," she said.

"Music Has No Boundaries": Manipur **Artistes Call For Peace** He rued that though perform-

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Echoing Michael Jackson's famous words "I love great music, it has no colour, it has no boundaries," musicians from both the warring communities of Manipur want to use the magic of music to heal divides and give peace a chance to get back to "the good old days". The music fraternity, a vibrant and integral part of the state's cultural fabric, has been among the hardest-hit sectors because of the unrest.

Economic challenges triggered by the turmoil have deeply impacted these artistes with their creative pursuits and income stream severely curtailed.

Talking to PTI, several musicians from both the Kuki and Meitei communities said it was still not too late to resolve the dif-



ferences and music could serve as the best 'band-aid'.

"As a musician, we've all had a lot of good times with concerts happening round-the-clock. Meeting people from other communities, and listening to their amazing music styles made our connections. We used to meet and talk in the green rooms and catch up on what's been happening in their lives as well as ours," said Donny, a well-known singer from the Kuki community, over the phone.

ers are trying to revive the music scene, each round of rioting has made such attempts more difficult. "Before all of this started, we

were approaching a high point in Manipur's music scene where gigs were happening every weekend. I personally believed that it would have led towards music being considered a mainstream career option for aspiring musicians had the violence not erupted," Donny said.

Momo Laishram, a renowned drummer and song composer from the Meitei community, also feels that music is the only antidote which can heal wounds.

"The current situation is volatile. But if there's something that can restore peace in the state, it's music," he told PTI over the phone from Imphal.

Amarnath Yatra



Chhari Mubarak Taken To Shankaracharya Temple In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Chhari Mubarak the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva was taken to the historic Shankaracharya temple here for special prayers as part of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

The Chhari Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji led by Mahant Deependra Giri was taken to the historic Shankaracharya temple located at Gopadri hills for prayers on the occasion of Haryali-Amavasya' (Shravan Amavasya) as per age-old customs.

Giri, the custodian of the mace, said that the sound of conch shells charged the atmosphere and pujan' was chanting vedic hymns performed.

The sadhus, who accompanied the holy mace, participated in the pooja as collective prayers were also offered for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, Giri added.

The Mahant said that special prayers were held for the wellbeing of the people.

The Chhari Mubarak will be taken to Sharika-Bhawani' temple, Hari Parbat here to pay obeisance to the goddess on Thursday, he added.

Giri said that rituals would be performed for Chhari-Sthapana at Shri Amareshwar temple

Dashnami Akhara here on Saturday after which Chhari-Pujan will be performed at Dashnami Akhara on the auspicious occasion of Nag-Panchami' on

The Mahant will carry the holy mace to the holy cave shrine to perform pujan and have darshan' on the morning of Shravan-Purnima' on August 31 after having night halts at Pahalgam on August 26 and Chandanwari on August 28, Sheshnag on August 29 and Panchtarani on August 30.

The puja at the holy cave shrine will be followed by visarjan' in Lidder river at Pahalgam the next day.

Giri said it is a matter of satisfaction that the yatra passed off smoothly and remained

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have always supported the yatra and I am sure it will continue. When we welcome the yatris, it will send a message across the country. In the times to come, I think more people will undertake the vatra and the facilities will also get improved," he added.

The Mahant said that he would pray at the holy cave shrine for return of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir as it was before 1989

VIOLATION OF NORMS

Operations Of 12 Medical Stores Suspended Across Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A special drive was carried out in Jammu Province wherein surprise inspections of Drug Sale Establishments were maintenance of Sales records, carried out under the supervision of Concerned Empowered Authorities.

The drive was targeted to ensure that the drugs consisting of habit forming ingredients are strictly sold to the needy patients as per mandate of law and pharmacies operate strictly in consonance with the mandate of law and in the best interest of patient care.

Statutory Drug samples of nearly Two Hundred formulations of various categories were lifted randomly for determination of strength and purity. These samples were referred to Drug Testing Laboratories locate within the U.T of J&K for framing of legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters and to ensure that quality medicines are being sold to the end users.

Operations of Twelve Retail Sale Establishments (Four in Jammu, Three in Samba District, Two in Poonch District ethical trade practices.

One each in Kathua & Ramban, were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot. The reasons for suspension ranged from Non Impersonation, Improper storage conditions etc

Moreover, Stocks of Drugs worth Rs 3,86,100 that were found to be contravening the provisions of the D&C Act have also been confiscated from the supply chain by the Regulatory Officers of the organization under section 23 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

During the said drive, the stocks of drugs worth Rs 27,465 was seized on Form - 16 from an unlicensed shop being run at Lower Kud the custody /permission of which was obtained from the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Udhampur. Investigation in the matter has been initiated and Notice under section 18 (a) served upon the accused for further legal action

in the matter. Meanwhile, the Licensing Authority cancelled the license of a Wholesale firm at Rajouri that was found indulging in un-

Non-Adherence To Building Codes In Hill States Can Have Lethal Consequences: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said people in the hill states should be mindful of the building codes while undertaking constructions as non-adherence to these guidelines can have lethal consequences.

'Years of Govt apathy and wilful ignorance while multiconcrete structures were built on unstable hillsides has lethal consequences. Who thought these buildings were a good idea? All hill states need to be mindful of the growing impact of climate change & enforce building codes accordingly," Abdullah, the NC vice president, posted on X, former-



ly known as Twitter.

He was reacting to a video of a house collapse on a hillside in Himachal Pradesh.

Two persons were killed on Tuesday when eight houses, including six makeshift ones, collapsed and a slaughterhouse was buried under the debris following a landslide in Krishnanagar locality in Shimla.



A GIRL STUDENT WRITES HER NOTEBOOK, as her mother rows her boat inside Srinagar's Dal Lake on a hot Wednesday afternoon. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Protest In Jammu Against Installation Of Prepaid Electricity Meters

Press Trust Of India

IAMMU: Scores of power consumers held a protest here on Wednesday against the decision of the Jammu and Kashmir administration to install prepaid smart meters.

The protesters also blocked the highway for nearly two hours, alleging that smart meter users in Jammu were receiving exorbitant bills amounting to thousands of rupees.

Meanwhile, officials said two smart meters installed by the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (JPDCL) caught fire in Dontallah Bazar and Pir Mitha areas in the city under circumstances raising

People hailing from different parts of the city travelled to . Vikram Chowk in mini-buses. Their assembly led to the highway being obstructed. During the protest, anti-BJP and antiadministration slogans were chanted, and a demand was made to halt the ongoing meter installation exercise.

"We are demanding the process to install pre-paid smart meters as people, on whose houses smart meters have been implemented, are getting bills in thousands of rupees, said Amit Kapoor, who led the

Police responded by using force to return the protesters to the mini-buses, subsequently restoring traffic flow.

Kapoor asserted that they were against the current approach to installing prepaid smart meters due to the burden of hefty bills on households where these meters had been implemented.

He said that they will not allow the government to install

Div Com Discusses Public Concern With Civil Society, JPDCL

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner. Ramesh Kumar on Wednesday chaired a meeting to discuss and address the public concerns surrounding smart Power meters in the division.

In an effort to dispel doubts and foster clarity, the meeting was convened with representatives from the civil society, including Industries and Traders associations of the city.

One of the key points of contention discussed in the meeting was the installation of smart meters, with doubts arising about their functionality and reliability. During the session, the doubts were effectively addressed and explanations were provided to allav concerns

The Div Com, considering the concerns raised by the civil society members, proposed a solution wherein he directed JPDCL to conduct a trial run by installing digital meters in parallel with the smart meters in specific locations to verify the readings for the satisfaction of the public. This trial phase aims to ascertain the accuracy and authenticity of readings

the meters as this is leading to people getting inflated bills.

An official underplayed concerns about potential overcharging, asserting that the notion of overcharging through smart meters was "unfounded and aimed at misleading the public". He asserted that the precision and automation" of smart meters are advantageous for the public.

"The government has deput-

precision in power consumption measurement. The ultimate goal is to facilitate error-free readings and ensure the proper utilisation of electricity while collecting rev-

ed nodal officers for redressal

power setup, reducing sub-

stantial losses for the power

enue in a just and genuine man

ner, he emphasised.

produced by the newly installed

maior

brought to the attention was

that the meters are mounted at

much height on electricity poles,

sometimes clustered together,

making it difficult for the con-

sumers to examine the readings.

Responding to the issue, the

Div Com instructed the JPDCL to

explore possibilities to decrease

the height or install meters on

The Managing Director JPDCL

also apprised about the benefits

and operation of these smart

meters, while shedding light on

their accuracy and efficiency. He

also cleared the doubts, queries

raised by the presidents of mar-

The Divisional Commissioner

assured all stakeholders that the introduction of smart meters is

an initiative intended to usher in

a new era of transparency and

walls of the consumers.

ket associations

concern

smart meters.

Another

of grievances of the public in this regard. People should have no doubts and reservations over the issue," he told reporters here. The official emphasized that the shift to smart meters is aimed at creating a more efficient and financially stable

department.

77th Independence Day Celebrated At JKEDI

gesture spoke volumes about

the sacrifices made by those

in uniform and highlighted

their integral role in main-

taining the nation's unity and

strength.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 77th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute's (JKEDI) Sempora, Pampore campus.

The event marked a significant occasion in the history of our nation's freedom struggle and was graced by the presence of Ajaz Ahmad Bhat (IAS), Director, JKEDI. The celebrations commenced with the hoisting of the National Flag by Director JKEDI, followed by the soul-stirring rendition of

the National Anthem. In his address, the Director JKEDI highlighted the significance of coming together to celebrate the nation's hardearned freedom and used the occasion to call for a renewed commitment to building a prosperous and harmonious country. He emphasized that the celebration of Independence Day should serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals during the freedom struggle and the responsibility each citizen carries in ensuring the nation's

The festivities took on an

progress.



even more poignant tone with The fervor of Independence Day resonated throughout the the inclusion of a ceremonial salute, executed by the brave various district offices of JKEDI, members of B Cov from the as each district headquarters wholeheartedly participated 41st Battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF), under in the celebrations. The festivithe leadership of Giriraj Singh ties kicked off on August 9th Rana, Assistant Commandant. with the launch of the 'Meri This act not only added a sol-Maati Mera Desh' campaign. This multifaceted initiative emn touch to the celebration but also served as a powerencompasses an array of imful symbol of the unity and pactful programs meticulously unwavering dedication that crafted to deepen our connection with our rich cultural unites our nation despite its diversity. The ceremonial saheritage and instill an elevated lute by these valiant personnel sense of responsibility toward underscored the deep-rooted our nation's progress. commitment of individuals who put their lives on the line to ensure the security and integrity of the nation. This

Among the transformative initiatives that form part of this campaign are the 'Panch Pran Pledge,' 'Vasudha Vandan,' and 'Veeron ka Vandan.' These endeavors stand as poignant tributes to the unflinching sacrifices made by our courageous heroes in safeguarding our nation's values and integrity.

Searches In Poonch Ahead Of Budha Amarnath Yatra

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday conducted a search operation in nearly a dozen villages near the Line of Control (LoC) ahead of the annual Budha Amarnath yatra in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

This was the second time in the past week that searches were carried out in the Gursai area of Mendhar sub-division, which falls along the yatra route, the officials said.

Security has been beefed up across Poonch ahead of the 10day yatra which is scheduled to commence on August 18. The Bhoomi Pujan' will be performed in a traditional way on August 17 and the first batch of pilgrims will leave for the yatra awaited.

the next day.

The Buddha Amarnath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, in village Rajpura in Mandi tehsil of Poonch is one of the oldest shrines of Jammu region, and attracts huge rush of devotees during the yatra which concludes with the arrival of 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) at the shrine from Dashnami Akhara Poonch.

The River Pulsata flows by the temple, and is considered to be sacred where pilgrims take bath before entering the temple.

Police assisted by Army and CRPF cordoned off over a dozen villages in Gursai early this morning for a thorough search operation, the officials said, adding further details are

Govt Working On Improving Human Infra Of Public Schools: Alok Kumar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government Wednesday admitted that the public educational institutes at elementary level of Jammu and Kashmir were 'lacking the physical infrastructure'.

Principal Secretary, School Education Department Alok Kumar said this on the sidelines of an interactive conference pertaining to the upcoming third national conference of chief secretaries.

"We are preparing to participate in that National Conference which will be attended by Chief Secretaries of all the states," he said.

Kumar said, "We had called the stakeholders of education here to find out their views about the changes which they think should be made for the ease of living."

About Artificial Intelligence, the principal secretary said

that the School Education Department had already introduced AI 'in the sense when everything is being digitized.'

Responding to the queries of infrastructural issues in elementary level schools, Kumar said, "We need both physical and human infrastructure. Of course we are lacking the physical infrastructure in some government schools because of many factors."

"However, we are trying to improve the human infrastructure which essentially means the quality of the teachers and quality of education," he said. Kumar further said that it WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO DEVEL-OP PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCture. "We are in the process of improving the physical infrastructure but we are devoting our much time and resources on improving the skills of the teachers who would ultimately impart the education."—(KNO)

People Feeling Alienated Due To Inordinate Delay In Restoration Of Democratic System In J&K: Apni Party

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Senior Apni Party leader Ghulam Hassan Mir on Wednesday demanded holding assembly elections in Jammu among the people due to the and Kashmir and claimed people widening gap between the are feeling "alienated" due to the widening gap between the local populace and the administration.

The party's senior vice president was addressing its members and workers at a meeting. Mir also directed them to prepare for the Urban Local Body (ULB) and Panchayat elections, which are likely to be held later

"The inordinate delay in the restoration of democratic system in Jammu and Kashmir is a cause of concern as it has given rise to the feeling of alienation administration and the local

populace," Mir said. He said an elected government is answerable to the people. "Elected government must replace the present form of governance (lieutenant governor-led administration) to bring more transparency and accountability in the system,"

J&K Ruled By 'Air-Dropped **Bureaucratic Setup' Which Has No** Idea About People's Sentiment: NC

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has been deprived of a popular government for the past few years and is being ruled by an "air-dropped bureaucratic setup" which has no idea about the sentiments of people, the National Conference said on Wednesday.

NC state spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar said Prime Minister Narendra Modi also did not talk about Jammu and Kashmir in his Independence Day speech on Wednesday.

"We are into our fifth year when there is no popular government as such in place. We are being ruled by bureaucrats, we are being ruled by an air-dropped bureaucratic set-up, by people who have no idea of the ground situation, the topography, and the sentiments of the people of Kashmir," Dar told PTI here

"It is very unfortunate that if we call ourselves the mother of democracy, why then is J-K being singled out and why this democratic setup is not thriving in J-K. What stops them from facilitating the democratic set-up in J-K?" Dar said.

The BJP should be asked why Modi did not address JK in his Independence Day speech, he

"The party had claimed that they would bring prosperity and development in Kashmir when abrogation of Article 370 happened. But, on the ground you see what is happening. This is not only about the people of J-K. It is about the people of the country who are demanding answers from the BJP leadership about the mess they have created in J-K. Who is responsible for that?" the NC spokesperson said.

He said the prime minister's speech from the Red Fort was aimed at diverting people's attention from the main issues of unemployment and inflation.

"The situation right now is such that people are not able to manage even two meals a day and these are the issues that he should have talked about," Dar said.

While referring to the prime minister's remarks on dynastic politics, Dar said the BJP is filled with dynasts and the party is promoting them.

"The prime minister should first look inside his own cabinet as there is an exhaustive list of ministers that fit into the their own definition of dynasty. Let him first explain that, then we will give our explanation about dynastic politics... I can give you a list of all dynasts that this party is promoting," he said.

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 17-08-2023

LAC talks

he 19th round of India-China military talks concluded on Tuesday without immediate progress on the pressing issue of Chinese presence in the Depsang Plains. However, both nations have agreed to expedite efforts towards resolving the lingering concerns along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western sector. The two-day talks, held secretly until the joint statement, marked the first instance of such extensive discussions between the nations.

The joint statement issued by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and the Chinese foreign ministry revealed that the meetings took place on August 13-14, on the Indian side of the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point. Despite the lack of a breakthrough on the Depsang issue, the statement highlighted the positive and constructive nature of the discussions, which were guided by the leaders of both countries. Both sides have committed to not escalating military build-up along the LAC. The agreement aligns with the prior disengagement from certain disputed areas, including the Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Gogra, and Hot Springs.

The discussions also encompassed pre-existing matters such as no patrolling in buffer zones within disputed regions, maintaining the sanctity of airspace, and promoting regular interaction among different command levels. Both nations found common ground on these issues.

The recent talks hold particular significance considering the forthcoming engagements between the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Both leaders are expected to participate in the BRICS summit in Johannesburg, followed by President Xi's visit to India for the G20 Summit. While the prospect for a bilateral meeting between Modi and Xi remains, the focus on building a cooperative framework takes precedence.

Within the context of the current round of discussions, the Depsang Plains issue was a primary concern. This region, part of India's Sub Sector North, has remained disputed, positioned between the Siachen Glacier and the Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin. The Chinese have obstructed Indian patrols beyond certain points, including the bottleneck area or 'Y' Junction. Although Indian forces have the capability to push forward to traditional patrolling points, they have refrained from doing so to avoid heightening tensions.

The talks which have been ongoing since 2020 have yet to yield substantial progress on the Depsang Plains issue. Despite this, the willingness of both sides to engage in open dialogue and confidence-building measures signals their commitment to maintaining peace and stability along the Line of Actual Control. As leaders of the two countries prepare for upcoming summits, the focus should remain on fostering cooperation and resolving existing disputes through diplomatic channels. And the onus to do so squarely falls on China which in the first place staged incursions at five points along the Line of Actual Control.

OTHER OPINON

Inflation Concerns

Ithough there is some uncertainty on the trajectory of food prices, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is justified in looking through the recent spike in the cost of vegetables since these are largely supply-side shocks. The comfort from softer core inflation as also the need to assess the impact of the cumulative tightening of 250 basis points have clearly weighed on the decision to leave policy rates untouched at 6.5%. At the same time, there is some bit of stealth hawkishness in the higher inflation forecast of 30 basis points for FY24 to 5.4% and a cash reserve ratio (CRR) hike on incremental deposits.

That the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would retain its stance at 'withdrawal of accommodation', was widely expected. After all, the central bank has asserted it is determined to tame inflation and bring it down to 4%. However, in a sign that it does not want to let its guard down, it has also opted to soak up some of the excess liquidity with a temporary CRR hike on incremental deposits. This would help mop up about Rs 1 trillion from the system and is aimed at absorbing the excess liquidity created by the return of Rs 2,000 notes. The rule will be relaxed by early September ahead of the advance tax outflow and the festive season so that there is no liquidity shortage at the time. As a measure, it is more appropriate than a CRR hike, which can be perceived as too hawkish.

Indeed, the RBI is anxious about the many imponderables—a shortfall in the kharif output on top of elevated prices of cereals, the impact of El Nino, and the climbing prices of crude oil which are nudging \$88 per barrel. It has also pointed out that if higher food prices sustain, they pose the risk of inflation expectations becoming entrenched. But rather than alarm the markets, the RBI has opted to alert them. That is probably why there was scarcely any movement in benchmark yields. What one takes away from all this is that rates are going to stay higher for longer, especially since inflation at the start of FY25 is now estimated to be above 5% levels. As such, a cut in policy rates is now highly unlikely even in early 2024 because the RBI believes the economy is growing well and that there is an incipient recovery in rural India.

Financial Express

Beyond the Brochure: The Truth Behind Education Consultants



Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

An ominous shift has taken place, with an insidious cabal of fraudulent advisors exploiting the unwavering trust of impressionable students, weaving tantalizing narratives of overseas or interstate educational pursuits. Their audacious demands for exorbitant fees, coupled with the peddling of spurious degrees, are indicative of a burgeoning crisis

nder the searing sun, I found myself outside the Dean's ofalongside companion, racing against the clock to tick off exam requirements just days away. this arduous endeavor, a Kashmiri couple arrived on campus, the sun's radiance reflecting off their visages. The woman's mission: snag an admit card from the Dean. But guess what? It's not as simple as it sounds. Her admission hangs in limbo, to her profound disappointment, what awaited her was nothing short of a staggering revelation—her admission remained unverified. The origins of this predicament stemmed from the fact that her admission had been orchestrated by a duplicitous consultant, one who habitually ensnares unsuspecting students, capitalizing on their vulnerabilities and offering a comprehensive array of deceptive services. Aided by the innate innocence of students, these cunning operators exploit their aspirations.

The Kashmiri couple was aghast, stunned by this unfortunate turn of events. Frantic calls to the consultant went unanswered, leaving them in disarray. Fortuitously, the woman's impending exams were deferred, and the aid of a consultant named Zakir sir (Zakir Kashmiri) ultimately secured her rightful admission.Cautionary voices in the academic realm advocate for a prudent reduction in reliance on consultants, emphasizing the need for aspirants to undertake their procedural responsibilities autonomously. Education consultants, those folks hired by colleges Or Universities to handle registrations, can be a lifeline. But here's the twist - some are like wolves in sheep's clothing, an ominous shift has taken place, with an insidious cabal of fraudulent advisors exploiting the unwavering trust of impressionable students, weaving tantalizing narratives of overseas or inter-state educational pursuits. Their audacious demands for exorbitant fees, coupled with the peddling of spurious degrees, are indicative of a burgeoning crisis.

In the city of Hyderabad, India, a syndicate of malefactors was apprehended, their malevolent activities centering around the fabrication of counterfeit educational credentials, ostensibly to satiate the stringent visa requirements for overseas education and employment. The intricate web of this operation encompassed an educational consultancy, a software engineer, and their intermediary associates. It becomes evident, however, that the culpability isn't solely borne by consultants; students themselves sometimes fall prey to their own misguided choices. To navigate this labyrinthine

landscape, experts underscore the imperative of minimizing dependence on consultants. Aspiring scholars should proactively gather exhaustive information before committing to any institution. The digital age's global village enables Kashmiris worldwide to harness the power of the internet and social media, extracting invaluable insights and reviews from their digital cohorts. Prior to making any commitments, diligent perusal of online resources, coupled with consultation of university-issued lists and alumni endorsements, is judicious. The wisdom of connecting with former attendees of a prospective institution cannot be overstated. Equally, the allure of postgraduate studies should be tempered with the pursuit of esteemed universities over mere colleges, as the former is likelier to host accomplished faculty with

The allure of consultants must be resisted—a clandestine network of brokers, akin to a secretive cabal, is ceaselessly scheming to ensnare unwitting candidates. This shadowy realm extends to the production of counterfeit degrees, allegedly attributed to a plethora of universities across states.The Students Association of Jammu and Kashmir, as stakeholders, are well-positioned to ameliorate this conundrum. Initiatives to catalog unscrupulous entities through blacklisting and disseminating advisories on social media can be a potent tool to counter this consultancy menace. The psychological toll on vulnerable students ensnared by the consultancy mafia underscores the necessity of mental health support. During undergraduate studies, counseling sessions facilitated by seasoned professors should guide students contemplating further education. Government intervention in the form of a dedicated committee or council is pivotal to oversee consultancy operations, imposing penalties on deceptive agen cies and compensating victims of their machinations. The current climate mandates astute vigilance—remain alert and prudent. Allow neither gullibility nor naiveté to undermine your journey. Utilize smartphones judiciously, lest they become instruments of your undoing. May divine providence guide us steadfastly along the righteous path.

exceptional pedagogical acumen.

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

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To BRICS or not to BRICS?

ith the BRICS summit approaching, scheduled for August 22-24, many political forces both outside and inside the member countries are trying to sow discord or, at least, create the appearance of strained relations between the members of the club. It is no coincidence that every day there is more and more news about the alleged rivalry between India and China or about Delhi's opposition to the idea of expanding the

OBSERVER

BRICS. Despite the fact that governments of states conduct an honest dialogue with their citizens and quickly refute all such attacks, it should be understood that in the coming weeks there will be much more informational stuffing, since their main goal is to complicate the upcoming summit.

Attempts to quarrel with the members of the association are explained by the fact that not all players on the world stage like the neighborhood with the BRICS. In

addition to the fact that the club has a huge economic and political potential, and recently it has also become the main symbol of the global de-dollarization movement, which can lead to a revision of the whole old financial system.

However, despite all the attempts of interested parties to put a spoke in the wheels of the club and discredit its members, participation in the BRICS outweighs any accusations and brings tangible benefits to India. In particular, our government recently announced that more than 20 countries have already opened special bank accounts for trade with India in rupees. There is no doubt that the number of countries ready to leave the dollar in mutual settlements will continue to grow, which will provide the rupee with the opportunity to become a new international currency and further strengthen the position of our country in the international arena.

Surendra Panagariya



AKHAURA-AGARTALA RAILWAY

A Milestone Of India-Bangladesh **Railway Connectivity**

Samara Ashrat

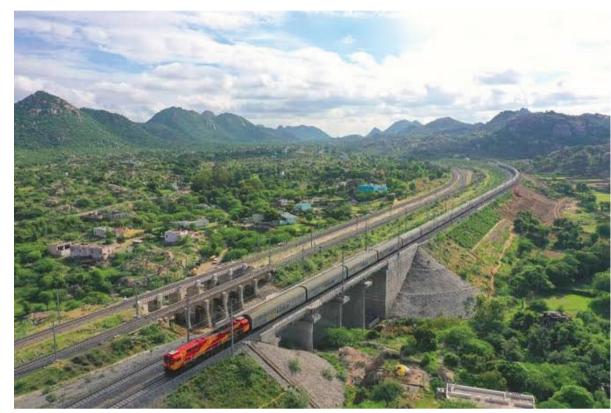
The Akhaura-Agartala rail line will be inaurgrated soon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaurgrate this rail line along with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September. This project is creating considerable excitement among the people of both of the countries. This connectivity initiative is expected to be a game changer for both India and Bangladesh.

Goods can be transported from other sea ports of India to other states of the North-Eastern region via Agartala from Chittagong and Mongla ports of Bangladesh. As a result, trade in these states will increase as well as it will be possible to transport goods quickly and easily along with reducing the cost of goods transportation.

The Project

The Agartala-Akhaura international railway connectivity project is one of India and Bangladesh's most prominent connectivity projects. Akhaura used to be the railway link for Agartala before Independence. Akhaura-Agartala railway line is finally seeing the light. The project is being implemented with an Indian loan. The project officials said that the work of Akhaura-Agartala project has been completed more than 90 percent. The work of laying the railway line is complete.

The railway line, which is 15.064 km long - 5.05 km in India and 10.014 km in Bangladesh – will link Bangladesh's Akhaura, through an international immigration station at Nischintapur, to the outskirts of Agartala. This station will be a dual gauge station for both pas-



senger and goods interchange between India and Bangladesh. The project also includes one major bridge and three mi-

The MoU was signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January 2010. After that, the project, which started in 2016, is being extended for the fourth time till June 2024. In other words, this project, which has been going on for 13 years, is finally seeing the light of day. The project was

supposed to be over in 2020 but was delayed following land acquisition issues and the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The 15-kilometre-long railway line would link Bangladesh's Akhaura through an international immigration station at Nischintapur along the India-Bangladesh border.Once operational, the railway will reduce travel time between Agartala and Kolkata from 31 hours to 10 hours, creating a plethora of opportunities for trade, tourism, and

cultural exchange.

The Railway Ministry of India allocated Rs 153.84 crore for this project. The Ministry of DONER (Development of North Eastern Region) is funding the project and that Rs 708.74 crore of the estimated cost has already been provided and utilised. This railway link is part of the 16 transit routes that have been declared allowing cargo transportation from Chattogram or Mongla port to Indian states.

Small but effective

Upon completion of this railway link, two Indian states, including Tripura and West Bengal, will easily be connected with Bangladesh.This new railway link will reduce travel time between the two Indian cities of Kolkata and Agartala. The train from Agartala to Kolkata will cover a distance of 500 kilometres via Dhaka in around 16 hours. Upon completion of the project, the travel time between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka, which currently takes about 31 hours, will be reduced to 10 hours. The 15-km long railway link connecting Agartala with Gangasagar will play a crucial role in the overall development of the North Eastern region. Those from Mizoram, which is 150 kilometres away, and those from Agartala will benefit from the current line.

Not only that, India and Bangladesh have signed an agreement, allowing Indian traders to use Chattogram and Mongla ports in Bangladesh for transportation of goods.. This railway will not only increase the movement of the people of two countries but will also play an important role in the import and export of goods from Chittagong port, resulting in a boost in trade and adding value to the economic development of both nations as well as states. Not only that, this railline would boost the tourism sector of both of the countries. The new rail project will enhance relations between India and Bangladesh and aid in the growth of small-scale industries in the border area and boost tourism in the northeastern region. Facilitating faster export and import of commodities would benefit local producers in exporting their products outside the country.

Views expressed are author's own

An Expanded BRICS Can Push For A New Economic Order

Osama Al Sharif

egional and global realignments have been picking up pace for years, but the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have accelerated that trend. Global challenges are becoming more acute and urgent; from global warming and climate change to food shortages, illegal migration and disruptions in energy supplies.

This is why it will be interesting to follow the proceedings and outcome of one of the most important meetings to take place this year, the BRICS summit, between 22 and 24 August, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Foundations of a new economic order

Last June at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Algeria are candidates for BRICS membership. Other potential candidates include Mexico, Argentina, and Indonesia. Twenty three countries have formally applied to become new BRICS members.

Some would argue that smaller groups work better, the G-7 is an example, but others see a larger club of like-minded nations working together is in a better position to set the foundations of a new economic or-

The BRICS economies have been rapidly growing and gaining prominence, with China and India emerging as major global economic players. BRICS is projected to account for 45 per cent of global GDP in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms by 2030. The group already accounts for about 31.7 per cent of the world's GDP as of 2022, compared to the G-7's 30 per cent share of the world's GDP as of 2022.

Equitable international order

Additional members will only strengthen the group's global economic presence – especially if the UAE and Saudi Arabia end up joining. But apart from the economic aspect, BRICS+ will prove to be a potent political powerhouse as well.



At a time when there is so much criticism about how western countries have failed to create a more equitable economic order in a world plagued by poverty, over exploitation of the planet's resources, pollution, famine and disease, BRICS+ could go a long way in addressing some of these challenges.

BRICS countries have advocated for a more democratic, representative, and equitable international order that respects the diversity and sovereignty of all nations. In addition they called for strengthening their voice and influence in global governance and multilateral institutions, such as the United Nations, the G20, the World Trade Organisation, and the International Monetary Fund.

These countries can create genuine pressure to bring rival groups, namely the G-7, which is seen as a Western-centric club, representing primarily North America and Europe, to the negotiation table in order to begin reforming the current global economic and political orders.

Since its founding, BRICS has achieved some notable successes, such as establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) in 2014, which provides financing for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other developing

It also launched the Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR) in 2018, which aims to foster cooperation on innovation, digital economy, industrialisation, and skills development among BRICS countries. The group has also set up the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, which is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures.

Integration with the global economy

The rising appeal for BRICS, by countries in the southern hemisphere, can be appreciated for several reasons. Collectively, BRICS nations represent a significant portion of the world's population, more than 40 per cent, and their economies have experienced rapid growth over the years. Their increasing integration with the global economy has attracted attention, as they offer opportunities for trade, investment, and business collaborations.

Their growing middle class, urbanisation, and expanding consumer markets make them attractive destinations for businesses looking to tap into new consumer bases and diversify their operations. In addition, BRICS nations possess abundant natural resources, ranging from oil and gas reserves to minerals and agricultural land.

In the long run, the BRICS countries, being from the Global South, promote South-South cooperation, sharing knowledge, expertise, and resources among themselves and other developing nations. This approach resonates with countries that seek alternatives to traditional Westerndominated models of development.

For example, one can only see how the UAE's contribution to BRICS+ can be made particularly in the tech sector, including areas like artificial intelligence, renewable energy, internet services and space explo-

The rising interest in BRICS can also be attributed to the polarising nature of the war in Ukraine and its deep effects on geopolitical balances, global trade and energy supplies as well as global food security.

Hopefully lessons will be learnt from past experiences and the leadership will chart a path that will deliver on most of BRICS goals and objectives at a time when the planet faces unprecedented global

The article was originally published by Gulf News. Views expressed are author's

Common Cold Virus Associated With Potentially Fatal Blood Clotting Disorder: Study

ΑN

latelets, also known as thrombocytes, are specialised cellular fragments that produce blood clots in the event of a scrape or traumatic injury. Platelet levels may decrease throughout the body as a result of viral infections, autoimmune disease, and other disorders, a condition known as thrombocytopenia. After a robust clinical and research collaboration, Stephan Moll, MD, and Jacquelyn Baskin-Miller, MD, both in the UNC School of Medicine, have linked adenovirus infection with a rare blood clotting disorder. This is the first time that the common respiratory virus, which causes mild cold-and flu-like symptoms, has been reported to be associated with blood clots and severe thrombocytopenia.

"This adenovirus-associated disorder is now one of four recognized anti-PF4 disorders," said Moll, professor of medicine in the Department of Medicine's Division of Hematology. "We hope that our findings will lead to earlier diagnosis, appropriate and optimized treatment, and better outcomes in patients who develop this lifethreatening disorder." Their new observation, which was published in the New England Journal of Medicine, sheds new light on the virus and its role in causing an anti-platelet factor 4 disorder. Additionally, the discovery opens a whole new door for research, as many questions remain as to how and why this condition occurs - and who is most likely to develop the disorder.

HIT, VITT, and "Spontaneous HIT"

Antibodies are large Y-shaped proteins that can stick to the surface of bacteria and other "foreign" substances, flagging them for destruction by the immune system or neutralizing the threat directly.

In anti-PF4 disorders, the person's immune system makes antibodies against platelet factor-4 (PF4), a protein that is released by platelets. When an antibody forms against PF4 and binds to it, this can trigger the activation and rapid removal of platelets in the bloodstream, leading to blood clotting and low platelets, respectively.



Sometimes, the formation of anti-PF4 antibodies is triggered by a patient's exposure to heparin, called heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), and sometimes it occurs as an autoimmune condition without heparin exposure, which is referred to as "spontaneous HIT."

In the last three years, thrombocytopenia has been shown to rarely occur after injection with COVID-19 vaccines that are made with inactivated pieces of an adeno-viral vector. These vaccines are different than the ones made in the United States, such as those by Moderna and Pfizer. The condition is referred to as vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT).

The Road to Discovery

The road to the discovery started when a

5-year-old boy who had been diagnosed as an outpatient with adeno virus infection had to be admitted to the hospital with an aggressive blood clot forming in his brain (called cerebral sinus vein thrombosis) and severe thrombocytopenia. Doctors determined that he hadn't been exposed to heparin or the adeno-vector COVID-19 vaccination, the classical triggers for HIT and VITT.

"The intensive care unit physicians, the neuro-intensivist, and hematology group were working around the clock to determine next steps in the care for this young boy," said Baskin-Miller. "He wasn't responding to therapy and was progressing quickly. We had questioned whether it could have been linked to his adenovirus considering the vaccine data, but there was nothing in the literature at that time to sug-

gest it.'

The collaborative clinical effort to help the patient expanded: Baskin-Miller reached out to Moll, who is an expert in thrombosis and has various connections throughout the field. To Moll, it looked like the pediatric patient could have "spontaneous HIT". They then tested for the HIT platelet activating antibody, which came back positive.

Collaboration is Key

Moll reached out to, Theodore E. Warkentin, MD, a professor of pathology and molecular medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, who has been researching anti-PF4 disorders for three decades, to hear if he was aware of an association between adenoviral infection and spon-

taneous HIT. Warkentin, who is one of the premier international anti-PF-4 disorders researcher, wasn't aware of the condition.

Around the same time, Moll received a phone call from Alison L. Raybould, MD, a hematologist-oncologist in Richmond, Virginia, a previous trainee from UNC. She was seeing a patient who had multiple blood clots, a stroke and heart attack, arm and leg deep-vein thromboses (DVT), and severe thrombocytopenia.

The patient had not been exposed to heparin or vaccines. However, this patient's severe illness had also started with viral symptoms of cough and fever, and she had tested positive for adenoviral infection. Testing for an anti-PF4 antibody also turned out to be positive.

To help clarify the diagnoses of the two patients, Warkentin immediately offered to further test the patients' blood and samples were directly to his laboratory in the Hamilton General Hospital for further study. They confirmed that the antibodies were targeting platelet factor 4, much like the HIT antibodies.

Surprisingly, the antibody resembled that of the VITT and bound to PF4 in the same region as VITT antibodies do. They concluded that both the patients had "spontaneous HIT" or a VITT-like disorder, associated with an adenovirus infection.

More Questions

Following such a groundbreaking conclusion, Moll and colleagues are now left with many questions about the prevalence of the new anti-PF4 disorder, whether the condition can be caused by other viruses, and why this condition doesn't occur with every infection with adenovirus.

They also wonder what preventative or treatment measures can be made to help patients who develop the new, potentially deadly anti-PF4 disorder.

"How common is the disorder?" asked Moll. "What degree of thrombocytopenia raises the threshold to test for anti-PF4 antibodies? And then finally, how do we best treat these patients to optimize the chance that they will survive such a potentially deadly disease?"

Brain Activity Of Listeners Used To Recreate Classic Pink Floyd Number

Press Trust Of India

Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall" was used to reconstruct the classic rock number, scientists report in a new study.

The reconstruction reveals that brain waves can be recorded and processed to bring out musical elements of the speech heard, such as rhythm, stress, accent and intonation, along with the syllables, the study from the University of California (UC), Berkeley, US, said.

These musical elements are known to convey meaning in ways that spoken words alone do not.

The phrase "All in all it was just a brick in the wall" could be recognised in the reproduced song, with its rhythms intact and the words muddy yet decipherable, the researchers report in the study published in the journal PLoS Biology.

The listeners were 29 patients undergoing epilepsy surgery at Albany Medical Center, New York, US, over a decade ago.

Neuroscientists at the centre recorded electrical activity through electrodes placed on the patients' brains as they heard an approximately 3-minute segment of the classic Pink Floyd or

ment of the classic Pink Floyd song from the 1979 album The Wall.

"As this whole field of brain machine interfaces progresses, this gives you a way to add musicality to future brain implants for people who need it, someone who's got some disabling neurological or developmental disorder compromising speech output.

"It gives you an ability to decode not only the linguistic content, but some of the prosodic content of speech, some of the (emotional) affect," said Robert Knight, a neurologist and UC Berkeley professor of psychology who conducted the study with postdoctoral fellow Ludovic Bellier.

The brain machine interfaces used today to help people communicate have a robotic quality similar to how the late Stephen Hawking sounded when he used a speechgenerating device, the researchers said. Previous studies have used brain activity to reconstruct the words a person was hearing. They have also recorded signals from the brain's motor area linked to jaw, lip and tongue movements to produce the speech intended by a paralysed patient. The words would display on a computer screen.

This study suggested that recording from the brain's auditory regions, where all aspects of sound are processed, can capture other aspects of speech important in human communication.

"Decoding from the auditory cortices, which are closer to the acoustics of the sounds, as opposed to the motor cortex, which is closer to the movements that are



done to generate the acoustics of speech, is super promising," said Bellier. "It will give a little color to what's decoded." For the study, Bellier reanalysed brain recordings obtained in 2012 and 2013 and used artificial intelligence (specifically, nonlinear regression models) to decode brain activity and then encode a reproduction.

He and his team also pinpointed new brain regions involved in detecting rhythm, such as a thrumming guitar, and discovered that some portions (superior temporal gyrus) of the auditory cortex responded to the onset of a voice or a synthesizer, while others responded to sustained vocals.

The researchers also confirmed that the right side of the brain is more attuned to music than the left side. "Language is more left brain. Music is more distributed, with a bias toward right," Knight said.







WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

Early Intervention

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

Timely Transportation

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

Reduced Complications

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

Better Coordination

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

Improved Accessibility:

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



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Govt Approves Rs 13,000 Cr 'PM Vishwakarma'; Scheme To Benefit 30 Lakh Families

Press trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the 'PM Vishwakarma' scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 13,000 crore for a period of five years that will benefit about 30 lakh families of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On Tuesday, the prime minister announced that the scheme will be launched on Vishwakarma Jayanti on September 17.

Under the scheme, artisans and craftsmen will be provided recognition through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card. They will be provided credit support of up to Rs 1 lakh (first tranche) and Rs 2 lakh (second tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5

Artisans and craftsmen will also be provided skill upgradation, tool kit incentive, incentive for digital transactions and marketing support, an official statement said.

'Under the scheme, there will be two types of skilling programmes -- Basic and Advanced and a stipend of Rs 500 per day will also be provided to beneficiaries while undergoing skills training," Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while briefing the media on Cabinet decisions here.

They will also get a support of up to Rs 15,000 to buy modern tools, he added.

He said in the first year, five lakh families will be covered and a total of 30 lakh families will be covered over five years from FY24 to FY28.

"The scheme aims strengthen and nurture the 'Guru-Shishya parampara' or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftsmen working with their hands and tools," the statement said.

The scheme also aims at improving the quality, as well as the reach of products and services of artisans and craftsmen and to ensure that Vishwakarmas are integrated with the domestic and global value chains, it added.

IndiGo Promoter Shobha Gangwal Sells Shares Worth Rs 2,801 Crore

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: InterGlobe Aviation's promoter Shobha Gangwal on Wednesday sold a nearly 2.9 per cent stake in the company for a little over Rs 2,800 crore through open market transactions.

Shobha Gangwal is the wife of Rakesh Gangwal, the cofounder of the company, which is the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo.

The shares were sold in three

bulk deal transactions. As many as 3,841,121 shares were sold at a price of Rs 2,426.21 apiece, while 3,841,120 shares were offloaded twice at prices of Rs 2,440.92 and Rs 2,427.09, respectively, as per data available on the BSE.

Together, the shares are worth Rs 2,801.79 crore.

The total number of shares offloaded translates to around 2.9 per cent stake.

The shares were sold at a discount compared to Wednesday's closing price of Rs 2,457.60 apiece on the BSE.

At the end of the June quarter, Rakesh Gangwal and his wife Shobha Gangwal had 13.23 per cent and 2.99 per cent stakes, respectively, in the

The Chinkerpoo Family Trust, whose trustee is Shobha Gangwal and JP Morgan Trust Com-



pany of Delaware, owned 13.50 per cent shareholding.

This is the third time in less than one year that Rakesh Gangwal and related entities have offloaded shares of Inter-Globe Aviation.

In February this year, Shobha Gangwal divested a 4 per cent stake in the company for Rs 2,944 crore. Prior to that, in September last year, Rakesh Gangwal and Shobha Gangwal sold a 2.74 per cent shareholding for Rs 2,005 crore.

Amid differences with cofounder Rahul Bhatia, Rakesh Gangwal, in February 2022, resigned from the board of directors of InterGlobe Aviation and also said that he will gradually reduce his equity stake in the airline over the next five years.

The feud between the two promoters -- Bhatia and Gangwal -- came into the public domain after Gangwal had written to market regulator Sebi in July 2019 and sought its intervention to address the alleged corporate governance lapses at the company, charges that have been reiected by the Bhatia group.

Ahmedabad Most Affordable Housing Market In India; Pune, Kolkata **Next: Knight Frank India**



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The increase in interest rates on home loans have affected the affordability of residential properties across all eight major cities during the first six months of this year, according to Knight

On Wednesday, real estate consultant Knight Frank India released its 'Affordability Index' for the top eight cities for the first six months of 2023 calendar year.

The index tracks the (Equated Monthly Instalment)-to-income ratio for an average household.

It indicates the proportion of income that a household requires, to fund the EMI of a

housing unit in a particular city The index showed that higher home loan rates have reduced affordability across all markets so far in 2023.

Ahmedabad is the most affordable housing market amongst the top eight cities, with a ratio of 23 per cent followed by Pune and Kolkata at 26 per cent each; Bengaluru and Chennai at 28 per cent each; Delhi-NCR at 30 per cent; Hyderabad 31 per cent; and Mumbai 55 per cent.

A Knight Frank Affordability index level of 40 per cent for a city implies that on an average, households in that city need to spend 40 per cent of their income to fund the EMI

of housing loan for that unit. An EMI/Income ratio over 50 per cent is considered unaffordable as it is the limit beyond which banks rarely un-

fordability index witnessed steady improvement from 2010 to 2021 across the eight cities of India especially during the pandemic when the RBI cut repo rates to decadal lows.

"The central bank has raised the REPO rate by 250 bps since then to address growing inflation. This has impacted affordability by an average of 2.5 per cent across cities and increased the EMI load by 14.4 per cent since then," the con-

derwrite a mortgage, it said. Knight Frank noted that af-

Avg Monthly Rent Of Warehousing Space Up 4% In Delhi-NCR In First Six Months Of 2023: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The average monthly rent of warehousing and logistics space in and around the national capital region rose 4 per cent annually to Rs 22.5 per square feet in the first six months of this year on higher demand, according to real estate consul-

The leasing of warehousing and logistics space in Delhi-4.7 million square feet in the January-June period this year as against 2.8 million square feet in the year-ago period.

"The Indian warehousing and logistics sector is sailing through global headwinds on the back of strong and sustainable fundamentals. Several mega infrastructure projects are planned across the country to improve connectivity and reduce transit time," Vestian Chief Executive Officer Shrinivas Rao said.

Across seven major cities, Vestian in a report on Wednesday said micro-markets of Delhi-NCR quoted the highest weighted average rentals of Rs 22.5 per sq ft a month compared to Rs 21.6 in the year-ago period.

Bengaluru closely followed at

Rs 22 per sq ft a month, showcasing the city's prominence in the logistics sector. Rent in Bengaluru remained stable.

In Pune too, the monthly weighted average rentals were flat at Rs 20.9 per sq ft, up from Rs 20.8 in the first six months of the previous year. Monthly rent in Hyderabad

stood at Rs 20.5 per sq ft as against Rs 20.4 per sq feet in the six months of the previous year. In Chennai, the monthly ent fell marginally to Rs 19.9

per sq ft from Rs 20. Monthly rent in Mumbai grew 2 per cent to Rs 19.7 per sq ft from Rs 19.3.

In Kolkata, the rent was stable at Rs 18.2 per sq ft a month during the January-June period this year. Vestian said the total leasing

or absorption of warehousing and logistics space across seven major cities went up 17 per cent to 15.4 million square feet during January-June this year from 13.2 million square feet in the year-ago period.

Third Party Logistics (3PL) companies continued to be the major demand driver in the first half of 2023 with 26 per cent of the total share.

Engineering & manufacturing and FMCG companies accounted for 16 per cent and 11

per cent share, respectively. Among cities, Delhi-NCR contributed 31 per cent of the total leasing/absorption

during the first half of 2023 as against 21 per cent a year This indicates a robust demand for warehousing and logistics facilities in and around Delhi, Noida, and Gurugram,

which are prominent commercial and industrial hubs, Vestian said. The leasing of and logistic space in Mumbai

saw a 75 per cent increase to 3.8 million sq ft from 2.2 million sq ft.

Pune saw a marginal increase to 2.6 million sq ft from 2.5 million sq ft.

However, Bengaluru saw a slight dip in leasing to 1.7 million sq ft from 1.8 million sq ft. In Hyderabad too, the leasing declined to 1.3 million sq

ft from 1.4 million sq ft. Chennai saw a drop of 67 per cent in leasing of warehousing and logistic space to 0.5 million sq ft during January-June 2023 from 1.5 million sq ft in the year-ago period.

Kolkata also saw a 23 per cent decline in demand to 0.8 million sq ft from 1 million sq ft during the period under

Cabinet Approves Extending Digital India Prog With Rs 14,903 Crore Outlay

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved extension of the Digital India programme with an outlay of Rs 14,903 crore to boost digital initiatives in skilling, cyber security, high performance computing and simplifying technology for masses, among other areas.

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the outlay has been approved for a five-year period between 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The extended Digital India programme will add on to the work done under the previous version of the scheme.

"The budget was allocated from time to time as per requirement. We have made changes in the schemes for which approval was required," Vaishnaw said, adding the Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the extension of the programme with the outlay of Rs 14,903 crore.

Under the extended programme, nine more super computers will be added under the National Supercomputing Mission(NCM).

The minister said that 18 super computers have been deployed under NCM.

In March 2015, the government approved installation of 70 supercomputers under NCM by 2022 with an outlay of Rs 4,500 crore.

The minister said the approval for nine supercomputers have come in addition to the earlier approved project.



Vaishnaw said the Digilocker app will be extended to micro, small and medium enterprises to help them avail credit and other services by verifying their document stores in the app.

Under the approved programme, 6.25 lakh IT professionals will be reskilled and upskilled, and 2.65 lakh persons will be trained in information security under the Information Security and Education Awareness Phase (ISEA) Programme.

He said cyber awareness courses for 12 crore college students will be conducted under the Digital India programme.

"CertIn, which does cyber forensics, emergency response and cyber diagnosis will be expanded massively," Vaishnaw said.

Further, the minister said the National Knowledge Network, a network of 1,787 universities and research and development institutes, will be further developed into Digital India Infoways.

"A centre of excellence will also be set up in the field of artificial intelligence for its use in agriculture, health and sustainability," the minister said.

Under the extended Digital India programme, new initiatives in the area of cyber security, including development of tools and integration of more than 200 sites with National Cyber Coordination Centre, will be carried out.

Banks' Lending To NBFCs Jumps 35% To Rs 14.2 Lakh Crore In June: Report



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Banks' lending to non-banking finance compacent to Rs 14.2 lakh crore in June, a report said.

Credit exposure of banks to NBFCs rose by a robust 35.1 per cent on-year to Rs 14.2 lakh crore in June, indicating non-banking finance firms' decreased reliance on international borrowings. This also pushed up NBFCs' share in overall credit from 8.5 per cent in Iune 2022 to 9.9 per cent in the reporting month, according to Sanjay Agarwal, a senior director with Care Ratings.

However, the report noted that the merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank, effective July 1, will lead to a reduction in the share and also the exposure of banks to NBFCs, as HDFC's bank borrowings will undergo a temporary reclassification, resulting in a shift of exposure to HDFC Bank.

Meanwhile, mutual funds' debt exposure to NBFCs, including through commercial papers (CPs) and corporate debt, also lakh crore in June, it said. According to the report, MF ex-

posure to NBFCs as a share of debt asset under management has remained broadly constant hovering at around 10 per cent. On the other hand, the share of banks advances to NBFCs as a share of aggregate advances has doubled from around 4.5 per cent in February 2018 to nearly 10 per cent in June, indicating the reliance of NBFCs on bank lending.

The report also said that bank credit to NBFCs has been consistently moving up since the second half of FY22, coinciding with the phased reopening of the economy since the Covid pandemic. This growth momentum further accelerated in FY23 and in the first quarter of FY24, which can primarily be ascribed to NBFCs' asset base.

Markets Extend Gains On Fag-End Buying; Infosys, L&T Shine

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty pared early losses to close higher for a second straight session on Wednesday, supported by fag-end buying in index majors Infosys, L&T and M&M amid a mixed trend in global markets.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 137.50 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 65,539.42. During the day, it fell by 369.03 points or 0.56 per cent to 65,032.89. The NSE Nifty gained 30.45 points

or 0.16 per cent to end at 19,465. "The initial apprehension stemming from an above-expected surge in domestic CPI inflation, driven by higher food prices, induced volatil-

ity in the Indian market. "However, the market found some relief as the like-

lihood of this inflation-surge being transitory alleviated concerns, leading to a recovery in the latter part of the trading session," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

UltraTech Cement was the biggest gainer in the Sensex pack, rising 2.43 per cent, followed by NTPC, Tata Motors, Infosys, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Maruti, Wipro and SBI were the major gainers.

In contrast, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance and JSW Steel were among the laggards. In the broader market, the

advanced 0.25 per cent. "While volatility continued to remain the ongoing theme, markets rebounded

BSE smallcap gauge climbed

0.52 per cent, and midcap

in late trades amid buying in IT, realty and power stocks, although metals came under hammering on worries slackening demand in China could hurt sentiment going ahead," Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd, said.

Among the indices, utilities climbed 1.14 per cent, realty gained 1.08 per cent, power (1.03 per cent), industrials (0.82 per cent), healthcare (0.80 per cent), capital goods (0.63 per cent) and auto (0.63 per cent). Commodities, financial services, telecommunication, bankex and metal were the laggards.

"Domestic equity had a weak opening but saw a smart recovery towards the end amid a drop in UK inflation and short covering ahead of the FOMC meeting minutes release along with US IIP data.

Govt Appoints Two Whole **Time Members** To Sebi Board **Press Trust Of India**

NEW DELHI: The government has appointed Kamlesh Chandra Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as whole time members to the board of markets regulator Sebi.

Varshney is a joint secretary at the Department of Revenue and Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), according to a government notification. Both the appointments are for a period of three years from the date of assumption of taking charge or until further orders, whichever

habi Puri Buch, has two whole-time mem-

bers and four part-time members.

is earlier, the notification, dated August 12, said. On the wider bilateral Currently, Sebi's board, chaired by Mad-

Trend Line On India-UK FTA Very Positive: High Commissioner Doraiswami "I'm positive about it (FTA)

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: Ahead of the 12th round of the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations starting in New Delhi on Wednesday, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK has expressed optimism that officials on both sides will be "able to get something working" and find a "right fit" towards a mutually beneficial pact.

High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami told PTI that he is positive as both countries seem keen to make necessary adjustments, recognising the complexities involved with the very different structures of the two similar-sized economies.

partnership, he expressed similar optimism around an "obvious synergy" across different sectors.

My intention is that to the extent we can, we would like a mutually beneficial forward-looking FTA to be concluded," said the High Commissioner. "I believe both sides are

keen on making the necessary adjustments. Even though we're both similar-sized economies, we are dissimilar in the structures of our economies and the complexities of our economies. So, getting the right fit together is very important." he said.

The senior diplomat closely involved with the FTA negotiations, which began in January last year, noted that it is important that the UK side recognises some of the complexities of the structure of the Indian economy.

"It can't be the same as a free trade agreement with a peer-developed country. On

the other hand, we too have to take into account the fact that the UK hasn't actually negotiated many free trade agreements in recent years when it was part of the European Union. So, there are those things that have to be adjusted. But overall, the trend line seems very positive," he said. The 11th round of nego-

tiations concluded on July 18, with a joint outcome statement saying it covered detailed draft treaty text discussions across nine policy areas. According to official UK government statistics, the bilateral trade partnership was worth around GBP 36 billion in 2022 and an FTA is set to significantly enhance that relationship.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said the 11th round of talks in London was "very intense" and many issues got closed.

Patriotic Extravaganza Hosted By Directorate Of Tourism Jammu At Musical Fountain Bagh-E-Bahu Jammu

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Jammu: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu embarked Jammuities on a Patriotic journey, weaved together with magnificent ceremonies under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and Meri Maati Mera Desh initiatives of the Government, movie screening along with Tricolored theme illumination and Musical Fountain Show was commemorated at Aquaplex Crown Baghe-Bahu Jammu on the eve of 77th Independence Day of India.

The event was beautifully crafted in an unforgettable tapestry of Independence Day Celebrations, under the stars and the open skies amid tricolored illumination all around bringing in the beautiful symphony of nature and patriotic

The event was inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar by lighting of Diyas which was followed with the ceremonial recital of National Anthem and the much awaited Open Air Cinema experience was formally thrown open for public with the screening of Hindi Movie "Uri: The Surgical Strike".

Pertinent to mention here that this is the first time that Open Air Cinema Experience has been launched in Jammu and cinema lovers can now enjoy movies sitting under the open skies at Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu.

The event was a perfect amalgamation of entertainment and Patriotism leaving an indelible mark on everyone's heart. Jammuities also enjoyed the Open Air Cinema while paddle Boating in the lake at the Musical Fountain arena which was a dreamy experience for those present on the occasion The festivities continued to unfold with captivating cinematic experience at the exquisite Aquaplex Crown Musical

Bagh-e-Bahu is a great endeav-

our of the Directorate of Tourism

Jammu to bring Open Air Cinema Experience to Jammu region

and it is an added feature to the

ever growing diverse list of tour-

ism products being brought in

to the Jammu region. He hoped

that people in large numbers es-

pecially bloggers, social media

influencers shall come to this

place and watch movies under

the Open Sky which is going to

be a regular feature and movies

shall be displayed on the Open

Screen under the supervision of

Directorate of Tourism Jammu.

Director Tourism Jammu,

Vivekanand Rai expressed

heartfelt gratitude to all the

attendees for joining in this

patriotic celebration and said

that the Directorate of Tourism

Jammu has organized se-

ries of events under the Meri

Maati Mera Desh initiative

of the Government wherein

Dogra Food Festival was orga-

nized at Duggardhani Kheral

in District Reasi, Suchetgarh

Border Familiarization Tour

was flagged off, Mega Cultural

Festival was organized at Bahu

Plaza Jammu, Tiranga Rally was

also organized at Raghunath

Bazaar Jammu and the Open Air

Fountain, Bagh-e-Bahu, as the silver screen came alive with the heroic tale of 'Uri,' under the

This awe-inspiring celebration, a beacon under the initiatives of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Meri Mati Mera Desh.' epitomized the spirit of our nation's 77th Independence Day. The echoes of freedom resounded in every heart, as Jammu basked in the glory of this remarkable commemoration. The enthralling movie captivated the audience with its portrayal of sequence of events related to Surgical Strike and its inspirational narratives. The movie underscores the sacrifices and valour of our armed forces serving as a poignant reminder of the value of Freedom and the inspirational bravery of our armed forces. As a symbol of unwavering respect for the nation, the event started with the harmonious rendition of the National Anthem, bringing everyone together during this heart-warming display of patriotism and unity.

Speaking on the occasion. Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said that the Aquaplex Crown

Movie screening is a part of the month long celebrations being organized by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu to commemorate 77th Independence Day of our great nation.

Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Sunaina Mehta added that Diya Lighting ceremony, under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and Meri Maati Mera Desh initiatives, envisions a unified celebration of India's valour, commemorating the nation's journey of freedom and puts emphasis on the fundamental aspect of expressing heartfelt gratitude to all the bravehearts who have made the supreme sacrifices for our great nation. She further emphasized that Bahu Fort is a symbol of reverence for all Jammuities and Tourism Department is committed to promote it as a major attraction for the tourists. Such initiatives of Jammu Tourism Directorate are dedicated towards nurturing a deeper connection between the people and their motherland, reinforcing the values of togetherness and pride to our heritage and

This impressionable experience of entertainment, celebration of Culture, Heritage and patriotism, reflecting the collective spirit of unity and pride that resonated throughout the venue, was received with rousing response from the visitors who chanted 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' in between the event. The tranquil ambiance served as a canvas for the attendees to unite, celebrate and reaffirm their commitment towards national progress and development.

Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Umesh Shan Deputy Director Tourism Jammu,. Sugandhi Banotra Assistant Director **Tourism** Iammu, Ambika Bali Assistant Director Tourism Katra and other officials of the Tourism Department.

Latest round of border talks with India held in 'candid and pragmatic atmosphere': China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing: China on Wednesday said the latest round of the border talks with India was held in a "candid and pragmatic atmosphere" and the two sides had a "positive, constructive and in-depth discussion" on the resolution of the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector.

The 19th round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Indian side from August 13 to 14.

A joint press release issued after the two-day talks did not indicate any immediate breakthrough in the disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points.

"China commends the progress made through the meeting. In a candid and pragmatic atmosphere, the two sides had a positive, constructive and in-depth discussion on the resolution of the remaining issues along the LAC in the Western Sector," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Wednesday in response to a question by the official media here.

"In line with the guidance provided by the leadership, they exchanged views in an open and forward-looking manner," Wang said.

The two sides agreed to resolve the remaining issues in an expeditious manner and maintain the momentum of dialogue and negotiations through military and diplomatic channels. In the interim, the two sides agreed to maintain the peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas, the spokesperson said.

The talks were held days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Johannesburg next week to attend a summit of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) where he is set to come face-to-face with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

In the 18th round of the military dialogue that was held on April 23, the Indian side had pitched for resolving the lingering issues at Depsang and Demchok at the earliest.

On July 24, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of a meeting of the five-nation grouping BRICS in Johannesburg.

India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two sides completed the disengagement process in 2021 on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake and in the Gogra area.

Those Facing Arbitrary Arrest Or Threatened Demolition Must Find Voice In SC: CJI

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has said the real strength of the judicial system is granting access to justice to the citizens and a sense of confidence that an arbitrary arrest or threatened demolition "must find solace and a voice in judges of the Supreme Court".

Speaking Independence Day celebrations organised on Tuesday by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at the apex court lawns, the CJI stressed the greatest challenge before the Indian judiciary is to eliminate barriers to accessing justice and make sure that the judiciary is inclusive and accessible to the last person in the line.

'...Because irrespective of an

outcome of the case, I believe the real strength of our system is granting access to justice to our citizens, that sense of confidence of the individual that an arbitrary arrest, a threatened demolition must find solace and a voice in judges of the Supreme Court," he said.

Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on Independence Day lauded the apex court's move to translate operative parts of judgements in regional languages, Justice Chandrachud said till now, 9,423 judgements of the top court have been translated in regional languages

The CJI also talked about the efforts of the apex court to make all its 35,000 judgements available to citizens in regional languages. He also said that there is a need to overhaul the infrastructure on a priority basis to make courts accessible and inclusive.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, who was also present at the 77th Independence Day function of SCBA, said a roadmap was essential for making India a developed nation by 2047 and termed the rule of law the foundation of democracy. Besides the CJI and the law minister, several apex court judges, Attorney General R Venkataramani, SCBA office bearers, including its president and senior advocate Adish C Aggarwala and secretary Rohit Pandey, were present during the

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Hot, Humid

temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a maximum of 31.0°C and it was 1.3°C above normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a high of 31.0°C and it was 2.8°C above normal, while the tourist resort of Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 27.0°C and it was above normal by 1.4°C

In Kupwara town, he said, the maximum temperature rose to 31.9°C and it was 1.3°C above normal for the north Kashmir area.

Kokernag recorded a maximum of 30.5°C and it was 3.1°C above normal for the place, the officials said. Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 20.0°C and

it was 0.8°C below normal for the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said. Jammu recorded a maximum of 34.3°C and

it was 1.0°C above normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal recorded a maximum of 30.0°C, Batote 26.3°C, Katra 31.6°C and Bhaderwah 26.7°C, the official said.

Mobile Addiction

reported experiencing multiple complaints related to communication disorders.

The study also revealed that ear and hearing issues were the most prevalent communication disorders.

"This finding emphasizes the importance of early screening and interventions for hearing problems to prevent potential communication difficulties and associated challenges," reads the survey report.

It further says that while the prevalence rates of balance and vestibular disorders were lower, they still constitute a significant proportion of communication disorders.

"More research in this area is needed to better understand these conditions and provide appropriate support to affected individuals," the report says.

"The study's results have significant implications for healthcare professionals, policymakers, and researchers. Understanding the prevalence rates of different communication disorders helps in resource allocation and targeted interventions," it adds.

In conclusion, the comprehensive study on communication disorders has shed light on the prevalence and distribution of various conditions affecting communication.

"The findings have important implications for improving diagnosis, treatment, and support for individuals with communication disorders. By raising awareness, fostering inclusive practices, and promoting collaborative efforts, we can create a more empathetic and supportive environment for those affected by communication disorders, ultimately enhancing their quality of life and participation in society," the report adds.

Dr Rajendra Pratap Gupta, founder of the Health Parliament and the International Patients' Union has emphasized that 'Speech

and Hearing Disorders' may be widely prevalent and will increase further due to extensive use of technological gadgets in this digital era and hence, we need to do an estimation of the prevalence through primary research.

'The study's focus has been on comprehending the prevalence of speech, language, hearing & balance, swallowing and communication impairments. Across Delhi NCR, this study covered 53.801 individuals from 10,228 families, and 5658 individuals in Jammu & Kashmir, from 1257 families. This study has yielded invaluable insights into the conditions prevailing in these regions," he said, while formally presenting the survey report during the conference hosted at the Constitution Club of India on Sunday.

He said that the findings are truly startling and signal the need for a comprehensive 'Holistic 1000 Days' approach, surpassing the limitations of just a mere 1000 days.

"A piecemeal strategy won't suffice. I am confident that this survey will act as a wake-up call for all stakeholders and ignite meaningful discussions for appropriate action. As we strive to transform India into a healthier nation over the next 25 years, we cannot afford to disregard this segment of the population. Their well-being is integral to our aspirations," Dr Gupta said.

Man Gets Life

fine of Rs 10,000.

In case of default of payment, the accused shall further undergo rigorous imprisonment for six more months, the spokesman said.

SC Asks If Parl

"Can Parliament enact a law (Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act) during the subsistence of a proclamation under Article 356 in exercise of its power?" the chief justice asked

Dhavan replied Parliament can pass a law, subject to all limitations described in Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

Article 3 says Parliament can by law form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state. It can increase the area of any state. diminish the area of any state, alter the boundaries of any state, alter the name of any state:

"Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the President may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.

Article 4 allows for consequential changes in the Ist Schedule i.e. names of the States in the Union of India and IVth Schedule i.e. the number of seats allotted in the Rajya Sabha for each

Dhavan told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna. BR Gavai and Surya Kant, that there is a mandatory condition under Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution dealing with the formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing state where the president has to refer the matter to the state legislature.

Dhavan, who was arguing on the sixth day of hearing on the batch of pleas challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, said reorganisation of the state could not have been done when the state was under the proclamation of Article 356 (imposition of President's

He said Parliament could not have substituted itself for the state legislature or the president for the governor.

The notification pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir's Reorganisation of 2019 created a constitutional amendment in Article 3 by suspending the mandatory provision of Article 3 (a reference by the president to the state legislature). It is a constitutional amendment which is subversive of the Constitution itself.

"If this suspension of mandatory provision fails in the eyes of law, the President Rule will fail and its extension in July, 2019 also fails,"

He asserted the Centre virtually amended the Constitution and that the entire Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act emanates from Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

CJI Chandrachud asked Dhavan, "How do we deal with Art 356 (1)(c) of the Constitution? Does the president have the power to suspend certain provisions of the Constitution during the operation of proclamation under Article

Article 356 (1)(c) of the Constitution says in case of failure of the constitutional machinery in state, the president on receipt of report from the governor of the state, may issue a proclamation to make such incidental and consequential provisions which according to him is necessary or desirable for giving effect to the objects of the Proclamation, including provisions for suspending in whole or in part, the operation of any provisions of the Constitution relating to any body or authority in the State.

"Yes," Dhavan replied, adding "The president can suspend a provision of the Constitution but it has to supplement the proclamation. Here, in this case, this goes beyond supplementing and a mandatory provision under Article 3 is actually taken out.

The CJI then asked Dhavan that normally when the legislature uses the word "means" and "includes" it is actually an indication of expanding the power.

"So, when the Constitution says 'make incidental and supplementary provisions' and then says 'including' this seems to widen the ambit of the earlier part. 'Including' would mean that what was otherwise not a supplementary or incidental provision, it is within the ambit of presidential proclamation. Isn't it?" the bench

CJI Chandrachud told Dhavan if the president in a proclamation suspends the operation of any provision of the Constitution, then whether it is amenable to adjudication in a court of law on the ground that it is not incidental or

The senior lawyer replied, "I have never seen provision which actually takes away a mandatory provision. This is exceptional. If you expand the ambit of Article 356(1)(c), then you will say that the president has a card to amend any part of the Constitution. Article 356(1)(c) has to be read with a mandatory provision which it cannot dilute.'

"The words 'necessary' or 'desirable' are not carte blanche powers of the president. Could he have suspended Part III of the Constitution (that relates to fundamental rights) under Article 356 of the Constitution? It has to be given a limited meaning," the senior lawver said. adding Article 356 is an exception which overrides federalism and it brings down democracy

Dhavan, who argued for nearly four hours, said during the President's Rule, Articles 3 and 4 and Article 370 cannot be invoked

"Why? Because they have conditionalities. The conditionality is specific to the legislature of the state...neither Parliament nor president can substitute the legislature or the governor,"

he said. Dhavan concluded his argument, saying President's Rule cannot override Article 370 or Articles 3 and 4 or substitute the executive and legislature of the Union for the executive and

legislature of Jammu and Kashmir. "Articles 3 and 4 of the Indian Constitution have special application to Jammu and Kashmir and require the consent of the Jammu and Kashmir legislature. President's Rule's provisions cannot obviate the provisions of Article 3 and 4 as also those of Article 370(1) as the requirements of consent, consultation, and concurrence therein are mandatory," he asserted.

The hearing remained inconclusive and will continue on Thursday.

On August 10, the top court had said the surrender of Jammu and Kashmir's sovereignty to India was "absolutely complete" with the accession of the former princely state in October 1947, and it was "really difficult" to say that Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state, was permanent in nature.

Several petitions challenging the 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

All Schools To

shall engage a nodal officer to look into the grievances of students and staff with

"There needs to be a help desk at Chief Education Office level at Zonal level to minimize

the challenges of children with disabilities and staff with disabilities as well," DSEK said.

According to the directorate, all the government recognized schools shall ensure access to school buildings, provision of disabled friendly washrooms, accessible wash stations and provision of low floor accessible buses in their transport fleet.

"All the websites of the school education department to be completely disabled friendly as per Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) within 5 months and the websites on which examination forms are submitted need be completely disabled friendly," DSEK ordered.

It was also directed that the websites of all schools including government recognized (Private Schools) shall be mandatorily accessible to students with visual and hearing speech disabilities. "There needs to be a toll-free telephone line for the children with disabilities."—(KNO)

Centrally Heated

said that the factory has ramped up the production capacity of new generation Vande Bharat trains despite many challenges to connect cities across the length and breadth of the country by rolling out 30 trains so far. (KNS)

2 Bovine Smugglers

Feroz Din of Udhampur district's Manjla area, police said, adding that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at the Samba police station.

Samba Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Benam Tosh said that a total of 84 bovine smugglers have been arrested in the past seven months after the launch of a special drive.

Police have registered 66 FIRs against the bovine smugglers and seized 56 vehicles used for bovine smuggling amid rescuing of 653 bovine

843 More Leave

for the twin base camps in Pahalgam and Baltal, between 3 am and 3.40 am, they said.

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

The traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route has so far been chosen by 586 pilgrims and they left for Amarnath in 20

The shorter but more challenging 14-kilometre Baltal route was preferred by the remaining 248 and they left Jammu in seven vehicles for the Amarnath.

So far, more than 4.25 lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the cave shrine. The yatra is scheduled to conclude on August

Teenager Drowns

However, after hours of hectic search, the lifeless body of the teenager was retrieved.

Downtown Heroes Suffer 2nd Straight Loss In Durand Cup



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One of Valley's promising football clubs, Downtown Heroes FC, have found it hard to get going in the 132nd Edition of Durand Cup.

Up against Indian Super League team FC Goa, the Heroes proved no match to a superior side Wednesday, suffering a 3-0 defeat at SAI Stadium in Guwahati, Assam.

Head coach Hilal Rasool Parray had named a starting XI full of local talent, but the Downtown. Srinagar-based club failed to make the most out of the outing.

Muhammed Nemil gave FC Goa the lead in 18th minute. shooting from inside the penalty area. He then put the cross into the box for Carlos Martiminute. After not conceding for most of the second half, the alty area in the 97th minute to make it 3-0 to Goa.

The loss was the Heroes' second consecutive defeat in the prestigious competition, all but ensuring their exit. They earlier lost 2-1 to Shillong Lajong FC.

play their final game of the 2023 Durand Cup on Sunday, August 20, against Northeast United FC. The match will be played at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam, with kick off

Durand Cup can be watched live on Sony Sports 2 and Sony LIV.

nez to make it 2-0 in the 37th Downtown Heroes were caught by surprise as Devendra Murgaokar found himself in the pen-

Star Sports.

Downtown Heroes will next

ICC T20 Rankings:



Suryakumar Retains Top Spot

Agencies

DUBAI: Star India batter Suryakumar Yadav retained his top spot in the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings among batters while Shubman Gill rose to number 25 in the latest rankings issued on Wednesday. Suryakumar had a relatively quiet series by his lofty standards with two half-centuries and a total of 166 runs in four innings, but the right-hander maintained his healthy lead at the top of the T20I rankings for batters.

India teammate Shubman Gill ose 43 spots to equal 25th on the same list following his 102 runs for the series against the West Indies. He scored a matchwinning 77 in the fourth T20I. A host of West Indies stars have been further rewarded for their drought-breaking series victory over India by making giant strides on the latest rankings.

The West Indies broke a sixyear drought when they narrowly defeated India 3-2 in their home T20I series last week and the Caribbean side received some outstanding performances from a number of their players during the five-game series. Opener Brandon King scored an unbeaten 85 in the series decider in Florida and that helped the

28-year-old rise five places to 13th overall and a new careerhigh rating on the list for T20I batters.

King amassed 173 runs in total for the series and his amount was only bettered by teammate and Player of the Series Nicholas Pooran with 176 runs, who drops one spot to 15th on the T20I batter rankings. West Indies spinner Akeal Hosein jumps three places to 11th overall on the T20I bowler rankings following his five wickets for the series, while India tweaker Kuldeep Yadav improves a whopping 23 rungs to 28th after his six scalps across the five matches.

There is also some joy for West Indies pacer Romario Shepherd, with the right-arm making significant ground on the list for T20I bowlers and allrounders following his Player of the Match performance in the decisive fifth and final match of

the series against India. Shepherd claimed four India scalps during the eight-wicket triumph at Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground and was duly rewarded with a 20-place jump to 63rd on the list for bowlers and a fourspot improvement to 19th on the T201 rankings for all-rounders. (ANI)

Shastri Wants 3 Lefties In ODI Middle-Order

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Former head coach Ravi Shastri feels three lefthand batters in the top seven will bolster India's middle-order ahead of the Asia Cup and subsequent ODI World Cup at home. Shastri said India can have two more left-handed batters alongside all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

"There are three other positions where I think two lefthanders have to come in. Now, this is where the selectors' role comes in because they are watching. They know who's the guy who's hot. If Tilak Varma is hot, bring him in. If you think (Yashasvi) Jaiswal is hot, bring him in," Shastri told

Two right-handers, K L Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, are expected to make a comeback from injury in the Asia Cup beginning August 31, making it tougher for the management



to include three left-handers in the playing eleven. Shastri also backed Ishan Kishan to come good.

"If you have persisted with Ishan Kishan for the last six to eight months, and he's going to keep wickets, he comes in, in any case. But, get two lefthanders," he said.

"Including Jaddu, there should be three left-handers in the top seven. Ishan Kishan has been keeping for the

last 15 months. Why go somewhere else?

The former India captain also heaped praise on Tilak Varma, who made a successful start to his international career in the West Indies.

'(I am) very, very impressed with Tilak Varma. And, I want a left-hander. If I am looking for a left-hander, I would really look in that direction," he

Wasim Akram Slams PCB For Ignoring Imran Khan In Promotional Video

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: Legendary fast bowler Wasim Akram on Wednesday asked Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to delete and apologise to fans for making a commemorative video clip without featuring Imran Khan, the 1992 World Cup winning captain.

On August 14, the PCB shared a video clip celebrating the best moments of Pakistan cricket and the crowning moment was understandably the World Cup victory 31 years ago.

But Imran, who led that team, was not to be seen anywhere in that clip which ran for 2 minutes and 21 seconds.

Akram, who played a vital role in that triumph, expressed his dismay over omitting his fast bowling mentor from the video.

"After long flights and hours of transit before reaching Sri Lanka, I got the shock of my



life when I watched PCB's short clip on the history of Pakistan cricket minus the great Imran Khan.

"Political differences apart but Imran Khan is an icon of world cricket and developed Pakistan into a strong unit in his time and gave us a pathway...PCB should delete the video and apologise," Akram wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Under Imran, Pakistan made a remarkable charge to the victory from the brink and defeated England in the final at MCG by 22 runs, till date their only 50-over World Cup win. After his playing career,

Imran turned to politics and formed the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf party in 1996. The 70-year-old former all-

rounder rose to be Pakistan's Prime Minister in 2018, a post he held until April last year before getting evicted from office following a no-confidence motion.

Imran was arrested on August 5, and is currently serving a jail term in the Toshakhana case.

England Beat Australia, To Play Spain In Women's World Cup Final

The Associated Press

SYDNEY: England moved on to its first Women's World Cup championship game with a 3-1 victory Wednesday over co-host Australia, ending the Matildas captivating run through the tournament.

Australia superstar Sam Kerr started her first match of the tournament and scored for the Matildas but it wasn't enough to hold off European champion England.

Ella Toone scored in the 36th minute to put England up 1-0 and the Lionesses dominated

possession in the first half. Kerr's equalizer in the 63rd



gave the 75,000-plus crowd some hope, but EEngland sealed it on goals from Lauren Hemp in the 71st and Alessia Russo four minutes from the end of regulation time.

England and Spain will each

be playing in the Women's World Cup final for the first time when they meet at Stadium Australia on Sunday. Australia will play Sweden for third place on Saturday in Brisbane.



Stokes Comes Out Of ODI Retirement Ahead Of WC

LONDON: England's talismanic all-rounder Ben Stokes has reversed his decision to retire from one-day internationals (ODI) and was included in the squad for the upcoming series against New Zealand, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday. Stokes retired from ODIs last July, two months after being named England's test captain, and the reversal opens the door for him to play in their 50-overs World Cup title defence in October and November.

'I am certain that every fan will enjoy seeing (Stokes) back in an England ODI shirt again," national selector Luke Wright said in a statement. Stokes, 32, was Player of the Match in the 2019 World Cup final on home soil, when he hit an unbeaten 84 as England beat New Zealand in a dramatic super over.

He also hit a match-winning unbeaten 52 to lead England to the Twenty20 World Cup title last year, with victory over Pakistan in the final in Melbourne.

There are still concerns about Stokes' chronic left knee injury, which flared up this year. He did not bowl in the last three Ashes tests in July as England overturned a 2-0 deficit against Australia to level the series 2-2.

White-ball coach Matthew Mott had said earlier that Stokes would be welcomed back into the ODI squad with open arms. Stokes has played 105 ODIs since his debut against Ireland in 2011, scoring 2,924 runs, including three centuries, at an average of 38.98 and a strike rate of 95. He also has 74 wickets and is one of the sharpest fielders in the side.

Uncapped Surrey pace bowler Gus Atkinson was also called up to the 15-man ODI squad for the New Zealand series, while Atkinson, Josh Tongue and John Turner were called up to the T20I squad for the first time. England will play four T20s against New Zealand starting on Aug. 30, followed by a four-match ODI series from Sept. 8-15

They face New Zealand in their World Cup opener on Oct. 5 in Ahmedabad, India.

Bumrah Bowls At India Nets After 11 Months

Press Trust of India

DUBLIN: After a hiatus of 11 months, top pacer Jasprit Bumrah returned to India nets on Wednesday and bowled with intensity and skill that made him a fearsome opponent for batsmen.

The 29-year-old last played for India against Australia in T20I match at Hyderabad on September 25, 2022. Since then he was sidelined with a back injury that required him to undergo a surgery.

However, Bumrah made his much-awaited return to India colours when he was named captain of the national side on July 31 for the away T20I series against Ireland starting on Friday in Dublin. The Indian team made its touchdown in Ireland on Tuesday and wasted little time in hitting the ground a day later.

In a video shared by BCCI on X, formerly Twitter, Bumrah was seen bowling at full tilt, a comforting sight ahead of the upcoming Asia Cup and the ODI World Cup.

Bumrah rattled a right-hand batter with a whizzing bouncer, forcing him to duck under the ball. He zoomed in on the toes of a lefthanded batsman with a spot-on yorker, eliciting some appreciative nods from others at India nets.

The net session could be viewed as a sum total of his recovery process at the NCA, where he gradually increased the workload and followed a designer fitness regime.



The India squad also includes pacer Prasidh Krishna, who is also making a comeback to the India side after a lengthy injury lay-off, forced by surgery to treat a lumbar stress fracture.

Rishabh Pant Bats In A **Recreational Game; Shows Progress**

The return of Rishabh Pant to top-flight cricket is keenly awaited, and the wicketkeeper batsman dropped some positive signals when he batted for a few balls during a recreational event on India's Independence Day.

Pant has been out of action after suffering multiple injuries in a horrific car accident on the Dehradun-Delhi highway in December last year.

In a fan video shared on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, Pant was seen stepping out to hammer the ball out of the ground, and roars of onlookers accompanied the shot.

Messi Magic Continues As Inter Miami Reach Leagues Cup Final

The Associated Press

CHESTER: Lionel Messi keeps scoring goals, and Inter Miami keeps winning games.

Messi ripped a shot from 30 yards past three Philadelphia defenders in the 20th minute that made fans who paid a record price for soccer tickets in the Philly area rejoice, and Inter Miami beat the Union 4-1 in a Leagues Cup semifinal on Tuesday night.

Major League Soccer is Mes-

si's league now. The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner scored his ninth goal in six matches with his new team in front of a crowd that pushed 20,000 fans, with ticket prices soaring past USD 1,000 on the secondary market.

There were few complaints.

Certainly not from three Union season-ticket holders who ditched the home team's garb for a night and traded it for Messi gear. Or fans that lined up for Messi jerseys — authenticity not guaranteed — and the ones hungry at a food truck for Messi

Union, who, of course wanted to win, but otherwise stuffed the coffers and received more worldwide attention on one night than in any game they've played in their history.

Fans erupted when Messi was introduced and went wild again when he scored past diving goalkeeper Andre Blake. Messi ran with his arms extended and then punched his fist in the air as he leapt in celebration. The rest was almost incidental.

Iordi Alba and Josef Martinez also scored in the first half for Miami, and David Ruiz scored in the second. Miami will play in the Leagues Cup championship game Saturday against ei-ther Nashville or Mexican club Monterrey.

Alejandro Bedoya scored in the second half for Philadelphia. Union principal owner Jay Sugarman told The Associated Press there was no real consideration given to moving the game from Subaru Park to Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Eagles. While the football stadium would have packed in an-

other 40,000-plus fans, Sugarman said coach Jim Curtain told him the game would stay put.

"We have a great relationship with the Eagles, a bunch of them are going to be here tonight, but this is a meaningful tournament with a lot on the line," Sugarman said.

"We want to win trophies and when Jim says this is the place we're going to win, then that's where we're playing. Philly native and Hall of Fame

the game. "Make sure y'all show love

boxer Bernard Hopkins struck the 6-foot drum that welcomed the team to the field and Sixers Inter Miami already played center and NBA MVP Joel Embiin Chester before Messi had

id, who played soccer as a child in Cameroon, showed interest in

to the (goat) in our city tonight but let's first get this dub #DOOP #Philly," he wrote on social media.

study the Leagues Cup field like an NCAA Tournament bracket once it was announced. 'You try not to, but of course

signed, leaving Union officials to

we were like, if we do this, and they do this," Sugarman said, laughing. "We hope we're playing in front of a worldwide audience tonight. It's a chance for the Philadelphia Union to put on the best show we can against one of the best teams and best players."

Led by the rabid supporters group called "Sons of Ben," the Messi game sold out in less than 10 minutes and the price exploded this week on the secondary market. River End seats that normally go for USD 43 spiked to more than a grand, and the average price of USD 556 was the highest in Union history. An hour or so before the game, tickets in the lower level were still

going for USD 450 and up. Outside the stadium, it was Messi Mania for the superstar, who led Argentina to the World Cup title last year and has essentially become a one-man

1992 Dream Team.

Angel Pagan and her family, of

Vineland, New Jersey, all wore Messi shirts — even though they are Union season-ticket holders. They love Messi so much, their youngest son is named Lionel in his honor. She upgraded her tickets for the game to sit closer to the field and said only they were "very, very expensive." "We didn't care what it cost,"

she said. "It's Messi."

Under Curtain, in his 10th season, the Union blossomed into one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference and clinched their first Supporters' Shield trophy — awarded to the MLS team with the best regularseason record - in 2020. A season ago, the Union fell to LAFC in the MLS Cup. Brooklyn Nets superstar Kevin Durant thought enough of the Union's potential

to buy a stake in the team. The Union's path — and all other teams' - to an MLS championship suddenly seems complicated by Messi's arrival.

This is a fantastic league with a growing fanbase, but you always need that match to really light it," Sugarman said. "Messi is the match."

Chandrayaan-3 Spacecraft Successfully Undergoes Final Lunar Orbit Manoeuvre



Agenceis

Bengaluru: India's ambitious third Moon mission's spacecraft Chandrayaan-3 on Wednesday successfully underwent a fifth and final Moon-bound orbit maneouvre, bringing it even closer to the lunar surface. With this, the spacecraft has completed its lunar-bound maneouvres and it will now prepare for the propulsion module and the lander module separation, ISRO said

"Today's successful firing, needed for a short duration, has put Chandrayaan-3 into an orbit of 153 km x 163 km, as intended. With this, the lunar bound maneuvres are completed.It's time for preparations as

the Propulsion Module and the Lander Module gear up for their separate journeys," the national space agency tweeted.

Separation of the lander module from the propulsion module of the spacecraft is planned for August 17, it said.

Post its launch on July 14, Chandrayaan-3 entered into the lunar orbit on August 5, following which three successive orbit reduction maneouvres were carried out on August 6, 9 and 14 to move closer to the Moon.

As the mission progresses, a series of maneouvres is being conducted by ISRO to gradually reduce Chandrayaan-3's orbit and position it over the lunar poles.

The spacecraft is scheduled to make a soft landing on the south

Want to Perform Umrah This Year? **Check This First**

Agenceis

Srinagar: Saudi Arabia has advised overseas Muslims, planning to perform Umrah or lesser pilgrimage, to verify the credentials of agents first.

SRINAGAR | THURSDAY | 17.02.2023

"Dealing with licensed companies guarantee your rights," the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah said, addressing wouldbe pilgrims.

The ministry advised them to log onto its website and check a list of licensed agents in their home countries via the link https://eservices.haj.gov.sa.

Saudi Arabia expects around 10 million Muslims from the world over to perform Umrah this season.

The season commenced weeks ago, with the beginning of Muharram-ul-Haram, the first Islamic Hijri year and after the end of annual Hajj pilgrimage. Record 1.8 million Muslims performed Hajj this year and the number was highest after pandemic-related restrictions were lifted.

Muslims, who cannot physically or financially afford Hajj, go to Saudi Arabia to undertake Umrah at the Grand Mosque, Is-



lam's holiest site in Makkah.

Muslims holding different types of entry visas such as the personal, visit and tourist visas are allowed to undertake Umrah and visit Masjid al Nabavi, the resting place of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) located in Medina after booking an e-appointment. Saudi authorities have extend-

ed the Umrah visa from 30 days to 90 and allow holders to enter the kingdom via all land, air and sea routes and leave likewise

The kingdom has also said that expatriates residing in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries are eligible to apply for a

tourist visa, regardless of their profession, and be able to perform Umrah.

Sources told Kashmir Observer that Saudi citizens can now invite their Muslim friends abroad to the Kingdom to perform Umrah on "personal visit visa."

Personal visas, which can be obtained online, can either be single entry or multiple entry, they said.

Aside from performing Umrah rituals at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and visiting the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, visitors can also make trips to various tourism destinations in the Kingdom.

Tomatoes On "Vacation" As India Battles Food Inflation: Burger King

New Delhi/Chennai: Burger King has scrapped tomatoes from its wraps and burgers in many Indian outlets after prices more than quadrupled, the latest symptom of surging food inflation that is hitting consumers hard across world's most populous nation.

"Even tomatoes need a vacation ... we are unable to add tomatoes to our food," read notices pasted at two Burger King India outlets. The chain has cited quality issues in explaining the shortfall.

The burger chain, one of India's biggest with nearly 400 outlets, joins many McDonald's and Subway stores that have removed tomatoes from menus as India's food inflation this week hit its highest since January 2020.

The U.S. sandwich chain even cancelled the free cheese slices it offered for years.

Rival Domino's, meanwhile, has tried bringing down prices to appeal to struggling consumers with a \$0.60 pizza - its cheapest in the world.

The tomato supply crisis has coincided with a surge in prices by as much as 450% to record highs as monsoon rains disrupted crop and supply chains - although they have since eased.

"Why are there no tomatoes in my burgers?" reads a question on the support page of Burger

King India's web site. The answer states its Indian franchisee follows "very high standards of quality" and tomatoes will be

back soon. "We request your patience and understanding," it says.

Restaurant Brands Asia, which operates Burger King in India, did not respond to requests for com-

The pain is spreading with July retail inflation data released this week showing prices of vegetables rose 37% over a year. The cost of staples from onions and peas to garlic and ginger have all

"If the prices remain high, then eventually restaurants will have to take price increases," said Amnish Aggarwal, head of research at India's Prabhudas Lilladher. "There is no other alternative."

As well as placing pressure on the margins of foreign chains operating in India's nearly \$5 billion market for fast-food restaurants, the price shocks pose a challenge for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government ahead of a national election next year.

To manage the supply crisis, India has started tomato imports from Nepal, and has organised vans to distribute the staple at cheaper rates across the nation, with social media posts showing huge queues.

