

Kashmir Valley Witnesses Spike In Eye Flu Cases

Experts Sound Caution, Say Cases Likely To Peak In Weeks To Come

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As the Kashmir valley experiences a surge in conjunctivitis cases, commonly known as the "pink flu or eye flu," Anantnag, Baramulla, and Srinagar have become the worst hit districts in the valley, with health professionals anticipating peak in the weeks to come.

According to the official data, Kashmir has recorded 8272 cases of conjunctivitis till date. However, sources said the number of positive cases may be higher, as the hospitals in Srinagar and other district headquarters receive a maximum number of patients with signs of 'eye flu' these days.

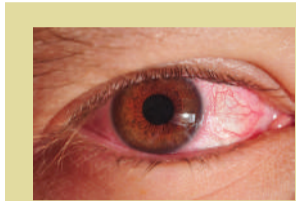
Dr Mir Mushtaq Ahmad, Spokesman Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) said, although highly contagious, conjunctivitis behaves unlike COVID-19 and that it resolves on its own within a week or two, if standard operating procedures are adhered to properly.

"Conjunctivitis no doubt is contagious, but it behaves unlike COVID-19. Maintaining proper hygiene and avoiding touching eyes with unclean hands and not sharing personal items is highly recommended to prevent the spread of eye flu," Dr Mushtaq told Kashmir Observer.

Of the total 8272 cases, Anantnag district of south Kashmir tops the list with 1375 cases followed by 1318 in Baramulla, 1317 in Srinagar, 1307 in Pulwama, 885 in Budgam, 773 Shopian, 507 Kupwara, 387 Ganderbal, 361 Kulgam, and 42 cases in Bandipora district of north Kashmir.

Dr Shabana Khan, an Assistant professor at Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla told Kashmir Observer that the number of cases are likely to rise in the next one or two weeks. She said Baramulla has already witnessed a surge in positive cases.

Dr Khan appealed to the masses to avoid self medication and follow SOPs so as to avoid



CONJUNCTIVITIS NO DOUBT IS CONTAGIOUS, BUT IT BEHAVES UNLIKE COVID-19. Maintaining proper hygiene and avoiding touching eyes with unclean hands and not sharing personal items is highly recommended to prevent the spread of eye flu.

contracting the virus. "People should do away with self medication and follow SOPs properly. At times people with symptoms of eye flu visit the nearest chemist, who instead of advising them to consult a doctor, suggest steroids, and acting on their advice at times prove detrimental," she added.

She said the severe or untreated cases among the vulnerable population may result in complications that impact vision negatively.

Meanwhile, many people here expressed outrage over the unavailability of a fulltime ophthalmologist at Government Gousia Hospital Khanyar amidst spurt in eye flu cases.

"There is no ophthalmological service available at the Gousia Hospital and the patients are forced to visit other hospitals including JLN Rainwari and SHMS hospitals. We appeal to the administration to engage a fulltime ophthalmologist in the hospital so that patients with severe eye flu conditions do not suffer," Athar Ahmad, a patient said.

When contacted Medical Superintendent, Government Gousia Hospital Khanyar, Dr Tariq Ahmad said the issue has been taken up with the administration and that a fulltime ophthalmologist will be engaged shortly.



A woman and her son sorting out freshly harvested grapes at their farm in Repora village of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Golden Era Of Film Shooting Returning To Kashmir: LG

Says Over 300 Productions Filmed In Jammu And Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said over 300 movies and serials have been shot here after the administration launched the new film policy.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the first-day shoot of upcoming TV serial "Pashmina", Sinha said the union territory is re-emerging as a favourite destination for film shootings.

"Two years ago, a new film policy was launched by the J&K administration after consultations with all stakeholders. Now, we are seeing that Jammu and Kashmir is re-emerging as a favourite



destination for film shootings," Sinha told reporters.

The LG said the film-related activities in the union territory will help in generating more employment opportunities for the youth. "I feel that the era when

Hollywood or Bollywood films were shot here till the '80s, is returning. More than 300 films have been shot here. Today, SAB TV has started the serial 'Pashmina' from here and I wish them the best. **More on P10**

After Lithium Govt to Auction Kishtwar's Sapphire Mines

With the auction of lithium reserves found in Reasi district of J&K starting by December, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Friday that in the next one year his administration will be in a position to auction the sapphire mines of Kishtwar in a scientific way. This, he said, will not only give a boost to the local economy but will also become one of major contributors of Jammu and Kashmir's growth. "In the last three years we have taken many steps to address the concerns of people of Kishtwar, to expand **More on P10**

Security Guard Arrested For 'Swindling' Rs 33L Funds

Agencies

Srinagar: A private security guard was arrested on Friday for allegedly withdrawing Rs 33 lakhs from the official account of the Medical Superintendent of district hospital Kulgam, officials said.

Quoting an official, a local news agency KNO reported that a security guard has fraudulently withdrawn Rs 33 lakhs from the official account of the Medical Superintendent of Kulgam Hospital.

"After Medical Superintendent found that a large sum of money had been withdrawn from his account without his knowledge, he took up the issue with the

police," he said. An investigation by the police revealed that the accused security guard identified as Gowhar Ahmad Thokar, son of Abdul Rashid, a resident of South Kulgam had frequently withdrawn the amount from Medical Superintendent's account. "He has been charged with cheating, forgery, and using false documents," the official said.

Meanwhile, a police official confirmed the incident and said that a case under FIR number 148/2023 under sections 467, 468, and 471 IPC has been registered against him, while all the money has been recovered from his possession—(KNO)

RTI Applicant Asked To Pay Rs 1L As Printing Charges

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: In a bizarre move, the Public Works (R&B) department has asked a Right to Information (RTI) applicant to pay Rs 1 lakh as printing charges for the information he has sought under RTI act of 2005.

According to a notice, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the chief Executive Engineer of R&B department Sumbal has asked the applicant Tariq Ahmad Parray to deposit the amount first for preparing the information.

Parray has sought the information regarding the utilization of funds for construction purposes in Hajin area of



North Kashmir's Bandipora district from 2018 till date, including with names of building, road and allied works executed by R&B department.

The applicant has also sought the certified attested copies of NOCs issued for the building permission purposes from 2018 till date.

"This is being done only to demoralize the RTI applicants,"

said Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat, founder and chairman of Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement.

Dr Muazaffar told Kashmir Observer that the officials have violated the rules under RTI act and has requested the LG administration to intervene into the matter.

He further said that the department is supposed to digitize the whole record as per sec 4 of RTI act 2005.

"The latter doesn't specify how many pages they have to photocopy and if they are charging 1 lakh that means they have to photocopy 50 thousand pages which is highly impossible," Dr Muzaffar added.

Despite repeated attempts, AEE of the **More on P10**

High Court Quashes 4 PSA Detention Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar, Aug 18: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday quashed detention of four youths who had been booked under Public Safety Act (PSA) and ordered authorities to release them forthwith if not needed in any other case.

"On perusal of the detention record ..., the ground projected regarding vagueness of the averments made in the grounds of detention, appears to be forceful. There is no mention of the particulars of the places and the identity of the (militants), to whom the petitioner was allegedly providing logistic support," a bench of

Justice Sanjay Dhar said while quashing detention order against Mukhtayar Ahmad Bhat of Bonpora Mohalla Ar Dehruna Dooru District Anantnag.

"The particulars of the period when the (detainee) is alleged to have provided logistic support to the (militants) are also not mentioned in the grounds of detention. Thus, the grounds, being vague and lacking in material particulars, the detenu (Bhat) could not have made an effective representation against his detention. Therefore, there has been violation of constitutional guarantees envisaged under Article 22(5) of the Constitution." **More on P10**

Rahul Gandhi Extends Ladakh Stay

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Ladakh tour has been extended till August 25, party sources said on Thursday. According to the party sources, Rahul will celebrate his father and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's birthday on August 20 at Pangong Lake. This is Rahul's first visit to Ladakh since Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories, Ladakh and J-K, following the removal of Article 370 and 35 (A) on August 5, 2019. He will also visit Kargil Memorial during **More on P10**

Arms Cache Recovered Along LoC

Army on Friday claimed to have recovered an arms cache during an input based search operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Macchil sector of Kupwara district. In a statement issued here, a defence spokesperson said that a joint operation was launched by Army, BSF and police from August 15 to 18 in Macchil Sector on the basis of concrete intelligence inputs by agencies on attempts by terrorists to induct war like stores into Kashmir Valley from the other side. **More on P10**

8 Terror Associates Held In Uri

Security forces have busted a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror module in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district by arresting eight militant-associates involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of their Pakistani handlers, police said on Friday. A terrorist module has been busted in Uri in Baramulla and eight LeT terrorist-associates have been arrested, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amod Nagpure told reporters in Baramulla. **More on P10**

NIA Raids Multiple Spots In Kashmir

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is carrying out raids at several places in Jammu and Kashmir in connection with a terror-related case, officials said on Friday morning. "The raids are underway in Pariwan village of Kulgam, Kralpora area of Kupwara and Chotigam village of Shopian district" an official said. He said the NIA sleuths are accompanied by the Jammu and Kashmir Police and CRPF personnel. **More on P10**

Terror Associate Slapped With PSA

A terror associate has been booked under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Bandipora district of North Kashmir. A local news agency Kashmir Scroll quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that the Bandipora Police booked Maqsood Ahmad Malik of Chittibandy village of Aragam under PSA for his continuous involvement in anti-national activities. The accused, he said, was lodged at Central Jail Kot Bhalwal in Jammu.

Jeweler Arrested For Selling Fake Gold

Police on Friday claimed a significant breakthrough against fraudulent activities, by arresting a deceptive jeweler in a counterfeit gold ornament scam from South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Sajad Ah Zargar, the owner of Diamond Jewellers at AL-Ahmad complex near Shaheed Farooq Chowk in Pulwama was arrested by police on the basis of a series of complaints alleging that he was deceiving customers with counterfeit gold ornaments and has been engaging in this fraudulent **More on P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

30 Day Long Free Medical Camp Concludes At Harwan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A month-long free medical camp was organized on the auspicious occasion of Muharram-ul-Haram by NGO Helping Hands Care Foundation J&K, from



1st to 30th Muharram at Harwan Srinagar. The camp where hundreds of people, including elderly people, were provided free consultation, free medicines and water, concluded on Thursday. Chairman Nasir Hussain said that the camp had been organizing these camps for the last many years and countless people have benefited from the service. The people visiting the camp hailed the efforts of Helping Hands Care Foundation and said that such types of camps should be held more frequently.

Dead Body Of 27-Yr Old Man Retrieved From Dal Lake

Observer News Service

Srinagar: River Police on Friday retrieved the dead body of a 27-year old man who had allegedly jumped into the Dal Lake a day earlier, officials said.

The officials of River Police launched a search operation after a man jumped into Dal Lake late last evening.

They said after night-long suspension, the search operation was launched again this morning and the body was retrieved. They identified the deceased as Imtiyaz Ali Sofi (27) son of Ali Muhammad Sofi, a resident of Chanpora Nowshera area of Soura.

They said the body has been handed over to his legal heir after the completion of all medico-legal formalities. They added a case in this regard has been registered.

SSP Srinagar Orders Insitu Promotion Of 66 Cops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal, has ordered the in-situ promotion of 66 policemen, posted in the Srinagar district.

"On the basis of recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee vide its proceedings issued under endst. No. Estt/insitu-2023/24039 dated 16/08/2023, the sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of Time Bound Promotion (Insitu) in respect of the following Constables/Followers posted in

District Srinagar in terms of SRO 14 of 1996 dated 15.01.1996, SRO 225 of 1997 dated 04.07.1997, read with PHQ order Nos. 250 of 2015 dated 29.01.2015 and 2126 of 2017 dated 27.06.2017 in the Pay Structure and w.e.f the dates shown against each, having been completed nine or more than nine years' service in the particular ranks/grades," reads an official order.

The 66 policemen who have been ordered for in-situ promotions by the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) include 53 constables and 13 followers.



Workers Busy Processing Silk Thread Through Sophisticated machines at Silk Factory Solina in Srinagar. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Farmers Protest Against Construction Of New Brick Kilns In Budgam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A group of farmers from Rangeen Kultreh and its adjoining villages from Chadoora tehsil of Budgam on Friday staged a protest at Srinagar's Press Enclave against setting up of new brick kilns in the area on cultivable land.

The aggrieved farmers said that the Pollution Control Committee of J&K gave its consent more than a year back to one brick kiln which was violating its own order as the pollution control committee Budgam had shown its resentment to set up fresh brick kilns in the area.

While speaking to journalists here, the aggrieved farmers who own apple, plum and almond orchards in the area said that no consent has been obtained from horticulture and agriculture departments.

"We tried our best to bring this issue into notice of the District Administration Budgam. We were told that villagers have applied under land conversion and they got the permission but we were not provided the copy of the said order in spite of repeated requests. This is a public document and in the era of transparency when all the documents are being public even under RTI Act the District Administration is keeping us in the dark. Our apple farms are under threat, our health is under threat and we are not even heard. This is injustice" said an aggrieved farmer Abdul Gani.

Pertinent to mention that 20 years ago, Rangeen Kultreh village in Chadoora Budgam had no brick kilns. With the passage of time around two dozen kilns were set up between 2003 and 2012. From 2013 to 2022, the Budgam district

administration and the erstwhile J&K Pollution Control Board (now known as JK Pollution Control Committee-JKPCC post 370) didn't permit more kilns, but now they gave permission for setting up new brick kiln

According to legal experts, most kilns in Budgam or other parts of Kashmir violate the Brick Kiln Act and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. "Unfortunately, the Pollution Control Committee does not act against them and instead it grants fresh permissions. This is an open violation of the Air Pollution Act 1981. The Director SKIMS has also warned us that there are 10,000 deaths taking place every year due to air pollution. In this scenario no fresh brick kilns should be constructed in J&K" said Badrul Duja Advocate JK High Court

"We expected the JKPC to be

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara

e-NITNo. 530F2023-24 No: PHEB:7170-81Dated:-17.08.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1 consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2 consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work Tender fee (in Rs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1	L/F, Construction of 02 No. Sluice chamber/ construction of 0.20 lac gallons RCC SR, Chain link fencing, intake chamber, Chowkidar Quarter for WSS Hanumanpora under JJM	As per Annexure-I to this bid document-	03% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Bijbehara The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM). Critical Dates:

i	Publish Date	18.08.2023 09.00AM
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	18.08.2023 09.00 AM
iii	Bid submission start date	18.08.2023 09.00 AM
iv	Bid submission end date	29.08.2023 04.00 PM
v	Date and time of Bid opening	30.08.2023 11.00 PM

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed on line on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the month tender portal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara. Bids must be accompanied by bids security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara.
 - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover.
 - The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
 - Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
 - Queries by email if any should be made at phebijbehara230@gmail.com

ANNEXURE-I SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S.No	Name of WSS	Description of work	Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Class of contract	Time for completion days
1	WSS Hanumanpora	L/F, Construction of 02 No. Sluice chamber/ construction of 0.20 lac gallons RCC SR, Chain link fencing, intake chamber, Chowkidar Quarter for WSS Hanumanpora under JJM	JSD Bijbehara	57.59	AAY	60 days

DIPK-7363/23 DATED: 18-08-2023

SD- Executive Engineer JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

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

AIRPORTS


SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
1 Safar
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	4:24
ZUHR	12:35
ASR	5:20
Magrib	7:18
ISHA	8:44

This Day In History

- 627 - Prince Frederik Henry conquers fort Groenlo
- 1757 - Battle at Gross Jagerndorf: Russian army beats Prussia [NS=Aug 30]
- 1772 - Gustav III seizes effective control of Swedish government & restores full power of monarchy, which had been subordinate to parliament since 1720
- 1791 - Benjamin Banneker sends a copy of his Almanac and writes a letter to Thomas Jefferson criticizing his pro-slavery stance and requesting justice for African Americans using language from the Declaration of Independence
- 1796 - Spain & France sign anti-British alliance
- 1812 - US warship Constitution defeats British warship Guerriere
- 1816 - Java again in Dutch hands
- 1839 - Details of Louis Daguerre's 1st practical photographic process are released in Paris
- 1887 - Dmitri Mendeleev makes a solo ascent by balloon to an altitude of 11,500 feet (3.5 km) above Klin, Russia to observe an eclipse
- 1891 - William Huggins describes astronomical application of spectrum
- 1914 - German fleet bombs English coast
- 1915 - World War I: the Battle of Van begins
- 1919 - Afghanistan declares independence from UK
- 1942 - WWI: Over 4,000 Canadian & British soldiers killed, wounded or captured raiding Dieppe, France
- 1944 - Last Japanese troops driven out of India
- 1944 - Nazis give parts of Paris to Resistance

From KO Archives

2 IAF Jets Crash On Srinagar Airport

Airport Sealed Off, Pilot Killed, Inquiry Ordered

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two MIG-21 fighter jets crashed one after another shortly after takeoff this afternoon from Srinagar airport, killing a pilot and injuring another. A court of Inquiry has been launched to probe the crashes, official sources said.

The two MIG-21 'BIS' fighter jets belonging to the Indian Air Force, reportedly on training sorties took off at around 1330 hours from runway 31 with a safe distance of about 1000 meters, defence sources said.

The sources said that Flying Officer Dhinsa was directed to eject after the fighter jet he was piloting was seen getting out of control and drifting towards left side. The observations were reportedly made by the Control Towers.

Dhinsa could not eject from the zooming jet which had hardly gained any height. The jet crashed closer to runway in a ball of fire.

Meanwhile the pilot of the jet, Flight Lt. Deswal, bailed out the reason for which is not known. Reading to the second MIG-21 also crashing, they said. Deswal was injured and rushed to hospital by the rescue teams.

The twin crash created panic among the airport officials and the airforce personnel living nearby.

A large number of fire tenders rushed towards the crash site as both the jets had caught fire after crashing. The two jets were not armed when they took off from the Srinagar airport on training sorties, sources said. Sources said the wreckage of the two planes was scattered in a one kilometer area of the airport.

The airport was immediately sealed off and removal of wreckage of the two destroyed fighters from the runway started to make it functional for the Air Force and civilian flights. Today's incident caused a considerable delay in the Indian Airlines and Jet Airways flights. The area was under cordon when reports poured in this evening. Journalists were not allowed to go near the crash site, Official sources investigating teams were collecting samples from the wreckage. Till this evening the body of the slain pilot was not recovered. "In such a crash there is always possibility of body being blowing into smithereens," one of the squadron leaders of Indian Air Force said this evening.

(Kashmir Observer, August 19, 1999)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my DOB Certificate of class 10th issued by JKBOSE somewhere. Now I want to apply 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 Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Bemia Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Faiqa Bint Mushtaq
DOB: 04/03/2004
D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat
R/O Ratnipora District Pulwama

abp

NORTHERN RAILWAY G20

E-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR/162-2023-24-ADEN-JRC, 164-2023-24-ADEN-LDH acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 08.09.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System

Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
17.08.2023	25.08.2023	08.09.2023

S.No	Tender No	Details of Tender
1	162-2023-24-ADEN-JRC	Various Base Depot/Site activities in c/w CTR(P) by PORS 24.019 km from DN 3 Km to 4.5, UP Km 3 to 8, DN Km 50.06 to 52.59, DN Km 73.089 to 75, UP Km 30 to 34.178, Km UP Km 42.9 to 47, UP Km 52.59 to 55.722, UP Km 59.105 to 62.348, UP Km 63.397 to 64.938, UP Km 57.716 to 58.778 of existing track laid with 52 kg rails on PSC-5 sleepers with M+7 density with proposed 60kg 90UTS new rails on PSC-6 sleepers with M+8 density on JRC/PTKC section under Sr.DEN-1/FZR.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) 60027384.05 Validity of Offer 60 Days Period of Completion 12 Months
2	164-2023-24-ADEN-LDH	TWR (Through Weld Renewal) of 18.05 Km, (Km 391.95 to 399.00, 401.00 to 405.00 DN line), (Km 369.00 to 373.00 Up line) (367.00 to 369 3rd Line), (Km 95.00 to 96.00 CDG-SNL Line) and Km 10.986 of various loop lines in different yards by using Road cum Rail Mobile, Flash Butt Welding plant on SNL-JUC section under ADENLDH.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) 30113387.69 Validity of Offer 60 Days Period of Completion 12 Months

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2557/23

PM Modi's Appeal To G20 Nations Over Readiness To Prevent Next Health Emergency

Press Trust of India

GANDHINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged G20 nations to facilitate equitable availability of technology and also appealed to them to open innovations for public good.

Addressing the G20 Health Ministers' meet in Gujarat capital Gandhinagar via video link, he called upon everyone to be ready to prevent, prepare and respond to the next health emergency.

Digital solutions and innovations are useful means to make our efforts equitable and inclusive, PM Modi said.

"Global initiatives on global health will bring together various digital health initiatives on a common platform. Let's open our innovations for public good. Let us avoid duplication of funding," the Prime Minister said.

"Let us facilitate equitable availability of technology. This initiative will allow countries in the global south to close the gap in healthcare delivery. It will take us one step closer to



our goal of achieving universal health coverage (UHC)," he added.

He informed the G20 members that India will eradicate tuberculosis (TB) well before the global deadline with the help of people's participation.

"We have called upon the people of the country to be Ni-kshay Mitra or Friends for Eradication of TB. Under this, nearly 1 million patients have been adopted by citizens. Now we are on our way to achieve TB elimination well ahead of the global target of 2030," PM Modi said.

"We must be ready to prevent, prepare and respond to the next health emergency (like COVID-19)."

Is There A Common Thread In Murders of Gauri Lankesh, 3 Others? SC To CBI

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today asked the CBI whether there was any "common thread" in the murders of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar, CPI leader Govind Pansare, activist-journalist Gauri Lankesh and scholar MM Kalburgi.

Dabholkar, who fought against superstition, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne assailants during his morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013. Pansare was murdered on February 20, 2015, while Lankesh was killed on September 5, 2017. Kalburgi was shot dead on August 30, 2015.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia posed this query to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) while hearing a petition by Mukta Dabholkar, daughter of Narendra Dabholkar, challenging the April 18 this year order of the Bombay High Court refusing to continue monitoring the investigation in the killing of her father.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, appearing for Mukta Dabholkar, told the bench there was a larger conspiracy behind the four killings.

He said the available evidence indicated that these cases may be connected and Mukta Dabholkar had raised this issue before the high court.

"The accused who are facing a trial (in Dabholkar case), according to you, there is no common thread in those four murders? Right? That is what you are saying?" Justice Dhulia asked Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati, who was appearing for the CBI.

"That is what we want to know," Justice Kaul said, and asked the CBI to "please look into it".

As soon as Mr Grover began arguing about the issues involved in the matter, the bench told him the high court has said the trial

in the Dabholkar murder case is going on and some witnesses have already been examined.

"... so therefore we (high court) don't want to monitor it any further. What is wrong with such an observation?" the bench asked him.

Mr Grover said though the trial is going on, two of the accused are on the run and have not been arrested yet.

Giving the status of the Dabholkar murder case, Ms Bhati told the bench that 20 witnesses have so far been examined during the trial.

The bench told Ms Bhati the petitioner has also alleged a larger spread of the conspiracy.

The bench noted the petitioner's counsel has submitted that they need two weeks to place some documents along with translation of the relevant portions which will help the ASG in examining the issue of the larger conspiracy involved in these killings.

"ASG is granted four weeks thereafter to examine the aforesaid issue," the bench said and ordered the listing of the matter after eight weeks.

Mr Grover had told the Supreme Court on May 18 that the CBI suspected there could be a common link in the killings of Dabholkar, Pansare and Lankesh.

"The investigation has found that weapons used in these subsequent incidents (the killing of Pansare and Lankesh) and Dabholkar murder were the same and people involved in the crimes were also the same. Hence, CBI wanted to do further investigation," he had said.

The high court had said on April 18, after nine years of monitoring the Narendra Dabholkar case investigation, that no further watch on the probe was required. It had disposed of several petitions including the one filed by Mukta Dabholkar for continued monitoring.

Iran FM, Saudi Crown Prince Hold 'Frank, Direct And Fruitful' Talks In Jeddah

Agencies

Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman have held "frank and fruitful" talks in Jeddah.

The highest level talks since the two countries restored relations after years of estrangement was held behind closed doors.

In an online Friday post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Amir-Abdollahian said he held 90 minutes of talks with the Saudi crown prince.

The minister said the talks were "explicit, frank, fruitful, and productive based on neighborhood policy."

The two sides underscored the need to enhance sustainable relations in all fields, the minister said.

"We have consensus on security and development for all in the region," the top Iranian diplomat tweeted.

During the meeting, Amir-Abdollahian reiterated Iran's determination to improve relations with the countries in the region, particularly Saudi Arabia.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia can bring about further growth and prosperity to the region by improving comprehensive cooperation, including in the political, economic, commercial, transit, scientific and technological, cultural and popular fields," the top Iranian diplomat said.



He said Tehran and Riyadh shoulder a "historic responsibility" vis-à-vis the global developments.

Pointing to Iran's achievements and capacities, Amir-Abdollahian underscored the need to boost dialogue as well as development-oriented ties as the "path to success" in the region.

Iran and Saudi Arabia play a leading role in the region and the Muslim world, the minister said.

The Iranian foreign minister described Palestine and al-Quds as the key issues of the Muslim world and said the Israeli regime poses a threat to all nations.

The Saudi crown prince, for his part, extended his own and the Saudi King's greetings to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raeisi.

Salman said Saudi Arabia

views the relationship with Iran as strategic. He reiterated Riyadh's invitation to the Iranian president to travel to Saudi Arabia.

The meeting took place a day after the top Iranian diplomat held talks with his Saudi counterpart Faisal Bin Farhan in the capital Riyadh. In a joint presser after the talks, Amir-Abdollahian said the talks were significant, adding that ties between the two countries "are progressing in the right direction."

Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed in Beijing on March 10 to resume relations and reopen diplomatic missions within two months.

In a joint statement after signing the agreement, Tehran and Riyadh highlighted the need to respect the national sovereignty of one another and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the respective countries.

India Braces For More Rain After Floods, Lightning Kill 2,000

Agencies

Parts of India are bracing for more torrential rain, raising the risk of further casualties after natural calamities such as floods and lightning killed 2,000 people during the current monsoon season.

Rains have affected about 500,000 hectares (1.24 million acres) of crops and damaged almost 90,000 houses since the start of the monsoon in early June, according to data compiled by the Home Ministry. Around 60,000 animals have also died, the figures show.

The June-September monsoon that irrigates about half of the country's farm land is vital for the country's food production and economic growth, but also causes widespread damage and destruction.

The weather office said that climate change is making the annual weather pattern more volatile, increasing the chance of both flooding and droughts.

Extreme weather hit the wheat crop last year and is threatening sugar output in 2023-24, prompting the



government to take several measures to soften soaring food prices.

The Centre led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is gearing up for elections early next year, has curbed exports of wheat, rice and sugar, and is selling grains from state reserves.

Further precipitation could also impact standing rice crops, which will be harvested in October.

Several states, including Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh, are set to be lashed by heavy rains in the coming days,

according to the India Meteorological Department, or IMD. The risk of flash floods in some areas has also increased, it said on Friday.

Himachal Pradesh is bearing the brunt of extreme weather, with the death count rising to over 330 since the start of the monsoon. Some 500 people, who were stranded when a dam opened its gates on Monday night to avoid damage to its structure, were rescued by Air Force helicopters and other teams working in the area, according to the Home Ministry.

Can Children Out Of Wedlock Claim Ancestral Property? Supreme Court Reserves Verdict

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today reserved its verdict on a 2011 plea pertaining to the vexatious legal issue whether children out of wedlock were entitled to a share in the ancestral property of their parents under Hindu laws.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra heard submissions of several lawyers on a plea which is pending since 2011.

The Supreme Court will also decide the question whether the share of such children is limited only to the self-acquired property of their parents under Section 16(3) of the Hindu Marriage Act.

These questions were referred to a larger bench by a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court on March 31, 2011.

"The question which crops up in the facts of this case is whether illegitimate children are entitled to a share in the coparcenary (ancestral) property or whether their share is limited only to the self acquired property of their parents under Section 16(3) of the Hindu

Marriage Act," the bench had said while referring the case to a larger bench.

The court had said the provision makes it very clear that a child of a "void or voidable marriage" can only claim rights to the property of his parents, and no one else.

The bench had disagreed with the earlier findings of the top court that such children will have no right in ancestral properties of their parents.

"With changing social norms of legitimacy in every society, including ours, what was illegitimate in the past may be legitimate today. The concept of legitimacy stems from social consensus, in the shaping of which various social groups play a vital role... in a changing society law cannot afford to remain static..." it had said.

According to Hindu law, in a void marriage, the parties do not have the status of husband and wife. As per the statute, husband and wife have the status in the voidable marriage.

In a void marriage, no decree of nullity is required to annul the marriage. While, in a voidable marriage decree of nullity is required.

Vistara Flight Delayed For 8 Hours At Delhi Airport Over '3 Bombs' Call

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi-Pune Vistara airlines flight was delayed for around eight hours at the IGI Airport here after a bomb threat call which later turned out to be hoax, security sources and police said. The bomb threat assessment committee declared the call, received at 7:38 am, non-specific or hoax at 2:15 pm. The airline was issued a security clearance for using the aircraft after extensive security checks, the sources said.

Flight UK971 was to depart at 8:30 am and finally left at 4:30 pm, according to police.

The sources said more than 100 passengers and five cabin crew were on board the Airbus A320 aircraft. Vistara said, in a statement, that flight UK971 was delayed due to "mandatory security checks".

A senior Delhi Police officer said a threat call received at the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) control room in Gurugram was transferred to them through the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

Following the call, search and combing operations were launched at the terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

"The passengers were de boarded and we checked the

aircraft from inside and outside, but nothing suspicious was found. A case is being registered and further investigation is underway," the officer said.

Airport security sources said the caller said "three bombs have been kept in flight no UK971 parked at gate no 42 and they will explode in an hour". The call got disconnected immediately.

All passengers and crew of the flight were de-boarded and anti-sabotage checks were conducted in an isolation bay at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, they said.

The bomb threat assessment committee (BTAC) was convened soon after the call was received and bomb detection equipment and sniffer dogs were pressed into service by the CISF while passengers' luggage was sent for re-check, they added.

The airlines said it was cooperating with the security agencies.

"We confirm that the flight UK971, scheduled to fly from Delhi to Pune on 18 August 2023, is delayed due to mandatory security checks," it said.

"In the meanwhile, we are making all efforts to minimise inconvenience to our customers, including offering them refreshments," it said.

NEWS MAKERS

Ready To Stay In Jail For 1,000 Years If Necessary: Pak Ex-PM Imran Khan

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday said he was ready to endure imprisonment even for 1,000 years and continue to stay incarcerated for his country, according to a media report.

Khan, 70, was sentenced to three years in jail by a sessions court on August 5 for hiding proceeds from the sale of state gifts (Toshakhana). He is currently incarcerated in Attock Jail in Punjab province.

A division bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, will take up the hearing next Tuesday (August 22).

Speaking to reporters on Friday after meeting Khan in At-



tock jail, Umair Niazi, a member of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief's legal team, said the former prime minister was in "good health, although he had grown a beard." The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"He [Imran] was provided with a mirror and shaving kit today," the lawyer said.

Niazi asserted that among a

team of six, only he was granted permission to meet Khan.

The lawyer expressed his intention to file a contempt of court petition against the "jailer's conduct" for denying the legal team access to the former premier, despite possessing court orders.

"I do not care about not being given facilities [in jail]. It does not matter even if I am kept in jail for 1,000 years, but I am ready for it because [one has to] make sacrifices for freedom," Niazi quoted Khan as saying.

Khan is facing more than 140 cases across the country and faces charges like terrorism, violence, blasphemy, corruption and murder since his ouster in April 2022.

The lawyer confirmed that the Federal Investigation Agen-

cy questioned Khan in Attock jail regarding the cipher (confidential diplomatic cable) issue on Wednesday, during which the former premier reiterated his previous stance.

He said Khan also spoke about the "disappearance" of his nephew Barrister Hassaan Khan Niazi, the report said.

The Lahore High Court directed authorities to produce Hassaan before the court by August 18 with regard to a plea seeking his recovery and an inquiry against officials over his "illegal detention".

Meanwhile, police have informed the Lahore High Court on Friday that Hassaan Niazi, Khan's nephew and his focal person on legal affairs, has been handed over to a military court for trial.

12% Of Sitting Rajya Sabha Members Billionaires, Says Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: About 12 per cent of sitting MPs of Rajya Sabha are billionaires with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana having the highest percentage of such parliamentarians, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch (NEW) have analysed and updated the criminal, financial and other background details of 225 out of 233 Rajya Sabha MPs. In the current Rajya Sabha, one seat is vacant. According to the report, 5 (45 per cent) out of 11 MPs from Andhra Pradesh, 3 (43 per cent) out of 7 MPs from Telangana, 3 (16 per cent) out of 19 MPs from Maharashtra, 1 (33 per

cent) out of 3 MPs from Delhi, 2 (29 per cent) out of 7 MPs from Punjab, 1 (20 per cent) out of 5 MPs from Haryana and 2 (18 per cent) out of 11 MPs from Madhya Pradesh have declared assets worth more than ₹100 crore.

The total assets of seven Members of Parliament (MPs) analysed from Telangana is ₹5,596 crore, that of 11 MPs from Andhra Pradesh is ₹3,823 crore, and 30 MPs analysed from Uttar Pradesh have total assets worth ₹1,941 crore.

Out of the 225 Rajya Sabha sitting MPs analysed, 75 (33 per cent) have declared criminal cases against themselves.

Also about 41 (18 per cent) Rajya Sabha sitting MPs have declared serious criminal cases and two members have de-

clared cases related to murder (IPC section 302).

Four Rajya Sabha sitting MPs have declared cases related to crimes against women. Out of 4 MPs, one Rajya Sabha sitting MP - Congress' K C Venugopal - from Rajasthan has declared case related to rape (IPC section 376). About 23 (27 per cent) out of 85 Rajya Sabha MPs from BJP, 12 (40 per cent) out of 30 MPs from Congress, 4 (31 per cent) out of 13 MPs from AITC, 5 (83 per cent) out of 6 MPs from RJD, 4 (80 per cent) out of 5 MPs from CPI(M), 3 (30 per cent) out of 10 MPs from AAP, 3 (33 per cent) out of 9 MPs from YSRCP, and 2 (67 per cent) out of 3 Rajya Sabha MPs from the NCP have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits.

J&K Has Made Big Strides Towards Adopting Technology In Governance: CS



Addresses 3-Day Ideas Workshop For Officers Regarding FRG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the 2nd day of the 3-day workshop organized by the J&K Planning, Development & Monitoring Department for administration on the theme of 'Future Ready Governance (FRG)' and 'Future Universities', Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta remarked that J&K has made bigger strides in adopting technology for taking government to the door steps of people.

The workshop is being held from 17th to 19th August and featured today discussions on Future Ready Governance, "Pilot Project in Agriculture Department (including Dairy etc) and University of the Future. Anurag Goel, Former Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs GoI, and UN SDG Expert is the Resource person for this workshop attended by the Administrative Secretaries, HoDs and other senior functionaries of the Planning Department.

During his address today the Chief Secretary maintained that the UT has made remarkable progress in putting its right foot ahead by digitizing all of its G2C and G2B services in a span of less than 2 years. He stated that the government is committed to make governance future-ready by integrating use of Artificial Intelligence or APIs for bringing efficiency in its functioning.

Dr Mehta observed that future belongs to technology. He made out that both people and systems out of sync with the evolving technology should be ready to be subservient to those having sway over it. He sensitized each of them to be cognizant of the modern trends and techniques coming up in the field of their concern.

He asked them to enhance their capacities to catch-up with the changes so that future advancements do not push us

into the category of tech have-nots. He reiterated that J&K has moved fast apace and has come of ages in bolstering its position as a leader in providing IT based solutions to alleviate most of the sufferings of its population.

Besides mentioning the shooting-up of the number of online services to 675 offered by different government departments here the Chief Secretary also talked about the digitisation of revenue records and other measures like auto-appeal system, e-office, e-tendering, BEAMS and Janbhagadari that have really helped in making the administration most responsive, vibrant, transparent and accountable here.

On the occasion he thanked Anurag Goel for sharing his ideas and expertise with the officers to sensitize them about the future challenges to be faced by the Government. He asked him to help J&K in drawing way forward in light of its strengths and opportunities.

The Resource person, Anurag Goel gave a brief about the workshop structure, its process and complimented the Jammu and Kashmir administration for achieving remarkable milestones during the last few years.

Goel threw light on different kinds of advancements made world over in the fields of Science and Technology. He exhorted upon all to foresee the future to prepare for it. He stressed on finding solutions based on AI/ML to most of our problems faced today. He observed that everything be it business, education, entertainment or government, technology would change its face beyond our imagination in the decades to come.

He shared his ideas and expertise with the officers to sensitize them about the future challenges to be faced by the Government. He asked them to use their creativity to help J&K transforming through Future Ready Governance in light of its strengths and opportunities.

DC Inaugurates CBC's Multi-Media Exhibition At Poonch



Observer News Service

POONCH: A 3-Day Multi Media Exhibition (ICOP) on 9 Years of Seva Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Mission LIFE, G-20 Presidency etc was Friday inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin Mohammad Chaudhary here at Base Camp, Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, College Ground, Poonch.

Joint Director Central Bureau of Communication J&K, Ladhak, Ghulam Abbas presided over the inaugural function. The Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) is being organised by the Central Bureau of Communication Poonch, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The heads of different Departments viz. Madan Mohan Singh, Commandant 38 CRPF, Tahir Mustafa Malik, ADC, Devender Singh, 21C-38 CRPF, Khalid Hissain, DPO ICDS, Poonch, Riyaz Ahmed Axiom Jal Shakti PHE Poonch, Dr. Tanvi CEO Tourism were prominent among others who were present at the inaugural function.

DC Poonch said these kinds of awareness programmes on the schemes and programs of Government of India should be organized on regular intervals so that the general public especially in the far-flung border areas like Balakot get to know about the benefits of these schemes.

of Communication, J&K, Ladakh in his address said, the government is working towards the upliftment of the poor in the country through its various centrally sponsored schemes and programs and the pro-poor schemes of the government have brought a revolution in the country.

The Photo Exhibition focuses on achievements of the Government of India in various fields. Displays are especially designed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, for enlightenment of visitors about various schemes of Govt. of India. Selfie corners, displays, film shows, distribution of flyers and booklets on 9 Years of Seva, Sushasan aur Garib Kalyan, Open Quiz on centrally sponsored schemes & current affairs, display your talent platform, stall of various departments and Expert Lectures of Resource Persons from various departments on CSS were the main attractions for visitors especially the youth.

Stalls were put up by the ICDS Department, Social Welfare Department, Rural Development Department, Health Department and Jal Shakti PHE Department. Resource persons from ICDS Department, Social Welfare Department & Rural Development Department spoke about various schemes related to their respective department. The programme & open quiz were conducted by Vijay Mattoo I/c CBC FO Poonch.

LG Hails Security Forces For Maintaining Peace In J&K

Inaugurates State-Of-The-Art CT Scan Centre At 92 Base Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lauding the role of security forces in maintaining peace and a secured environment in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called upon every section of society, corporate and organizations to come together as one unit, one team and discharge their responsibilities towards creating better facilities for the valiant soldiers.

Sinha made the remarks after inaugurating the state-of-the-art CT Scan Centre at army's 92 Base Hospital here on Friday.

In his address, the LG congratulated the doctors and entire team of 92 Base Hospital for getting the CT Scan Centre equipped with modern facilities. He expressed gratitude to the National Stock Exchange Foundation for their CSR initiative and collaboration with the Armed Forces.

"It is reaffirmation of our promise to provide best possible care to brave combatants who serve on the frontlines with the motto of 'Seva Parmo Dharm' and risking their lives for our safety and security," he said.

"This is a symbol of our unwavering commitment to our soldiers and ensuring that they receive the exceptional care they deserve," he added.

Sinha also lauded the role of security forces in maintaining peace and a secured environment in J&K.

He called upon every section of society, corporate and organizations to come together as



one unit, one team and discharge their responsibilities towards creating better facilities for our valiant soldiers.

Commending the efforts of doctors and nursing staff of 92 Base Hospital in meeting both the preventive and curative needs for better health of jawans of security forces, the LG opined that the new facility will ensure quick diagnosis and help in providing better treatment.

He also toured the CT Scan Centre and inspected the facilities.

GOC 15 Corps Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Managing Director & CEO, National Stock Exchange Ashish Kumar Chauhan, LG's Principal Secretary Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Brig Rajeshwar Sharma, and senior officers of Army and UT Administration were also present.

On this occasion, GOC Chinari Corps said that 92 Base

Hospital, known for its exceptional healthcare services and specialized care, receives and treats a large number of CI Ops casualties around the year and serves as a crucial node for these polytrauma cases, a defence spokesperson said.

He said that the hospital's patients consist of members of the Armed Forces, including the Army, and paramilitary forces, including CRPF, BSF, SSB, and Assam Rifles. Further, he said, the hospital also provides inpatient and outpatient care to civilians during times of conflict and natural disasters.

"The installation of an additional CT scan machine by the NSE Foundation will be a key milestone for the 92 Base Hospital and would expedite the investigations during critical times, thus aiding in saving lives and reducing morbidity by a timely diagnosis," the spokesperson added.

History Cannot Be Buried Or Changed By Removing Names: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: History cannot be buried or changed by removing the names of leaders who have not been a part of the BJP, it will "emerge" and "remain", said National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday.

"They are removing Nehru's and Indira Gandhi's name. They are removing the names of every leader who is not a part of them, but history does not change," Abdullah told reporters here when asked that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has dropped 'Sher' the popular name of his father and National Conference (NC) founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah from the Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The centre on the banks of Dal Lake was known as Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The National Conference president said that the government has removed the history of Mughal rule of 800 years from books, but "does it mean Mughals were not here?"

"When the people go to see Taj Mahal what will they say, who made it? When they will go to the Red Fort, they will say who built it? When they will see Jamia Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, Safdarjung Tomb, Qutub Minar, what will they say? You cannot bury history, history will emerge. We will disappear, these people will disappear like others, (but), history will remain," he added.

Responding to a poser on the Supreme Court hearing a batch of petitions challenging the ab-

rogation of Article 370, Abdullah said everyone is presenting their case which is there in front of the top court.

"Earlier also, two judgments have been given by the Supreme Court in favour of (Article) 370. We all are confident that our talk (arguments) before them, all lawyers who have put the case before them, that they will look at it justly and give justice to the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," he said.

When asked to comment on Democratic Progressive Azad Party chief Ghulam Nabi Azad's remarks that majority of Muslims in India and Jammu and Kashmir have converted from Hinduism, the NC president said the former Congress leader knows the history.

"I cannot speak for him, it is for him to answer what was the necessity (for those remarks)," he said. The NC president said the "history of our state and the people is very different."

"There is no doubt there was a period when there were Hindus there and then they all converted to Buddhism when Buddhism was on the rise. Once Buddhism disappeared, they reconverted themselves. That is a long history," said Abdullah.

"You must remember (sufi saint) Ameer-e-Kabeer came (to Kashmir), he brought Islam and trade with it, so that people who were really down in the dumps could do some work with their fingers and earn some honest wages," he added.

The former Union minister said at that time, they "divided" people in the Hindu system into the higher Brahmin and the lower Brahmin.

Mirwaiz To Send Legal Notice To Admin

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR, AUG 18 (PTI) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq will send a legal notice to Jammu and Kashmir administration for his release from house detention, the managing body of Jamia Masjid said here on Friday.

Hereditary head priest of Srinagar Jamia Masjid through the notice will also be seeking a clarification from authorities whether he was free or under house arrest, it said.

In a statement, Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid - the managing body of the grand mosque here - said Mirwaiz has been pushed to take the legal route in view of the "conflicting statements" made by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

In an interview to an online portal 'The Lalantop,' Sinha had said Mirwaiz can go wherever he wants with security.

"I have made up my mind for the Friday prayer, let everything go peacefully (Mirwaiz) will also offer Friday prayers; he can go wherever he wants with security," the LG said.

Terrorist's Body Found 13 Days After Gunfight

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A foreign terrorist was killed after he slipped and fell into a deep gorge during an anti-terrorist operation by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district and his body was recovered on Friday morning, officials said.

The terrorist was injured in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on August 5, but he could not be traced then. Another terrorist was killed in the gunbattle in Khawas area of Rajouri district on August 5.

"The body of the second terrorist injured in an encounter at Khawas found by special operations group (SOG) at Dhakikot area of Reasi," Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of Jammu zone Mukesh Singh said.

Singh said two grenades, three AK magazines, 90 AK rounds, 32 pistol rounds and some other material were recovered from the spot.

The Army, along with the SOG of the police, has been continuing operations in forest areas of Reasi district to track down the terrorist, a defence spokesman said.

During the operations, Army and police personnel deployed along the high ridge lines in forest areas near Dhakikot observed suspicious movement of unidentified persons on late Thursday night, he said.

When one of the suspicious persons approached the deployment site and was challenged, he tried to escape, the defence spokesman said. The Army troops readjusted their positions to prevent his escape.

The terrorist was seen stumbling and falling down the cliff in a dense jungle, he said, adding that the search was halted for the night due to inclement weather and topography.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICER ANANTNAG

Subject: List of ineligible (Weeded out beneficiaries).

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Shangus has forwarded the list of 59 beneficiaries under the scheme National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) category Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)/Indira Gandhi National Widow Disabled Pension Scheme (IGNDPS)/ Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) to be weeded out due to death or other reasons. The list is notified through the medium of this notice for information of general public for inviting objections, if any, which shall reach to this office or to the office of concerned Tehsil Social Welfare Office Shangus within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after expiry of said term.

The list is also available at office of the District Social Welfare Office or Tehsil Social Welfare Office Shangus.

S.No	Name	Parentage	Residence	Tehsil	Scheme
1	GHULAM HASSAN GANAI	Mohd Ibrahim	AUDSOO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
2	AB REHMAN RATHER	GH RASOOL RATHER	AUDSOO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
3	KHATOONI	KARIM KHAN	BRAB-UPPER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
4	JANA BEGUM	FERIZ AH KHAN	CHITTERGULL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
5	SYED ALI SHAH	SYED AKBAR	CHITTERGULL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
6	FATIMA	SYED HUSSAIN SHAH	CHITTERGULL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
7	FATIMA BEGUM	SYED HASSAN SHAH	CHITTERGULL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
8	HABIBULLAH KHAN	BAZ KHAN	CHITTERGULL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
9	KEEM KHAN	NAZIR KHAN	CHITTERGULL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
10	JUMA KHAN	NAZIRKHAN	CHITTERGULL-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
11	TAJA BEGUM	ALI MD MALIK	CHOWGAM	Shangus	IGNOAPS
12	SHAHMALI	GH HASSAN SHAH	DETHOO-UPPER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
13	AMEENA BEGUM	GH MOHD QADRI	DETHOO-UPPER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
14	GH NABI BHAT	HABIBULLAH BHAT	ISSOO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
15	REHMTI	AB AHAD WANI	KHUNDROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
16	REHTI BEGUM	AMA SHAH	KHUNDROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
17	ZEEBA	M ABDULLAH MIR	KHUNDROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
18	SAIDA BEGUM	GH RASOOL MIR	KHUNDROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
19	Zaina Begum	GH HASSAN SHEIKH	KHUNDROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
20	ALI MOHD MOCHI	SUBHAN MOCHI	KHUNDROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
21	FATA BEGUM	MD ABDULLA MIR	KREEERI	Shangus	IGNOAPS
22	GH HASSAN KHAN	KHAN MIR KHAN	KREEERI	Shangus	IGNOAPS
23	MD SHABAN ITOO	M.RAMZAN ITOO	KREEERI	Shangus	IGNOAPS
24	RAJA BEGUM	AB REHMAN MIR	KREEERI	Shangus	IGNOAPS
25	MOHD AHSAN PADDER	AB SAMAD PADDER	NOWGAM-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
26	AISHA BEGUM	GH HASSAN TEELI	NOWGAM-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
27	JANA BEGUM	AB RAHIM TEELI	NOWGAM-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
28	KHATJI BEGUM	WALI MOHD BEIGH	NOWGAM-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
29	RAJA BEGUM	GH HASSAN MIR	NOWGAM-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
30	GH NABI BHAT	AB SATAR BHAT	NOWGAM-LOWER	Shangus	IGNOAPS
31	MUKHTI BEGUM	GH QADIR BHAT	NUNWANI	Shangus	IGNOAPS
32	MOHD QASIM KHAN	HALIM KHAN	PANCHALTHAN	Shangus	IGNOAPS
33	AB REHIM KHAN	FAQEER KHAN	PATHRIBAL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
34	GH.HASSAN KHAN	ABDULLA KHAN	PATHRIBAL	Shangus	IGNOAPS
35	KHALIL MALIK	GH RASOOL MALIK	POSHINARI	Shangus	IGNOAPS
36	JUMA BAGLOO	AB AHAD BAGLOO	PUSHROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
37	M. RAMZAN GANIE	SABIQ GANIE	PUSHROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
38	AB REHMAN WAGGAY	ISMAIL WAGGAY	PUSHROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
39	M SHAFI KHAN	SABZ ALI KHAN	PUSHROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
40	AB AHAD DUGA	GH QADIR DUGA	PUSHROO	Shangus	IGNOAPS
41	AISHA	AB REHMAN RATHER	PUSHROO	Shangus	IGNWPS
42	AB RAHIM CHACHI	RAJ MOHD CHACHI	RAKH BRAH	Shangus	IGNOAPS
43	GH QADIR KUCHAY	ASHOOR KUCHAY	RANI POERA	Shangus	IGNOAPS
44	GH MOHD MALIK	MOHD AKBAR MALIK	SANSOOMA	Shangus	IGNOAPS
45	GHULAM MOHD MIR	HABIBULLAH MIR	SANSOOMA	Shangus	IGNOAPS
46	AKBAR GANIE	REHMAN GANIE	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
47	HAJRA BEGUM	ALI MOHD WANI	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
48	KHURSEE BEGUM	GH KABIR BHAT	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
49	M AKBAR	GH RASOOL MALIK	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
50	MD KHALIL MIR	MD ABDULLAH	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
51	M.SULTAN RATHER	M.ISMAIL GOJER	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
52	ZAREEFA BANOO	GH.MOHD WANI	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
53	HAJI MOHD HAYAT WANI	Mohd Sultan Wani	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
54	KHATOONI BEGUM	AB GANI TEELI	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
55	LALA KHAN	WALI KHAN	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
56	ZENA BEGUM	AB AHAD ITTOO	SHANGUS	Shangus	IGNOAPS
57	RAJA BEGUM	MD ABDULLAH BEIGH	SHIEKHPOORA	Shangus	IGNOAPS
58	SABA	GH NABI SHEIKH	SHIEKHPOORA	Shangus	IGNOAPS
59	SONAULLAH SHIEKH	NOOR MD SHIEKH	SHIEKHPOORA	Shangus	IGNOAPS

No. - DSWO/Ang/Estt/2023/1249-53
Dated: -18-08-2023
DIPK-7375-23
DT: 18/08/2023

Sd/-
Muzaffar Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
District Social Welfare Officer
Anantnag.

New Danger to Pakistan's Fragile Socio-religious Fabric

Muslim-majority Pakistan is currently grappling with a complex issue that strikes at the heart of its socio-religious fabric: the fragile balance between religious sensitivities, minority rights, and freedom of expression

Sana Batool

“While Pakistan's religious landscape embraces diversity, encompassing Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, Ahmadis, and others, the plight of the long-persecuted Shia community is particularly pronounced. Confronted by relentless persecution at the hands of extremist Takfiri groups, the community finds itself in the crosshairs of this bill's potential impact. The risk of the bill becoming an additional tool of discrimination against the Shia community becomes even more apparent, according to activists

The passage of the "Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023" earlier this week in the Pakistani Senate, which is aimed at enhancing penalties for disrespect to sacred religious personalities, has sparked a robust debate both within the country and outside, fueling fears among minorities.

Social media has been abuzz in recent days with campaigns against the passing of the controversial bill that reveals a profound concern – the potential impact of this bill on the minority Shia community.

To understand the impact and implications of this bill, it's crucial to delve into the context and the historical background that has led to its formulation.

Pakistan, a country known for its diverse religious landscape, has seen simmering tensions and violence stemming from differing religious beliefs over the years.

Actions deemed "blasphemous" have often provoked rage, leading to events of mob violence, targeted killings and unjust arrests.

While the incumbent government seeks to address concerns about the exploitation of religious sentiments, the passage of this bill has raised questions about the impact on freedom of expression and the rights of minority religious communities in the Muslim-majority country.

Protecting religious sentiments?

The bill's advocates contend that the amendment is needed to curb hate speech and acts of blasphemy against revered Islamic figures, such as the family of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his companions.

The intention is to protect religious sensitivities and ensure harmony among Pakistan's diverse religious groups. However, critics fear that such legislation could be misused and abused to target members of the Shia community and further divide Pakistani society on sectarian lines.

The issue, as experts and activists explain, is twofold. First, there is a long history of blasphemy laws used to settle personal scores, muzzle dissent, and oppress religious minorities in Pakistan, they opine.

There have been multiple cases where unsubstantiated allegations have resulted in violence, mob justice, and the imprisonment of innocent people. The passage of this bill without adequate and effective safeguards against abuse raises questions about responsibility and justice, experts say.

Secondly, the bill's focus on particular religious figures inadvertently



Daughters Grief - A victim of sectarian carnage in Quetta, Pakistan

amplifies the disparity between beliefs, according to activists and critics of the bill.

Plight of persecuted minority

While Pakistan's religious landscape embraces diversity, encompassing Christians, Hindus, Sikhs,

intolerance in the country.

Misuse and abuse of laws

The incidents not only highlighted the vulnerability of the Shia community but also raised questions about the protection of religious freedoms and the potential misuse of laws to curtail

“While the incumbent government seeks to address concerns about the exploitation of religious sentiments, the passage of this bill has raised questions about the impact on freedom of expression and the rights of minority religious communities in the Muslim-majority country

Ahmadis, and others, the plight of the long-persecuted Shia community is particularly pronounced.

Confronted by relentless persecution at the hands of extremist Takfiri groups, the community finds itself in the crosshairs of this bill's potential impact. The risk of the bill becoming an additional tool of discrimination against the Shia community becomes even more apparent, according to activists.

A few years ago, Pakistan witnessed a spree of arrests targeting members of the Shia community over the recitation of Ziarat-e-Ashura (a supplication recited mostly during the month of Muharram) during a Muharram procession, which sent ripples of shock and anger across the country.

It underscored a deeply unsettling trend of religious discrimination and

minority practices.

Such instances, activists campaigning against this bill say, serve as a stark reminder of the need for a comprehensive and inclusive approach to safeguarding the rights of all religious groups in the country.

This particular bill, which comes with amendments to the Pakistan Penal Code 1860 and the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, is feared to create an environment in which some groups are denied legal protection.

Historical incidents serve as warnings. The assassination of senior political leaders Salman Taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti, both of whom spoke out publicly against blasphemy laws, highlights the risks of campaigning for reform.

The horrific story of Mashaal Khan, a young student who was lynched by a

mob on blasphemy charges, also emphasizes the importance of rectifying the misuse of these laws.

Opponents of the latest bill argue that increasing penalties for blasphemy will not alleviate the problem but will instead lead to increased violence and discrimination in the country.

Social media abuzz

On Thursday, activists belonging to religious minority groups took to social media to record a campaign against the passing of the bill deeming it an attempt to marginalize the already marginalized and persecuted groups.

Numerous voices from various backgrounds including civil society members are expressing reservations about the potential consequences of the bill on minority rights, sectarian tensions, and freedom of expression in the Muslim-majority country.

Twitter users have taken to the platform to voice their apprehensions about the bill's impact, drawing attention to historical incidents of violence that stemmed from the misuse of blasphemy laws.

These incidents include targeted killings, mob violence, and unjust prosecutions that have resulted in dire consequences for individuals accused of blasphemy.

One of the key concerns highlighted by social media users is the escalation of sectarian tensions and the potential targeting of minority communities.

Human rights activists warn that the bill's passage could further exacerbate these tensions and contribute to an environment of fear and discrimination for religious and sectarian minorities.

Prominent women senators, Sherry Rehman and Anny Marri, have also opposed amendments to Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Their concerns resonate with the potential harm these changes could inflict on the country's minorities, especially the Shias.

Critics of the bill are also questioning the absence of consequences for false accusations made under the bill, which also raises concerns about the potential misuse of the legislation for personal vendettas.

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

Sana Batool is a Pakistan-based journalist and researcher who has written extensively on the subject of radical Islam

The Next Step Down For The Rupee?

Jamal Mecklai

The big news on trade in July was that China's exports fell by 14.5% (modulated by a currency decline of 6.8%), after falling 12.4% in June (with a currency decline of 7.1%); with China accounting for 15% of global trade. It is a definitive sign that global growth is slowing. Imports fell sharply as well, reflecting the sharp slowdown within China, which, again, bodes poorly for the global economy.

A bright spot in this picture is Japan, where, although exports in July were down 0.3% in USD terms, due to a currency depreciation of 3.35% over the previous year. Exports in JPY terms actually grew by 3%; in June, Japan's exports grew by 1.5%, which, with the currency impact of 5.35%, calculated out to export growth in JPY terms of nearly 7%, which doubtlessly contributed to Japan's surprise smart 6% growth in the April-June quarter.

Indeed, Japan's export performance over the past few years has been an unheralded story. Exports rose from about ¥4 trillion in March 2020 to ¥9 trillion in October 2022; converting to USD at the

average monthly exchange rate, exports grew from \$37.2 billion to \$61.3 billion over the period, a rise of 65%! Perhaps unsurprisingly, this was accompanied by a currency depreciation of a gigantic 37%.

To be sure, this sterling performance was in the backdrop of strong global trade, which grew by 4.3% in 2021 (from the pandemic trough) and 3.5% in 2022. And, obviously, the sharply weaker yen helped the performance.

Bringing it all back home, there have been a couple of articles recently—one by an ex-deputy governor of RBI (an old friend), with whom I have frequently disagreed in the past, often to my regret—that are calling for a weaker (and, in one case, much weaker) rupee as one of the key requirements for India's growth, leveraging the export competitiveness window. The rupee is at least 5% overvalued compared to its REER and it would need to be at least a few percentage points undervalued to give exports a significant kick upwards—this would take the rupee to near 90.

Looking at our alarming trade figures—exports in July were down 15.9% (accompanied by a comparatively modest depreciation of 3.2%)—I am beginning to consider that issue more carefully. I



have long felt that the rupee is already extremely undervalued, judging from the cost of personal expenses (hotel rooms, restaurants) here as compared to overseas—and, frighteningly, I am going on a holiday in Europe next week. Perhaps, even more relevant is the fact that The Economist's Big Mac index regularly shows the rupee as one of the most undervalued currencies. And, of course, in a world where global trade is slowing—the

WTO is expecting global trade growth of just 1.7% this year—a weaker rupee may only serve to boost exporter profits rather than actually generate more exports in dollar terms.

Contrariwise, and more importantly, it looks like the market has made up its mind. RBI very promptly pulled the rupee up above 83 as soon as it dared to open below that level on Monday, but over the Independence Day holiday(s),

the rupee weakened to 83.50 in the NDF market. While RBI protected it with offshore intervention, this morning the rupee opened a tad below 83 and is already trading at an all-time low of 83.16.

RBI remains on the job trying to modulate the decline—it appears convinced that the right choice is to keep the rupee as strong as possible to contain inflation. In particular, with the always-on political season, uncertainties of the monsoon and already dangerously high vegetable prices, it is important to protect against rising food price inflation, which would be exacerbated by a weak rupee given that we import nearly \$100 billion of food and food products annually.

However, that job will get increasingly difficult if/when we see a surge in long USD open interest in the futures market—in fact, it is surprising that it hasn't begun yet. In any event, it is clear that volatility will rise until a new lower range for the rupee is determined.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

A Journey of Financial Discovery

A Review of 'A to Z of Finance for Children' by Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandow

Mohammed Hussain Shah

In a world where early financial education is of paramount importance, "A to Z of Finance for Children" by Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandow shines as a beacon of knowledge and empowerment. This meticulously crafted 34-page paperback, published by the esteemed Wular Publication House, not only imparts essential financial wisdom but also captivates young minds through its unique illustrations, making learning a delightful and engaging experience.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandow, armed with a PhD in Finance, has masterfully condensed his expertise into this remarkable book. As a distinguished author, his passion for simplifying complex financial concepts and making them accessible to young readers is evident on every page. Through his engaging narrative, Dr. Pandow takes children on an exciting journey into the world of finance, ensuring they develop a solid understanding of key financial terms and concepts.

What sets 'A to Z of Finance for Children' apart is its brilliant use of illustrations. The vividly drawn images aren't just visually appealing – they play a vital role in enhancing comprehension and retention. Each illustration is carefully crafted to complement the content, creating a harmonious blend that transforms abstract financial ideas into relatable and easily digestible lessons.

In a rapidly evolving world, equipping children with early financial literacy is a strategic investment in their future. This book is a stepping stone towards building a generation of financially responsible individuals. By introducing children to basic financial terminology and concepts at an early age, Dr. Pandow empowers them to make informed decisions and cultivate sound money management habits that



will serve them well throughout their lives.

Furthermore, the availability of both paperback and Kindle editions ensures that 'A to Z of Finance for Children' is accessible to a wide audience. The convenience of digital access allows young readers to embark on their financial journey anytime, anywhere, fostering continuous learning and engagement.

The significance of 'A to Z of Finance for Children' extends beyond its immediate impact. By nurturing financial literacy at an early age, this book not only imparts practical knowledge but also instills confidence and a positive attitude towards money. Children are encouraged to view finances as an exciting adventure, empowering them to take charge of their financial future with enthusiasm and competence.

In conclusion, 'A to Z of Finance for Children' is a masterpiece that marries financial expertise with imaginative

storytelling and captivating illustrations. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandow's dedication to simplifying financial concepts and making them engaging for young readers is commendable. This book serves as an essential tool for parents, educators, and caregivers who recognize the importance of laying a strong foundation of financial literacy for the next generation.

To embark on this enlightening journey of financial discovery, grab your copy of 'A to Z of Finance for Children' today: <https://amzn.eu/d/grBYQvJ>. It's an investment in your child's bright and financially savvy future!

Mohammad Hussain Shah is an Associate Member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India and member of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants of USA and is currently serving as Finance Manager at Naba Contracting Company Ltd. in Jubail, Saudi Arabia

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Why Audiences And Filmmakers Are Drawn To Real-Life Stories

Yasser Usman

Manoj Bajpayee's courtroom drama *Sirf Ek Hi Banda Kafi Hai* became a runaway success on OTT recently. What's commendable is that the film was an OTT release (Zee5) but owing singularly to the critical acclaim it amassed, it was moved to select theatres. Yes, the reverse happened – from OTT to theatres. A lot of reasons have been ascribed for its feat. A crucial justification that industry insiders believe behind its success is that the film could connect with audiences at a deeper emotional level as it was inspired by real characters and events. A trend very widespread now if we take a quick look at the content offerings of recent years.

Sirf Ek Banda Kaafi Hai is inspired by the Asaram Bapu rape case attorney Poonam Chand Solanki's real-life experiences. The other OTT hits of recent times: Hansal Mehta's *Scoop* is based on the Mumbai crime reporter Jigna Vora's memoir, Zoya Akhtar-Reema Kagti's *Dahaad* is inspired by the notorious serial killer Cyanide Mohan, who would kill women using cyanide-laced contraceptive and the premise of director Vikramaditya Motwane's series *Jubilee* comes from the days and tales of the famous real-life couple Himanshu Roy-Devika Rani and their legendary film studio Bombay Talkies. Audiences as well filmmakers are looking for true stories. Non-fiction is reigning supreme.

As a writer of a series of biographies (non-fiction), I recall a meeting with a famous producer who wanted to adapt one of my books for a web series. During the meeting, we discussed many more ideas, some of them fiction. But he remained indifferent to fiction while pushing for true stories 'even if they are run-of-the-mill'. The producer also emphasised for the true story to be 'controversial'



– a scam, a con job, a sensational crime or an inspiring 'hero story' – promising a quicker turnaround time from paper to screen for them. To prove his point, he named a few big successes of the recent times: SonyLIV's *Scam 1992 - The Harshad Mehta Story*, which is now turning into a franchise with a second instalment *Scam 2003* based on the stamp paper scam that year. The two hit seasons of *Delhi Crime* and documentary series *Bad Boy Billionaires* on Netflix, *Prakash Jha-Bobby*

Deol's Ashram was loosely inspired by Dera Sacha Sauda cult leader Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, Maharani had Huma Qureshi playing a politician inspired by Rabri Devi, the former chief minister of Bihar and explored the controversial fodder scam, *Jamtara* was a dark tale of credit card scam operated from the small town of *Jamtara*. *Jeet Ki Zid* is the story of Major Deependra Singh Sengar, a highly decorated war hero and *Avrodh* is inspired by the Uri attacks and the following surgical

strikes. The recent Jio Cinema hit series *Inspector Avinash* is based on the life of supercop Avinash Mishra... Phew! The list just goes on and on.

So what's the charm in real stories that audiences and filmmakers are drawn to them? May be because they indirectly provide a window into real human experiences. The fact that we know these events actually took place makes them more special. A psychological connect with the characters that ex-

perienced those real-life struggles, triumphs, and tragedies. Filmmakers are attracted to these emotional narratives as they have the potential to create a strong bond with viewers and elicit a profound response, and, of course, moolah follows.

The 'inspired by real events or character' is definitely not a new genre. We have been making content on real stories since ages. Critically and commercially acclaimed Hollywood films on real stories like *Schindler's List*, *Wolf of Wall Street*, *Erin Brockovich* and numerous others have already been there. The recent trend on OTT is just the mass market culmination of the genre. Like regional films, we now have stories of small-town heroes and criminals fascinating audiences in more than 40 countries, breaking through barriers of geography, language and culture. The universal language of the medium is the champion here while staying true to local contexts.

'real events' seems to be making projects saleable. This non-fiction narrative space has been sparingly used for the greater good to tackle subjects, such as social justice, equality, discrimination, and human rights. But more recently, propaganda films from Bollywood have latched on to this money-making formula to twist complex issues to serve their own ends and spreading misinformation while claiming to be inspired by real events.

The genre is fluid, open to invention, reimagining, experimentation. We have been witnessing a lot of this as the OTT has provided a platform that makes room for play. The biggest benefactors being the people behind the camera, the fresh talent on camera and the growing set of audiences with every new story that gets released – you! Now that's a story for another time.

The article was originally published by *Khaleej Times*

AI-Powered X-Rays Can Tell True Age By Looking At Chest

Japanese scientists have developed an advanced artificial intelligence (AI) model that utilises chest radiographs to accurately estimate a patient's chronological age.

In the case of a disparity, the AI model can signal a correlation with chronic disease. These findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity, mark a leap in medical imaging, paving the way for improved early disease detection and intervention.

Metropolitan University first constructed a deep learning-based AI model to estimate age from chest radiographs of healthy individuals. They then applied the model to radiographs of patients with known diseases to analyse the relationship between AI-estimated age and each disease.

Office Of The Commandant: 41 BN Gogoland, Sriangar (J&K)

No.426/Prov/41 BN BSF/Auction/2023/16855-17011 dated: 02-08-2023 AUCTION Notice

In partial modification of this unit Auction Notice No 426/Prov/41 BN BSF/Auction/2023/15622-69 Dated 27 July 2023 a public auction of unserviceable stores i.e. Prov Communication, Newspaper, MT Ration, Construction Magazine, Wet Canteen, SOs Mess, Officer Mess, Welfare fund and other miscellaneous stores will be conducted at HQ 41 bn bsf GOGOLAND, Distt. Sriangar (J&K) on 24 August 2023 at 1000 hrs instead of August 2023 due to Adm / Ops commitment. All interested bidders are invited to attend the auction on the above mentioned date, time and place.

Terms and Conditions

- 1. All interested bidders will register their names prior to the uncton by depositing its. 10,000/- as earnest money which will be refunded/adjusted after auction. 2. Each bidder must be in possession of Aadhaar Card, PAN card & GST No in original and same will be seen by the board of officers, failing which they will not be allowed to participate in the auction. 3. The stores shall be sold to the highest bidder on cash payments on the spot. 4. The stores will be sold on "As and where it is basis". 5. The successful bidders will have to fit the U/S stores as and when auction is over by depositing total bid money of auctioned unserviceable stores. No cheque will be accepted. No transportation will be provided by this HQ to lift these stores from BSP Campus. 6. Commandant 41 Bn BSF reserves the right to accept or reject the final bid without assigning any reasons and may also postpone or adjourn the date and time of auction without assigning any reason. 7. In case of bandh call/strike in state on the date of auction, same will be conducted on the next day. 8. GST will be levied on final lease/auction value as per rules, if applicable. 9. Other instructions shall be announced at the time of auction. 10. The auction notice is also available on BSP Website www.bsf.nic.in. 11. Legal dispute will be subject to jurisdiction of district Shrinagar (J&K),

CBC-19110/11/0062/2324

(Rajesh Kumar Pandey) DC/QM for commandant 41 BSF

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office Of The Zonal Education Officer Nehalpora

Email id: zeonehalpora@gmail.com

NO:- ZEO/NP/Sms/365

Dated:- 18-08-2023

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Subject:- Engagement Of AAYA/Helpers Under ECCE for the Year 2023-24. Ref:- Director SAMAGRA Shiksha J&K Order No Edu/PD/Sms/ECCE/Helpers/1861-1905/2023-24 Dated. 06-06-2023 and CEO Baramulla's Endorsement No. CEO/Bla/Sms/120883-900 Dated 06-07-2023

Application are invited from eligible Female candidates for Engagement/Hiring of AAYA/Helpers under ECCE for the year 2023-24 in below mentioned 80 HS/MS/PS schools of this Zone.

Selection of AAYA/Helpers shall be made in consultation with concerned panchayat Halqa members or Municipal Ward Members and shall be restricted to village/ward in respect of Rural/Urban area where approved school is located.

Accordingly, all HM/HOI's of approved schools are directed to give wide publicity to this advertisement vis issuing the Notices, displaying the same on the notice board of schools, Panchayat Ghar/Mosques and also through chowkidars/Lambardars and masjid Committee members.

A. NATURE OF DEPLOYMENT:

1. The deployment of an AAYA/Helper shall be purely terminus and shall start from the date they are engaged/hired and shall conclude with the end of academic session. It may be extendable, subject to the performance and the approval of funds from the Ministry of Education Govt. of India, in the particular component. Affidavit from 1st class Magistrate shall be taken from the candidate at time of joining, for not claiming for permanent absorption at any stage.

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF AAYA/HELPER:

- 1. Only female candidates may be deployed. 2. The AAYA/Helper deployed must be a domicile of the Village in case of Rural area and Ward in case of Urban area, where approved school is located. 3. Candidate must be belonging to BPL (Below poverty Line) category. 4. The candidate must be physically/mentally fit to carry out her job. (Medical Certificate from concerned BMO)

C. QUALIFICATION/PREFERENCE:

- 1. Minimum Qualification of AAYA/Helper: 8th class passed, in case there is no eligible candidate available in village/ward, the candidate with lesser qualification shall be considered. 2. Preference shall be given to candidate from BPL category in the below mentioned order of priority: a) Widow. b) Divorced. c) Orphan d) candidate among the poorest of the poor in the village/ward.

D. Age: The age of a candidate must be between 18 to 45 years as on 1st of January 2023.

E. Honorarium: Rs 5000 (Five Thousand only) per month, which may vary as per the approval in the subsequent year in PAB of Samagra Shiksha.

F. In case of total non-availability of the candidate, the candidate from panchayat concerned may be considered.

G. In case of tie-up of the selection of candidate, the preference shall be given to the elderly candidate (with more age).

H. PREMATURE TERMINATION:- In case of any misconduct, misbehavior and poor performance while discharging duty by the AAYA/Helper reported, the concerned HOI shall have the right to terminate the services of AAYA/Helper in consultation with the Panchayat Halqa Members with due adherence to the prescribed procedures. The replacement shall be made within seven days.

I. APPEAL: If anybody feels, aggrieved with the selection of AAYA/Helper, an appeal shall be preferred to the concerned Chief Education officer, with in period of 15 days from the date of advertisement. 2nd Appeal if any, may be filed before the Director School Education (Concerned)

J. The last date for submission of application is 26/08/2023 up to 4 pm. No application will be entertained after the expiry of date and time.

K. JOB CHART OF THE AAYA/HELPER:- The AAYA/Helper for Pre-Primary sections of Govt. Schools shall have to perform below mentioned suggestive tasks:

- 1. Escorting the children at their arrival, departure between activities (for example while moving to outdoor areas, Playground and Toilet etc) 2. Maintaining the Hygiene of the children- Toileting, handwashing, cleanliness of children etc. 3. Helping the teacher in preparing class for activities, like setting up the material, making arrangements for day to day activities. 4. Assisting the children in taking food under the supervision of teacher, under PM POSHAN (MDM). 5. Any other assignment given by HOI for the proper care of children.

Name of Institutions where AAYA/Helper are to be engaged.

Table with 4 columns: Sr No, Name of the Institution, UDISE Code, Village, No. of AAYA/Helper to be Engaged. Lists 24 institutions across various villages like Waripora, Mamoosa, Choker, etc.

Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara. NIT No. 32-Kupwara/4920-29 of 2023-24 e-tendering DATED:- 16-08-2023. Includes table of work items, terms and conditions, and contact information for Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara.

Table listing 80 schools for recruitment of AAYA/Helpers. Columns include School Name, UDISE Code, and Location. Includes a note: NOTE:- No Applications will be accepted, if any required documents are not appended with application form.

APPLICATION FORMAT FOR ENGAGEMENT /HIRING OF AAYA/HELPER FOR THE YEAR 2023-24 IN EDUCATION ZONE NEHALPORA. Includes fields for school name, applicant details, and education qualifications.

Biggest Ad Agencies Now Using AI-ChatGPT To Cut Costs, Increase Productivity



Reuters

LONDON: Some of the world's biggest advertisers, from food giant Nestlé to consumer goods multinational Unilever, are experimenting with using generative AI software like ChatGPT and DALL-E to cut costs and increase productivity, executives say.

But many companies remain wary of security and copyright risks as well as the dangers of unintended biases baked into the raw information feeding the software, meaning humans will remain part of the process for the foreseeable future.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI), which can be used to produce content based on past data, has become a buzzword over the past year, capturing the public's imagination and sparking interest across many industries.

Marketing teams hope it will result in cheaper, faster and

virtually limitless ways to advertise products.

Investment is already ramping up amid expectations AI could forever alter the way advertisers bring products to market, executives at two top consumer goods companies and the world's biggest ad agency told Reuters.

The technology can be used to create seemingly original text, images, and even computer code, based on training, instead of simply categorizing or identifying data like other AI.

WPP, the world's biggest advertising agency, is working with consumer goods companies including Nestlé and Oreomaker Mondelez to use generative AI in advertising campaigns, its CEO Mark Read said.

"The savings can be 10 or 20 times," Read said in an interview. "Rather than flying a film crew down to Africa to shoot a commercial, we've created that virtually."

Govt Will Adhere To Fiscal Deficit Target Of 5.9% For FY'24

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government will stick to the fiscal deficit target of 5.9 per cent of the GDP as robust tax, non-tax collections will help meet the spending requirement and make up for any shortfall in disinvestment proceeds, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said on Friday.

Although there would be a shortfall with respect to disinvestment, he said, this shortfall would be met by non-tax revenue mobilisation.

"Disinvestment target is unlikely to be met. However, I would say in aggregate the collective amount between disinvestment and non-tax revenue is likely to be very close to the budget," he told PTI in an interview.

The total of disinvestment receipts, plus non-tax receipts are likely to be very close to the Budget Estimates, he said.

"We expect to adhere to our fiscal deficit target this year... none of the events so far have caused anything for us to devi-

ate from it," he said.

The government has already got a higher dividend from the Reserve Bank of India and expects higher dividends from public sector banks and other PSUs than estimated in the Budget. The Reserve Bank of India in May approved a Rs 87,416 crore-dividend payout to the central government for 2022-23, nearly triple of what it paid in the previous year.

The government was expecting Rs 48,000 crore from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the current fiscal.

The dividend payout by the RBI was Rs 30,307 crore for the accounting year 2021-22.

With public sector banks posting record profits of over Rs 1 lakh crore in fiscal 2022-23, the government's earnings from them are likely to be higher.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sithartaman in the Budget stated that the fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.9 per cent of GDP in BE 2023-24.

RBI Instructs Bank To Provide Borrowers Option To Switch To Fixed Interest Rates

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The RBI on Friday directed banks to allow individual borrowers paying loans through EMIs to opt for fixed interest rate system or extension of loan tenor, a move aimed at preventing loanees from falling into the trap of negative amortisation, in wake of rising interest rate.

The interest rates have moved northward since May 2022 after the central bank started raising the benchmark lending rate (repo) in a bid to check inflation following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war.

As a result of 250 basis points increase in the repo rate, a large number of borrowers faced negative amortisation, wherein the Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) works out to be less than the interest obligation, resulting in persistent increase of the principal amount.

RBI said that at the time of sanction of EMI-based floating rate personal loans, banks and NBFCs should take into account the repayment capacity of borrowers to ensure that adequate headroom is available for elongation of tenor and/or increase in EMI, if interest rate rises.

Home, auto and other personal loans are linked to external benchmark rates, like repo rate.



RBI said several consumer grievances have been received in relation to elongation of loan tenor or increase in EMI amount with regard to EMI-based floating rate personal loans, without proper communication or consent of the borrowers.

"At the time of reset of interest rates, REs shall provide the option to the borrowers to switch over to a fixed rate as per their Board-approved policy. The policy...may also specify the number of times a borrower will be allowed to switch during the tenor of the loan," RBI said in a circular to banks and NBFCs, including housing finance companies.

It further said at the time of sanction, regulated entities (REs) should clearly communicate to the borrowers about the possible impact of change in benchmark interest rate on the loan leading to changes in

EMI and/or tenor or both. "Subsequently, any increase in the EMI/ tenor or both on account of the above shall be communicated to the borrower immediately through appropriate channels," RBI said.

Banks and NBFCs have been asked to ensure compliance of the instructions for the existing as well as new loans by December 31, 2023.

Also, the borrowers should be given a choice to opt for enhancement in EMI or elongation of tenor or for a combination of both options; and to prepay, either in part or in full, at any point during the tenor of the loan. Levy of foreclosure charges/ pre-payment penalty should be subject to extant instructions.

"REs shall ensure that the elongation of tenor in case of floating rate loan does not result in negative amortisation," the circular said.

RBI Bars Banks From Levying Penal Interest, Says 'Reasonable' Penal Charges Can Be Imposed

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Concerned over the practice of banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) using penal interest as a revenue enhancement tool, the Reserve Bank on Friday came out with modified norms, under which lenders would be able to levy only "reasonable" penal charges in case of default in repayment of loans.

The banks and other lending institutions will not be allowed to levy penal interest with effect from January 1, 2024, the RBI said in its notification on 'Fair Lending Practice-Penal Charges in Loan Accounts'.

"Penalty, if charged, for non-compliance of material terms and conditions of loan

contract by the borrower shall be treated as 'penal charges' and shall not be levied in the form of 'penal interest' that is added to the rate of interest charged on the advances," RBI said in a notification.

It further said the quantum of penal charges "shall be reasonable and commensurate with the noncompliance" of material terms and conditions of loan contract without being discriminatory within a particular loan/product category.

Also, there shall be no capitalisation of penal charges -- no further interest computed on such charges.

However, the instructions will not apply to credit cards, external commercial borrowings, trade credits and structured obligations which are covered under product-spe-

cific directions, the RBI said. The RBI said that many entities regulated by it use penal rates of interest, over and above the applicable interest rates, in case of defaults/non-compliance by the borrower.

"The intent of levying penal interest/charges is essentially to inculcate a sense of credit discipline and such charges are not meant to be used as a revenue enhancement tool over and above the contracted rate of interest," the Central bank said.

However, supervisory reviews have indicated divergent practices amongst the entities regulated by it with regard to levy of penal interest/charges leading to customer grievances and disputes, it said, while issuing the modified norms.

NCCF, NAFED To Sell Tomatoes At Rs 40 Per Kg From Sunday

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Cooperatives NCCF and NAFED will start selling tomatoes at a reduced rate of Rs 40 per kilogram from August 20 amid declining price of the kitchen staple in wholesale and retail markets.

Since last month, the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) have been selling tomatoes at a discounted rate on behalf of the Consumer Affairs Ministry to contain the price rise.

Initially, the subsidised rate was fixed at Rs 90 per kilogram which had been successively reduced in line with the decline in prices in order to ensure benefits to the consumers.

"The last downward revision of the retail price to Rs 50/- per kg was on August 15, which now stands further reduced to Rs 40



per kg w.e.f. August 20," an official statement said on Friday.

Till date, over 15 lakh kilogram of tomatoes have been procured by the two agencies and are being sold to retail consumers in major consumption centres in the country, it said.

These locations include Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan (Jaipur, Kota), Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj) and Bihar (Patna, Muzaffarpur, Arrah, Buxar).

NCCF and NAFED are procuring tomatoes from mandis in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Moody's Affirms India's Sovereign Rating, Flags Risks Of Populist Policies Due To Rising Political Tensions

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Moody's Investors Service on Friday affirmed India's rating at the lowest investment grade of 'Baa3', with a stable outlook, saying high growth will support a gradual increase in income levels, but flagged risks of populist policies due to rise in political tensions.

Moody's said although India's potential growth has come down in the past 7-10

years, the growth would outpace all other G20 economies through at least the next two years, driven by domestic demand.

Moody's said the restoration of robust growth prospects post-pandemic, the effective commitment to inflation targeting and the rehabilitation of the financial system aided by reform supports its view of strengthening monetary and macro policy effectiveness.

FROM THE OFFICE OF
M/S ISHFAQ FAYAZ & ASSOCIATES

In the case of:-
Rafeeqa Begum
W/o Ammanullah Khan
R/o Mirpora, Qalamabad
Tehsil Handwara Distt Kupwara, Kashmir

(Caveator)

V/s
Public at Large

(Non-Caveators)

IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of Civil Procedure Code for providing right of Prior opportunity of being heard to the Caveator before passing any orders, if the non-Caveator choose to file any suit/application or any other legal proceedings in the court of law against the Caveator. That the Caveator has reason to believe that the Non-Caveator may likely approach the Hon'ble court with unclean hands and may choose to file any suit, application or any other legal proceedings against the caveator and may secure interim orders by misrepresenting the facts which will be injurious to the rights of the caveator.

M/S ISHFAQ WANI & ASSOCIATES
(Advocate's J&K High Court Srinagar.)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION (KPDCL) GANDEBAL

Phone/Fax no: 0194-2416236 E-mail: edgbl123@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT no: 74of2023-24 dated 17/08/2023

For and on Behalf of Managing Director KPDC Kashmir, Tenders are hereby invited from resourceful/reputed Class A Electrical Contractors Registered with competent Authority / PDD/PDC /MES for following work for the following job:-

Name of the work	Est. cost (In Lacs)	CDR Amount (In Rupees)	Cost of tender document (Treasury Challan)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Supply, installation, Testing and commissioning for Renovation / Modernization of Sub Station of Different Capacities with the Jurisdiction of this Division under Capex Budget UT Component for the Year 2023-24.	27.0	2% of Advertised Cost	Rs 1000/-	Within 60Days from the date of issuance of LOA	Authorized (50% Released)

The tender document consisting of terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities and other details can be seen/downloaded from official web site of JKPDCL or <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per following schedule:

S#	Description	Date	Time
1.	Publish/uploading of e NIT Date	17-08-23	18.00 hrs
2.	Documents Download/Sale start date	17-08-23	18.00 hrs
3.	Clarification Date Start	17-08-23	18.00 hrs
4.	Clarifications Date End	28-08-23	14.00 hrs
5.	Bid submission Start date	18-08-23	09.00 hrs
6.	Bid submission end date	28-08-23	14.00 hrs
7.	Opening date for E-tender	29-08-23	14.00 hrs
8.	Venue of opening e bids	Office of the Executive Engineer ED Ganderbal	

No: EDG/V/1578-84/TS DPK-NB-2679-23 Executive Engineer
Date: 17-08-2023 DT: 18/08/2023 ED Ganderbal

Regd. No. 4998-II-SGR Cell: 9906464315
President (Khurshheed Ahmad)

SRINAGAR VAN ASSOCIATION

SHEIKH BAGH, SRINAGAR

Ref. No..100 Dated.18/8/2023

TO THE PARENTS & CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS

Wo, the van owners of Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson school, would like to you that our "Srinagar van association" has recently undergone a transformation. Previously, we operated as a single union, but we have split into two distinct sections.

THE DETAIL OF OUR UNION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT : MR KHURSHIED AHMAD (PHONE NO; 9906464315)

VICE-PRESIDENT: MR ABDUL RASHID

TREASURER.. MR FEROOZ AHMAD MIR (PHONE NO... 9906122337)

We would like to assure you that our primary focus remains the safety well-being of the children we transport. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that they are dropped off and pickup from school on time, and that their journey with us is comfortable and enjoyable. Thank you for your continue support and trust in our service.

Sincerely, The van owners of
Tyndale Biscoe Srinagar & Mallinson school
Sheikh Bagh Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BANDIPORA.

CORRIGENDUM

Subject:- 1. Up-gradation of Road at Mulkhama near Shop of Ghulham Rubani Mir
Ref:- e- NIT No:- 43 of 2023-24 Dated:-10-08-2023

Due to poor response, the bid submission end date of above subjected work advertised vide this office e-NIT No. referred above is here by extended upto 22-08-2023 at 4:00 PM and the same will be opened on 23-08-2023 at 10:30 AM. All other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/=

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Bandipora.

No.:EE/R&B/Bandi/2821-18 Dated: 17-08-2023.

DPK-7319-23
DT: 18/08/2023

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE

MAINTT. DIVISION-VIII, SRINAGAR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION J & K SRINAGAR.

Tele Fax 0194-2491342 E-mail: tlmd8jktcl@gmail.com

(e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/ 10 of 2023 Dated: 25-07-2023.) Dated: 17 : 08 : 2023

No-TLMD-VIII /TS/2000-2004

In view of requests received from various Bidders telephonically and to ensure healthy response the Critical Dates in respect of e-NIT No. TLMD-VIII/TS/ 10 of 2023 Dated: 25-07-2023 issued by this Division under endorsement No. TLMD-VIII/TS/1596-1600 Dated: 25: 07 : 2023 for Construction of Protection Walling for Tower Location No. 40 at Village Damidole and Location No. LP-20 & LP-21 of 220KV D/C Mir Bazar - Lassipora Transmission Line at Lassipora in District Shopian in Kashmir Valley." are extended as under.

S.#	Description	Date/Time Extension
1.	Last Date for Submission of Hard Copies of e-Bid	28-08-2023 (2.30PM)
2.	Online e-Bid Submission End Date (Submission of e-Tender, Tender Fee, EMD & Other qualification / Supporting Documents in PDF Form.	29-08-2023 (3.00PM)
3.	Online Techno Commercial e-Bid Opening Date	30-08-2023 (4.00PM)

All other Terms & Conditions as detailed in the e-NIT/SBD shall remain unchanged.

Sd./-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-VIII/Srinagar.

DPK-NB-2675-23 DT: 18/08/2023

Northern Railway Observes Sadbhavana Diwas-2023



Observer News Service

New Delhi: To promote national integration and communal harmony and spread the message of goodwill towards everyone and eschewing violence, Sadbhavana Diwas is celebrated across the country every year on 20th August.

As part of the event, Northern Railway observed the Sadbhavana Diwas-2023 at Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi on Friday.

Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway

administered the pledge in a simple ceremony held at Baroda House. Senior Railway Officials and staff were also present on the occasion to take Sadbhavana Oath.

Speaking on the occasion Chaudhuri said that emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of caste, region, religion or language and to resolve all differences through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence is very important for the progress of the nation.

BATLA HOUSE ENCOUNTER

Delhi HC reserves verdict on confirmation of death penalty to Ariz Khan

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday reserved its verdict on confirmation of death penalty awarded to Ariz Khan following his conviction in the sensational 2008 Batla House encounter case in which decorated Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma lost his life.

"Arguments have been heard. Judgement reserved," said a bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Amit Sharma after the lawyers for the convict and the State concluded their submissions.

Advocate M S Khan argued that there was nothing to suggest that Ariz Khan can't be reformed.

"If there is a probability, not possibility, that the convict can be reformed, life sentence is the rule. There is a probability of transformation and reformation," he submitted.

Special Public Prosecutor Rajesh Mahajan, representing the government of NCT of Delhi, said killing a uniformed police officer was a "rarest of rare" case which justified the death sentence.

He also placed before the court Ariz Khan's social investigation report and psychological analysis report, and submitted he has "adequate intellectual and cognitive functioning" and his conduct in jail was "unsatisfactory".

Inspector Sharma of the



Delhi police's special cell was killed during the encounter between the police and terrorists in Jamia Nagar in south Delhi on September 19, 2008.

Two terrorists were also killed in the encounter which took place days after five synchronised bomb explosions rocked the national capital, killing 39 people and wounding 159. Sharma had raided the place while looking for the terrorists responsible for the blasts.

The trial court had on March 8, 2021, convicted Ariz Khan, saying it was duly proved that he and his associates murdered the police official and fired gunshots at him.

On March 15, 2021, it had

awarded Khan the capital punishment and also imposed a fine of Rs 11 lakh on him, making it clear that Rs 10 lakh should be immediately released to the family members of Sharma.

Subsequently, the high court received a reference for confirmation of the death sentence awarded by the trial court to Khan.

When a trial court sentences a person to death, its judgement is examined by the high court where arguments are heard for confirmation of the death sentence.

The case documents and trial court judgement reach as death reference to the high court from the trial court.

Ariz Khan, represented by advocate Quasar Khan, also filed an appeal against the trial court verdict which said the offence fell under the "rarest of rare category" warranting the maximum sentence and he be "hanged by neck" till death.

Besides awarding the death penalty to Ariz Khan, the trial court had also sentenced Indian Mujahideen terrorist Shahzad Ahmed to life imprisonment in the case.

Both convicts had challenged their conviction and sentence in the case.

Shahzad, however, died in jail during the pendency of the appeals and the proceedings against him were abated.

In its judgement, the trial court had termed the act of Ariz Khan of firing on a police team without any provocation as "abhorrent and brutal" and said this itself showed that he was not only a threat to society but also an enemy of the State.

The trial court, which had said the convict on account of his despicable act has forfeited his right to live, held that the offence proved against Ariz Khan was not an ordinary act but a crime against the State, and while committing the offence, he acted like a "dreaded and well-trained terrorist" who does not deserve any leniency.

Ariz Khan had fled from the spot of the offence and was declared a proclaimed offender. He was arrested on February 14, 2018, and faced trial.

The trial court had said it has been proved on record that Ariz Khan, after the shootout, managed to escape and run away from the spot and eluded investigating agencies for almost 10 years despite a coercive process against him.

"Involvement of convict in various blast cases not only in Delhi but also in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and UP, in which hundreds of innocent people were killed and injured, further demonstrates that the convict continues to be a threat to the society and the nation," it had added.

HC directs magazine to remove 'defamatory' article on Christian school principal from website

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has directed 'Organiser' magazine to remove from its website an "offending" and prima facie "defamatory" article with allegations of sexual intimacy and exploitation of nuns and Hindu women associated with a church by the principal of a Christian minority school here.

Observing that the right to reputation has been recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, the court said prima facie there was merit in the contention of the plaintiff, the school principal, that the article has been published in a "reckless manner" without any factual verification.

It said the right to freedom of speech and expression cannot be taken as an unfettered right to defame and tarnish the reputation of another person.

"I am of the prima facie view that the contents of the article are defamatory. There is prima facie merit in the contention of the plaintiff that the article has been published in a reckless manner without any factual verification and is tarnishing the image and reputation of the plaintiff, who is a respectable citizen of this country and associated with several educational

institutions," Justice Jyoti Singh said in an ex-parte interim order.

"It needs no gainsaying that it takes years to build a reputation and therefore, the right to reputation has been recognised as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution," Justice Singh said.

The court directed Bharat Prakashan (Delhi) Ltd and the magazine 'Organiser Weekly - Voice of the Nation' to remove the offending article from their website and issued summons to them in the main suit, asking them to file their written statements within 30 days.

The court, in its August 16 order, said Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution provides the right of freedom of speech and expression to all people, however, it cannot be overlooked that the same is subject to restrictions under Article 19(2) which includes defamation.

It has been repeatedly held by courts that the fundamental right to freedom of speech has to be counterbalanced with the right to reputation of an individual, the court said.

The high court's interim order came on a plea by the principal of a reputed unaided recognised minority school.

The plea said to malign the



image of the plaintiff, the defendants posted/published objectionable and obscene articles comprising allegations related to sexual intimacy and exploitation of nuns and Hindu women associated with the church on their website on June 9/June 10, titled Indian Catholic Church Sex

Scandal: Priest exploiting nuns and Hindu women exposed'.

The article claimed that the plaintiff is engaged in sexual activities with staff members, chefs and students and he has also been accused of financial wrongdoings.

However, the plaintiff

submitted that he has never been involved in any sexual activity as alleged or financial wrongdoing with any staff member, chef, student or nuns in any manner and the article has been published only to harm his reputation and of the missionaries.

He claimed that the article has been published to prejudice his elevation to a hierarchical position, on which he is expected to be appointed soon and that the piece has been published without verification of the allegations and is leading to tarnishing the plaintiff's image, reputation

and goodwill which he has garnered with hard work over the years. The court said the names of the institutions with which the plaintiff is concerned are being deliberately omitted in the order for the sake of anonymity and the reputation of those institutions.

It said the plaintiff has made out a prima facie case that the article is damaging and tarnishing his image in the society and as long as the article continues to remain in the public domain, it is likely to continue causing damage to his reputation.

"Balance of convenience also lies in favour of the plaintiff and against the defendants. Irreparable harm and injury shall be caused to the reputation of the plaintiff if the defamatory article continues on the social media platforms of the defendants," the high court said.

It further said, "In view of the aforesaid, an ex parte ad-interim injunction is passed against the defendants, directing the defendants, their partners, directors, servants, agents and/or any other person acting on their behalf to remove the offending article available at the website of defendant no. 1 (Bharat Prakashan (Delhi) Ltd)..."

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Golden Era

"I think it will provide employment opportunities to the local youth and will increase the economy," Sinha added.

"Pashmina", which will air on SAB TV, is directed by Siddharth Malhotra.

After Lithium

employment opportunities and to improve connectivity in the rural areas," Sinha said, while addressing representatives of PRIs and the citizens at Gulabgarh Paddar here.

He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government of India for extending the support for survey, gemological studies of Sapphire mines.

"In next one year, we will be in a position to auction the Sapphire mines in a scientific way that will give a boost to the local economy and it will also become one of the major contributors of growth of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

During his visit, the LG shared efforts of his Administration for holistic development of Kishtwar and also took appraisal of the facilities extended to the pilgrims.

The UT administration, Sinha said, is committed to equitable development, meeting the needs of the communities and ensuring that no section of society is left behind.

"Revival of Cinema theatre after the gap of three decades, better road and communication connectivity, augmented power infrastructure, better health, sports and education facilities are the testimony to our commitment towards transforming the standard of living of the people of the district," he said.

Speaking on the measures taken to strengthen the infrastructure and facilities for Holy Machail Mata pilgrimage, the LG reiterated the resolve of his administration to ensure smooth and seamless pilgrimage for the devotees.

"Construction of road, solar power and tented accommodation for pilgrims has spurred the influx and this year's figure has already crossed more than one lakh pilgrims," he said.

Addressing the issues put forth by PRIs and

the locals, the LG assured time-bound and appropriate action on all public demands projected during the interaction.

He also directed the Principal Secretaries Higher Education and Public Works (R&B) to take concrete measures, in consultation with all stakeholders, to address the concerning issue of their respective departments at the earliest.

Seeking active participation of PRIs and the people in implementation of all the initiatives of the UT Administration to push forward the development of Kishtwar, the LG called upon the youth of the district to avail the benefits and incentives under homestay schemes of the government.

Sinha also visited the Buddhist Gumpa at Paddar, where he sought blessings of the Lord Buddha and interacted with the members of the Buddhist community.

"Buddhist community is an integral and equal part of our society. They have all the rights to the resources. Administration will provide all possible assistance for the all round growth and empowerment of the families," he said.

Earlier, the LG paid obeisance at holy Shri Chandni Mata Machail shrine. He was accompanied by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary Higher Education Department; Mukesh Singh, ADGP Jammu, Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Sunil Sharma, former Minister.

3 Killed, 11 Injured

not be confirmed. Police said they have registered a case and the blast is being probed.

Kashmir To Have

"Our breadth of initiatives across education, including global assessments, English language competency assessments from K-12 to College, skill development and assessment services, is a testimony to our commitment to invest in India and accelerate its journey to becoming a global knowledge powerhouse," he said.

Previously, students from the valley had to

travel to the neighbouring state of Punjab to take TOEFL and GRE assessments.

The new testing centre not only eliminates the need for travel, but also signifies ETS's commitment to empowering students and the local study abroad ecosystem in Kashmir, the company said.

The centre is equipped with "state-of-the-art" facilities and adheres to stringent test security protocols to ensure a seamless testing experience to both TOEFL and GRE test takers.

The ETS India plans to further invest in partnering with agents and educational institutions in the Kashmir region, to support local students in their study abroad journeys, the company said.

RTI Applicant

R & B department didn't receive the calls of the reporter.

High Court

The court also allowed separate petitions and quashed detention orders against Manzoor Ahmad Ganie of Khargund Chowgam, Kulgam, Faizan Aijaz Mir of Srinagar and Aqib Bashir Wagay of Amshipora District Shopian.

The Court directed the authorities to release the detainees from preventive custody forthwith, if they were not required in other cases.

While Ganie was booked in terms of an order issued by District Magistrate, Kulgam on June 25 last year, Mir was detained by virtue of an order dated 28.02.2022 passed by District Magistrate Srinagar. Wagay was booked on April 7 last year in terms of an order issued by District Magistrate, Shopian while Mukhtiyar Bhat was booked on the basis of an order dated 29.06.2022, issued by District Magistrate, Anantnag.

Rahul Gandhi

his stay and will interact with the youth. The source further said that he will also watch a football match in Leh. Rahul has been a footballer player during his college days. He will also participate in the meeting of the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development

Council (LAHDC)-Kargil elections on August 25. Arms Cache

During the search operations, he said, huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered at around 1100 hours on Friday.

The spokesperson said that the recovered arms include five AK series rifles, eight AK magazines, seven 9mm pistols, fifteen 9mm pistol magazines, four hand grenades, 7.62 mm AK rounds, 7.62 mm AP rounds and 9 mm rounds and other incriminating material.

"The search operation is still in progress. Extensive search of the area is being carried out. The recovery of such large cache of arms and ammunition is a huge setback to the nefarious designs of terrorist organisations to disrupt peace and tranquility in Kashmir Valley. Security Forces in complete synergy are always combat ready and are committed to keep the Valley safe and secure," he added.

8 Terror Associates

Nagpure said arms and ammunition have been recovered and cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act & Arms Act have been registered.

Giving details, the SSP said that during patrolling and area domination at Churunda in Uri area of the north Kashmir district on August 8, security forces noticed a suspected person who was roaming in the area.

He tried to flee while noticing the patrolling party, but was apprehended tactfully, the officer said.

During his personal search, two grenades were recovered and he was taken into custody immediately, the SSP said.

He identified him as Showkat Ali Awan, a resident of Churunda Uri.

During further questioning, Awan revealed the names of his accomplices -- Ahmad Din and Mohammad Sadeeq Khatana -- both of whom are residents of Churunda, Nagpure said.

The two were questioned and on their disclosure, two grenades, a Chinese pistol, a pistol magazine and four live rounds were recovered from them, he said.

Similarly, on Aug 11, during a naka checking at Powarian Thajal Uri, security forces signalled a vehicle to stop. As the vehicle stopped, its driver and four other persons inside it told the naka party that they were going to a hospital due to certain medical emergencies, he said.

However, the naka party felt suspicious about them and started a search of the vehicle. During the search, four hand grenades, two pistols, two pistol magazines, 10 live bullet and Rs 50,000 in cash were recovered, Nagpure said.

He said all the five were taken into custody. They have been identified as Akhter Bhat of Tarzoo Sopore, Mohammad Aslam Khatana of Churunda Uri, Muneer Ahmad of Jabla Uri, Mudasar Yousuf Gokno of Krankshivan, and Bilal Ahmad Dar of Hardushiva.

The accused are involved in cross-border smuggling of arms and ammunition at the behest of Pakistan-based terror handlers and its further distribution to LeT terrorists for carrying out terror activities, the SSP said.

NIA Raids Multiple

He said the raids are a part of the NIA's probe into a terror-related case. (KNO)

Jeweler Arrested

activity for an extended period, a police spokesperson said.

Acting swiftly, he said, the accused jeweler involved in the commission of crime was arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, he said, a case FIR No. 210/2023 was registered at Police Station Pulwama, and a thorough investigation has been initiated.

"The arrest follows a meticulous investigation into allegations of counterfeit gold ornaments being sold to innocent customers, shedding light on a series of complaints against the accused," the spokesperson said.

"This apprehension serves as a stern warning to those involved in fraudulent practices, as J&K Police remains vigilant in ensuring the safety and well-being of the community," he added.

BUMRAH LEADS INDIA To 2 Run Win Over IRELAND

Press Trust of India

DUBLIN: Pace sensation Jasprit Bumrah ticked all the boxes on his much-anticipated return to lead India to a two-run win over Ireland by DLS Method in a rain-interrupted first T20I of the three-match series, here on Friday.

Leading the side on his return after an 11-month injury layoff, Bumrah claimed 2 for 24 with nine dot balls and formed a formidable pair with T20I debutant Prasidh Krishna (2/32) to restrict Ireland to 139 for 7 after opting to bowl.

Things looked bleak for the hosts after they were down 59 for 6 in the 11th over but their No 8 Barry McCarthy produced an amazing recovery, blazing his way to a 33-ball 51 not out (4x4, 4x6) to lift their total to a respectable 139 for 7.

He stitched a seventh wicket 57-run partnership with Curtis Campher (39) as Ireland reeled off 54 runs in the last five overs, losing just one wicket.

McCarthy was the stand out batter for the hosts as he reached his maiden half-century with a last-ball six off Arshdeep Singh who leaked 22 runs in the last over with McCarthy going hammers and tongs with two sixes and a four.

Chasing the tricky target under overcast conditions, India were off to a fluent start with Yas- hasvi Jaiswal (24; 23b) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (19

not out) put- 46 runs in 6.2 overs.

But Craig Young produced a double blow, taking the left-handed duo of Jaiswal and Tilak Varma who was out for a golden duck. India vice-captain Gaikwad, however, showed maturity and watched through the tricky phased, well aware that they were ahead of the DLS par score.

There was no stopping rain as umpires decided to call off the game at 6.15pm local time with India taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. The victory also saw India return to winning ways after they went down 2-3 in the T20I series in the West Indies.

The second T20I is slated here on Sunday.

All eyes on Bumrah, the Indian pace sensation did not disappoint.

He bowled with rhythm, accuracy and a lot of venom. His rhythm was a lot better, he ran fast in his run-up to generate momentum and slowly ramped up the speed gun and went on to clock 140kph in the penultimate over when he conceded just one run.



Pakistan Players Reluctant To Sign Central Contracts

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistani players are reluctant to sign a long-term central contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after differences over sale of licensed digital rights of players between the two parties.

Through the last set of central contracts of the players expired on June 30, the PCB has so far not been able to convince them to sign the new contracts.

The Pakistan squad has already reached Sri Lanka for their One-Day series against Afghanistan and for the subsequent Asia Cup. A reliable source close to the players said the dispute centered around the demand of the players for a bigger share and say in the

sale of their digital rights, handled by the board.

"The players' point of view is that other cricket boards either are not involved in the sale of players' digital rights / NFTs (Non-Fungible Tokens) or have a proper agreement with them on the sharing of revenues from this avenue," the source said.

He said with companies like Rario headed by two Singapore-based Indians or Dream Sports paying good money for the sale of sports NFTs of players, including image, clips and sound bites, the players wanted the board to give them either independent rights to negotiate or a bigger share from the earnings.

The PCB apparently gets

revenues from the ICC and Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for giving the digital/online rights of players images, clips and sound bites for the events held under the aegis of these bodies.

The PCB is said to be also earning from the sale of digital rights of the players from the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

The source said the PCB had proposed a three-year central contract for the players who were reluctant to accept this term.

At present, a senior PCB official is in Sri Lanka holding negotiations with senior players and trying to convince them to sign their contracts which the board has designed.

Inter-Zonal TT Competition Concludes At Baramulla



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Baramulla on Friday concluded its Inter-School Inter-Zonal District Level Table Tennis competition for boys and girls under the age categories of 14, 17, and 19.

The grand finale took place today at the Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, showcasing the remarkable talent and sportsmanship of young athletes from various educational institutions.

In a riveting clash, the Girls' Under 19 category final was won by Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Uri.

Meanwhile, the Boys' Un-

der 19 category final saw BHSS Bijhama emerge as winners.

In the Under 17 Boys' category final, Zone Chandanwari emerged victorious.

In the Girls' Under 17 category, Zone Chandanwari emerged victorious.

The youngest talents, competing in the Under 14 category, also showcased their table tennis skills. The final match of the Boys and Girls category was won by Zone Chandanwari.

DYSSO Baramulla Jatinder Singh extended his heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and participants for their outstanding efforts and determination.

Khimber Volleyball Tourney Ends

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Spartans Sports Club Kashipora Tailbal beat Shanpora Spikers 3-0 in the finals of the Khimber Volleyball Tournament played at Khimber on Friday.

Around eight teams both senior and junior of different areas of Phaaq area participated in the tournament.

The month-long Volleyball tournament under the banner of Volleyball Association of J&K and was sponsored by Abdul Rashid Bhat (Rashid Mama), Labar Traders, Reshi Hardware, Sheikh Sales, Bislari, Acute Balance Juices.



Peer Bilal Socio-Political Activist distributed prizes among the Players. Dr G M Rather, Rashid Mama, Mohammad Ilyas Rather, Mohammad Yaqub

Dar, Bashir Sir, Ab Rashid Dar, M Ashraf Mir, Manzoor Ah Bhat and others were guest of honour. The tournament was organized by KHIMBER Sports Club.

GDC Qazigund To Hold Inter-College Volleyball Tournament In September

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund on Friday announced its plan to hold an Inter-College Kabaddi Tournament from September 13.

This highly anticipated event, with international level infrastructure, aims to bring together talented students from various

colleges, registered private clubs across the region, showcasing their skills and fostering a spirit of healthy competition.

The organizing committee has worked tirelessly to ensure that this tournament adheres to the highest standards of fairness and professionalism. Qualified referees and umpires shall be appointed to ensure impartiality

and maintain the integrity of the game.

Meanwhile, the college has sought sponsorship from public as well as private enterprises, as their contributions shall give this tournament a different look.

The matches will be held at GDC Qazigund where state-of-the-art facilities and a vibrant atmosphere are available.

District Level Sports Events Begin In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services & Sports on Friday started its Under-19 sports journey in Chess, Carom and Table Tennis for boys with huge participation at Anantnag District.

At the inaugural ceremony, DYSS Officer congratulated the students and encour-

aged them for taking part in these indoor sports events with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

At Zonal Level, Doru organized Chess and Carom events that saw 138 students participate. Zone Anantnag continued its Football and Tug of War for Boys under the Age Group of 14 and 17 with 185 players competing.

Zone Shangus also went with Chess, Carom and Volleyball tournaments with 38 students participating. At another event, Zone Bihbehra organized Football for



Boys under the Age group of 14 and 17 with 120 students participating. Zone Srigufwara also conducted Chess and Carom tournament with 150 players competing.



Wiegman Hoping To End 60 Years Of WC Hurt For England

Agencies

SYDNEY: "In Sarina we trust" has become a mantra back in England among fans and pundits, and coach Sarina Wiegman hopes to repay the faith by guiding the Lionesses to victory against Spain in their first ever Women's World Cup final on Sunday.

Wiegman has transformed England since taking over in 2021 and led them to European Championship success on home soil last year. They are now on the brink of a first world title after beating co-hosts Australia 3-1 in the semi-final.

The 53-year-old Dutch coach said England were "desperate" to end their long wait for glory before last year's Euro success, which was the country's first major triumph since the 1966 men's World Cup final. "I don't hear the noise that much but I know it's there. When we started working in September 2021, I felt that the country was so desperate to win a final tournament," Wiegman said.

"Everyone was saying it, the



players too. And I thought, 'Oh, it's very real'... I heard again about 1966, and we'll talk about 1966. So let's be at our best on Sunday and try to be successful."

Wiegman led the Netherlands to their first major title at Euro 2017 and then to the World Cup final two years later. She became the first coach to take two different teams to a World Cup final after England beat Australia on Wednesday.

"In top sports, everyone wants to make a final but there's not many that do. When you make four, that's very special," Wiegman said.

"But then I switch to what we have to do, because when you go to a final, you want to win it."

"I'm so proud of the team. It has been really impressive how the team has responded to every challenge we got and that shows so much resilience, but also eagerness and conviction. On Sunday, we expect challenges again."

"We are in a very, very good place. We've grown into this tournament and the players feel very comfortable, they feel confident. We're really ready to go."

Mbappe & Dembele Ready To Start For PSG, Says Luis Enrique

Agencies

PARIS: Paris St Germain forwards Kylian Mbappe and Ousmane Dembele are both available and will be ready to start their Ligue 1 clash with Toulouse, manager Luis Enrique said on Friday. Mbappe was reinstated into PSG's first team last week, a day after being omitted for their Ligue 1 season opener against Lorient and reportedly being frozen out of the main squad for weeks amid an ongoing contract stand-off.

The league's top scorer in the last five seasons watched the 0-0 draw with Lorient from the stands alongside new signing and fellow World Cup winner Dembele, who had completed his transfer from Barcelona for 50.4 million euros (\$55 million). "Kylian is in great shape, he has a lot of desire, a very good state of mind. I am very happy to have a world-class player like Kylian," Luis Enrique told reporters ahead of Saturday's game.

Luis Enrique added that Dembele would be ready to play "from the first minute" but also admitted



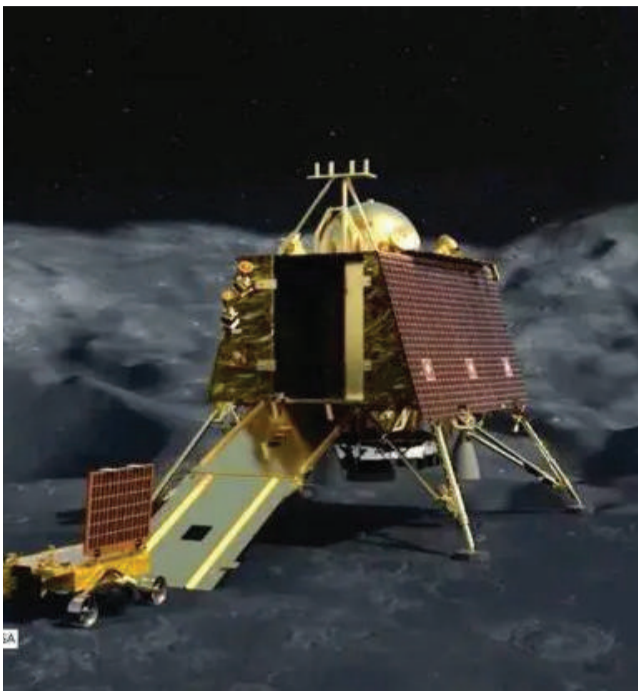
the club need to strengthen their attack. The club lost Lionel Messi on a free transfer to Inter Miami, while world record signing Neymar Jr joined Saudi club Al-Hilal for about 90 million euros.

"We still need to strengthen it because it is the line where we had the fewest recruits, but we still have work to do on how they complement each other. On Neymar's departure, he said: 'I think it was a favourable decision for everyone. I would like to thank him for the behaviour he has shown since I arrived.' He is a world-class player and

I wish him well for the future." Luis Enrique also said he had not chosen the team's captain yet, leaving that decision to his squad. "It's very simple, I don't choose the captain, the players choose. They met this week," he said.

"There are four captains, it's something that is defined by the players, not by the coach, I want him (whoever the players choose) to be their captain, not my captain." French media reported that defender Marquinhos is set to keep the armband having captained the side in the last three seasons.

Chandrayaan-3: Lander Module Health Normal, Gets Closer To Moon



Agenceis

Bengaluru: ISRO on Friday said that Chandrayaan-3's Lander Module has successfully undergone a deboosting (slowing down) operation taking it closer to the Moon, and that its health is normal.

The Lander Module comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan), will undergo the second deboosting operation on August 20, to be lowered to an orbit that takes it much closer to the Moon's surface.

The soft landing on the Lunar

south pole is scheduled for August 23.

"The Lander Module (LM) health is normal. LM successfully underwent a deboosting operation that reduced its orbit to 113 km x 157 km. The second deboosting operation is scheduled for August 20, 2023, around 0200 Hrs. IST," ISRO said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

The Lander Module of Chandrayaan-3 had successfully separated from the Propulsion Module on Thursday, 35 days after the satellite was launched on July 14.

Explained: How Climate Change Is Driving Wildfires, Heatwaves In Europe?

Brussels: Europe is once again battling scorching temperatures this summer, with wildfires blazing across the continent from the Mediterranean to Spain. Here's how climate change drives these events.

HOTTER, MORE FREQUENT HEATWAVES

Climate change makes heatwaves hotter and more frequent. This is the case for most land regions, and has been confirmed by the United Nations' global panel of climate scientists, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Greenhouse gas emissions from human activities have heated the planet by about 1.2 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times. That warmer baseline means higher temperatures can be reached during extreme heat events.

Every heatwave being experienced today has been hotter and more frequent due to climate change, said Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London who co-leads the World Weather Attribution global research collaboration.

But other conditions affect heatwaves too. In Europe, atmospheric circulation is an important factor.

FINGERPRINTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

To find out exactly how much climate change affected a specific heatwave, scientists conduct "attribution studies". Since 2004, more than 400 such studies have been done for extreme weather events, including heat, floods and drought

- calculating how much of a role climate change played in each.

This involves simulating the modern climate hundreds of times and comparing it to simulations of a climate without human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, scientists with World Weather Attribution determined that a record-breaking heatwave in western Europe in June 2019 was 100 times more likely to occur now in France and the Netherlands than if humans had not changed the climate.

HEATWAVES WILL STILL GET WORSE

The global average temperature is around 1.2 C warmer than in pre-industrial times. That is already driving extreme heat events.

On average on land, heat extremes that would have happened once every 10 years without human influence on the climate are now three times more frequent, according to ETH Zurich climate scientist Sonia Seneviratne.

Temperatures will only stop rising if humans stop adding greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Until then, heatwaves are set to worsen. A failure to tackle climate change would see heat extremes escalate even more dangerously.

Countries agreed under the global 2015 Paris Agreement to cut emissions fast enough to limit global warming to 2 C and aim for 1.5 C, to avoid its most dangerous impacts. Current policies would not cut emissions fast enough to meet either goal.

A heatwave that occurred once per decade in the pre-industrial era would happen 4.1 times a decade at 1.5 C of warming, and 5.6 times at 2 C, the IPCC says.

Letting warming pass 1.5 C means that most years "will be affected by hot extremes in the future," Seneviratne said.

CLIMATE CHANGE DRIVES WILDFIRES

Climate change increases hot and dry conditions that help fires spread faster, burn longer and rage more intensely.

In the Mediterranean, that has contributed to the fire season starting earlier and burning more land. Fires burning since mid-July on the island of Rhodes forced the evacuation of some 20,000 people as an inferno reached resorts and coastal villages on the island's southeast.

Hotter weather also saps moisture from vegetation, turning it into dry fuel that helps fires spread.

Hotter, drier conditions make fires far more dangerous, according to Copernicus senior scientist Mark Parrington.

Without human-induced climate change, the extreme weather experienced across the world this summer would have been extremely rare, according to a study by World Weather Attribution. The study found that human-induced climate change played an absolutely overwhelming role in the extreme heatwaves that swept across North America, Europe and China in July.

As UK Births Hit 20-Year Low, Indian-Born Parents Take Record Share



Agenceis

The number of babies born in England and Wales fell to its lowest level in two decades last year, while a record proportion came from parents who were both born abroad, highlighting a long-term shift in the nation's demographic makeup.

Of all live births, 23.1% were to non-UK-born parents - a proportion that has shot up from 16.7% in 2008, and is up from 21.5% a year ago, according to census data released Thursday by the Office for National Statistics.

The figures also showed the share of babies born to British parents has slipped, from 62% to 60.3%, and the overall number of births sank to 605,479. That's the lowest since 2002, and points toward slower population growth that could be a drag on both the economy and labor market in the decades ahead.

The "increase in the number of non-UK born mothers is a good thing" given the UK's own falling birth rate, said Jonathan Portes, professor of economics and public policy at King's Col-

lege London. But declining numbers of overall births is the "real story here," he said, adding that it's a "serious long-term social problem for us."

The rising number of births to foreign parents could help ease fears that the UK will face a labor supply crunch as its population ages and retirees outpace the rate at which new workers come into jobs. But polling suggests migration is still an important concern for British voters.

More than half of the public favor a cut in immigration, according to a recent survey by Kantar and the Migration Observatory. That suggests rising numbers of births to migrant families could be a thorny issue for both major political parties as they face the prospect of a general election next year.

Nuni Jorgensen, a researcher at the Migration Observatory, pointed out that even while migrant parents were having more children than UK-born families, they still weren't having enough to replace the number of older people dropping out of the workforce.

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