

LAND FOR LANDLESS SCHEME

Only J&K Domiciles Eligible For Govt Land



“THE LAND SHALL BE GRANTED ON LEASE ON PAYMENT of a token amount of Rs 100/- per Marla as a one-time premium and a nominal amount of Rs 01/- per Marla per annum as ground rent, in relaxation of Jammu and Kashmir Land Grant Rules, 2022.”

Srinagar: In a significant development, the Lieutenant Governor-led administration on Thursday unveiled guidelines for allotment/ lease of land to landless beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin).

The Revenue Department said on Thursday that five marlas of state land will be allotted on lease basis to landless PMAY (G)/Awas plus beneficiaries out of Rural Development Department's permanent waiting list 2018-19.

Those eligible for allotment are people residing on state land; people residing on forest land; people residing in Rakhs and Farms; people in possession of custodial land; people residing on land already allotted by the Government near Dachigam Park for agricultural purposes, where construction is not permitted and any other category of cases who are otherwise eligible for Housing under PMAY-G, but don't have any land available for construction.

According to the guidelines, the deputy commissioner concerned shall allot 05 Marlas of state land to those who are domiciles of J&K.

"A person shall be considered landless if he is a domicile of J&K having a separate family and doesn't have land in his own name or in the name of any of his family members or is not entitled to inherit five Marlas or more land," reads the order.

It further states that the deputy commissioner concerned shall lease out five Marlas of state land to the landless PMAY (G) beneficiaries who are figuring in the permanent waiting list 2018-19, surveyed by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and are otherwise eligible for housing assistance under PMAY(G)/Awas plus.

As per scheme guidelines, the land shall be granted on lease basis in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act of 1960 and the Rules made thereunder.

"The land shall be granted on lease on payment of a token amount of Rs 100/- per Marla as a one-time premium and a nominal amount of Rs 01/- per Marla per annum as ground rent, in relaxation of Jammu and Kashmir Land Grant Rules, 2022," reads the order.

The lease shall be for a period of 40 years, extendable further for a period of another 40 years, subject to the fulfillment of all codal formalities/norms.

"However, if a person fails to build house on allotted land within a period of two years, such lease shall be cancelled forthwith," reads the order.

As per scheme guidelines, the Assistant Commissioner (Development) of the Rural Development Department of the district concerned shall verify the case(s) and place an indent before the deputy commissioner along with **More On P10**

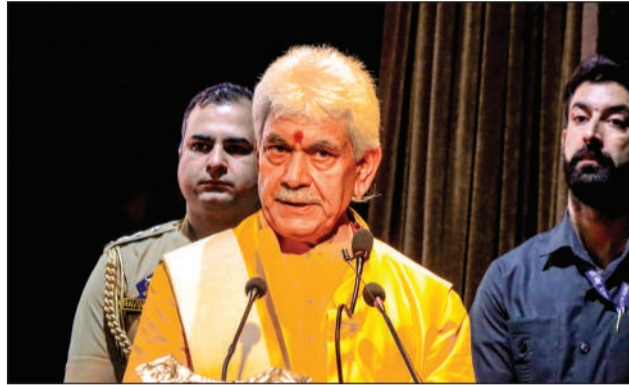
LG Dispels Rumors About His Imminent Transfer From J&K

'Will Leave Only After Finishing Exemplary, Tangible Works'

Says 'Conflict Profiteers' Filled Their Coiffers, Sent Their Children Abroad And Left Poor Kids To Die On Roads

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Setting all speculations over his imminent transfer from Jammu and Kashmir to rest, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that he will leave the Union Territory only after finishing exemplary and tangible works for the people for which he would be remembered for a long time.



"Some people say the Lieutenant Governor will too leave J&K. I wasn't born here nor am I going to stay here

permanently. I will definitely leave. However, before leaving I will finish exemplary and tangible works for **More On P10**

'J&K Has Come A Long Way In Last Four Years'

Jammu and Kashmir has come a long way in the last four years and is witnessing the beginning of a qualitative change and tremendous growth in every sector, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said here on Thursday.

Addressing a joint session of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Indian Agricultural Universities Association, at the Shalimar Campus of SKUAST-Kashmir, he said that innovations in agricultural science and technology have been continuously evolving while application and research in Agri 4.0 **More On P10**

'We've Touched Moon, Now We Should Set Big Goals'

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration is sensitive to the developmental needs of the people and is making every possible effort for inclusive and sustainable development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our efforts are focused on inclusive growth as reflected in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas to provide better quality of life to the citizens, remove disparities and **More On P10**

....Loan Recovery

Action Under SARFAESI Act Last Resort: J&K Bank MD

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Action under the SARFAESI Act is the last resort with the bank to recover loans and is undertaken only after borrowers fail to repay, Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Managing Director and CEO Baldev Prakash said here on Thursday.

Prakash, however, said the bank will follow the laid down SOPs while implementing the Act.

He also announced a revamped mobile banking app, 'M-Pay Delight Plus' for the bank customers after wide-ranging complaints about its existing app.

"Last year, we were very liberal as far as OTS (one-time settlement) scheme is concerned. Three OTS schemes



were launched last year. All these schemes were very liberal and the borrowers were reached out to take benefit of the schemes. Many took the OTS scheme, but many others have not. So, the SARFAESI action is the last resort we have," Prakash said.

He was addressing a press

conference after the 85th annual general meeting of the bank which took place in physical mode after a long time this year.

Prakash said when the bank takes any action under the SARFAESI Act, 100 per cent SOPs as per rules are followed by the team. "We are giving sufficient time to the customers to come out and deposit money. When this money is coming back, we can improve our interest rates, and for loans, we can reduce interest rates," he said.

Asked if there has been a spike in the bank's action under the Act recently, Prakash said the lender was not able to reach out to the customers due to law and order issues as well as Covid in the past few years. "Our people **More On P10**

Building Permission Violation In Jammu On HC Radar

Also Seeks Details By October 10 About Action Taken Against Officials

M Ahmad

Jammu: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has directed Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu to provide details about major and minor violations in Green Belt Park and Gandhi Nagar area in Jammu since enforcement of J&K Control of Building Operations Act, 1988.

A single bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal also asked the Commissioner to provide by October 10 details as to how many violations are liable for penal action under Section 7 of the Act of 1988, how many

residential properties have been sealed in Green Belt Park and Gandhi Nagar areas.

The Commissioner is also required to give information as to how many residential properties where commercial activities were under-



taken have been sealed under Section 8 of J&K Control of Building Operations Act, 1988

In how many cases, the court said, the Commissioner, JMC has initiated preliminary enquiry to ascertain as to whether the field staff (Khilafwarzi Officers/enforcement inspector) were involved by way of act of omission and commission in **More On P10**

1987 Rigged Polls, Not Art- 370 Brought Gun To J&K: Lone

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir and was struck down by the Centre in August 2019 -- was not responsible for the eruption of militancy in the erstwhile state but the "rigged elections" of 1987 were, People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone said on Thursday.

He said Article 370 was "defamed" by the Centre across the country and disinformation was spread that it brought the gun to J-K.

"It was said that gun came here because of Article 370. The reality is that the gun did not come because of Article 370, it came in 1987 after the rigged elections, **More On P10**

ADGP Kashmir Warns Policemen Against Ticketless Train Travel

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Taking serious note of travelling without tickets in trains by locals and personnel of police department, the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Kashmir zone, Vijay Kumar has instructed all district police chiefs to take serious action against any police personnel who is found involved in ticketless travel.

The instructions were issued after the Chief Area Manager, Northern Railways brought the issue into the notice of ADGP Kashmir, urging him to issue directions to the personnel of police department to desist from indulging in any such activity, which incurs losses to the railway



exchequer.

"The chief area manager northern railways, Srinagar has brought into the notice of this office that a disconcerting trend of ticketless travel has been on the rise within the train services operating in Kashmir division and the matter is of grave concern, as it not only **More On P10**

Drug Menace Needs To Be Dealt With 'Iron Hand': HC

Says Abuse Of Alcohol, Drugs Has Resulted In Significant Morbidity, Mortality Among Adolescents

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that "epidemic" of drug abuse in younger generation has assumed "alarming dimensions", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday said that "concerned agencies hand-in-hand with the community heads" are required to come forward and deal with this menace with iron hand to save the society more particularly the young generation and families.

"The menace of illicit drug activities is a social problem that harms youth and their families, and the money it generates is diverted for disruptive

activities that have bearings on national security," a bench of Justice M. A. Chowdhary said while dismissing a petition challenging detention of order, dated March 4 this year, Tawqeer Bashir Magray of Nowshara Boniyar Baramulla under Section -3 of Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act 1988.

"The abuse of alcohol and drugs has resulted in significant morbidity and mortality among adolescents worldwide. Many of these youth lose their lives to drugs and narcotics and a significant number are likely to grow up to become

drug addicts," the court said, adding, "No part of the world is free from the curse of drug addiction."

Drug abuse, the court said, has emerged as a serious concern globally, adversely affecting the physical and socio-economic well-being of the country.

"It has severe repercussions on public health across various sections of the society. The epidemic of drug abuse in younger generation has assumed alarming dimensions in the country," the court said, adding, "Prevention of drug abuse among adolescents requires awareness **More On P10**

ULB Head Abused Powers, Probe Ordered

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has ordered a probe into the conduct of president municipal committee Khansahib for abusing official powers.

The Housing & Urban Development Department has appointed Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat, vice-chairman, J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority, to a detailed enquiry into the conduct of president municipal committee Khansahib, Irfan Ahmad for abusing official powers.

"As a principle of natural justice, a reasonable opportunity of being heard shall be afforded to the president," reads an order issued by H&UDD.

The inquiry officer has been directed to submit **More On P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

Rahul on Pvt Visit to Srinagar

The former Congress president and Member Parliament Rahul Gandhi will arrive in Srinagar on Friday for a private visit. Rahul will reach the tourist resort of Sonamarg around 3:30 pm on Friday and will be received by the leaders of J&K Congress unit, a senior party leader told Kashmir Observer Thursday. From Sonamarg, he said, the Gandhi scion he will head straight to Nigeen Lake in Srinagar, where he will stay at a houseboat. His mother Sonia Gandhi, sister Priyanka Gandhi and her husband Robert Vadra are also expected to join him. **More On P10**

Property Attached Over Terror Links



The immovable property of a man on Thursday was attached for allegedly sheltering terrorists in Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. He was identified as Mehboob Ul Inam Shah, a resident of Nadihal village, they said. **More On P10**

3 Killed As Truck Falls Into Rivulet



A brick-laden truck skidded off the road and rolled into a rivulet in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Thursday, killing three people and injuring another, officials said. The accident took place in Dudu-Basantgarh area in the early hours. The injured **More On P10**

Electric Shock Kills Man, Injures 5 Others

A 47-year-old man died and five others were hospitalised with injuries in an electrocution incident in Aala Peer area of Poonch district on Thursday. Quoting official sources, news agency GNS reported that a group of persons received jolts while digging the grave of a deceased man. "As the group started to dig the grave of the deceased person, they came in touch with an iron structure which presumably had already been exposed to a live wire", they said. **More On P10**

Junior Assistant Caught With Bribe Money

A team of anti corruption branch of CBI Srinagar on Thursday caught a junior assistant of Institute of Management and Public Administration (IMPA) red-handed while accepting a bribe of Rs 3000. Reliable sources said that the junior assistant identified as Ghulam Nabi Wani was caught red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 3000. They said that further proceedings in the instant case are underway--(KNO)

KPs Perform Hawan At Budgam Temple

Kashmiri Pandits from different parts of the country on Thursday assembled at the annual Hawan function of Reganya Mata Asthan temple and performed Maha Yagye (Hawan) at Raitan area of Budgam district. Mohan Lal, a senior citizen while performing Hawan told a local news agency KNO that is happy returning to an ancient Asthan after a long time and celebrating the festival with Muslim neighbours. They said the event was a "symbol of hope and reconciliation" for all the communities in the valley. **More On P10**

Chandrayaan-3 Gets Front-Page Coverage In Pakistan Despite Strained Ties



Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Despite the chill in bilateral ties, Pakistan's media today gave front-page coverage to India's historic moon landing while a former minister even called it a "great moment" for India's space agency, ISRO.

"India becomes first nation to land near Moon's south pole" was the headline in most of the Pakistani newspapers and websites.

This was India's second attempt to land a spacecraft on the Moon and comes less than a week after Russia's Luna-25 mission failed.

Pakistan's Geo News carried a story by its Web Desk about the landing, saying India's Chandrayaan-3 has finally landed on the moon after a 40-day journey starting from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota and a history of space crashing.

The News International, the Dawn newspaper, the Business Recorder, Dunya News and others carried stories by various international news agencies.

Fawad Chaudhry, who was Federal Minister for Informa-

tion and Broadcasting in the Imran Khan-led government, called it a great moment for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

"What a great moment for #ISRO as #Chandrayaan3 lands on the Moon, I can see lots of young scientists celebrating this moment with Mr Somnath Chairman ISRO; only the Younger generation with dreams can change the world... good luck," Mr Chaudhry, a former senior member of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Before the landing, he said, "All eyes on #Chandrayaan3 Moon landing 5:40 PM, great day for Indian Science Community and Space scientists, Congratulations to people of India on this great achievement." Earlier he asked the Pakistani media to live stream Chandrayaan's moon landing.

The bilateral ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack in India.

BRICS Announces 'Historic' Admission Of Six New Members

Agencies

BRICS leaders announced on Thursday the "historic" admission of six new countries from next year as the club of large and populous emerging economies seeks to reshape the global order.

The BRICS — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — agreed at their annual summit to make Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates full members from January 1.

"This membership expansion is historic," said Chinese President Xi Jinping, whose nation is the most powerful in the group of non-Western states that represents a quarter of the world's economy.

"The expansion is also a new starting point for BRICS cooperation. It will bring new vigour to the BRICS cooperation mechanism and further strengthen the force for world peace and development."

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed hailed what he called "a great moment" for his country, the second-most populous in Africa.

"Ethiopia stands ready to cooperate with all for an inclusive and prosperous global order," he said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In Iran, senior presidential advisor Mohammad Jamshidi described the move as a "historic development and a strategic success" for Tehran's foreign policy.

— 'Strength in diversity' —
Calls to enlarge the BRICS had dominated the agenda at its three-day summit in



Johannesburg and exposed divisions among the bloc over how quickly new members should be admitted, and how many.

But the group, which makes decisions by consensus, had agreed on the criteria for admission, said South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, paving the way for the bloc to expand even further.

Nearly two dozen countries had formally applied to join and about the same number have expressed interest from across the "Global South", a broad term referring to non-Western nations.

Some 50 other heads of state and government attended the summit, underscoring what BRICS leaders say is the attractiveness of its message and growing relevance on the world stage.

US officials have played down the likelihood of BRICS emerging as a geopolitical rival, describing the bloc as a highly diverse collection of countries containing both friends and rivals.

The bloc is a disparate mix of big and small economies,

democratic and authoritarian states, and the candidates seeking membership and those admitted to the club also reflect this variety.

But despite differences, BRICS leaders expressed a common belief that the global system was dominated by Western states and institutions that did not serve the interests of developing nations.

"Our diversity strengthens the fight for a new international order," said Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has strongly promoted the BRICS development bank as a counter to the Washington DC-based International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Lula said with the admission of six new members, the BRICS now represented nearly half the world's population and an even greater share of its economic output.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his country enjoyed "deep" ties with the new members and "with the help of BRICS, new dimensions will be added to our bilateral cooperation".

Explainer: What Is BRICS, What Does It Do, And Which Countries Have Joined?

Agencies

The Brics group of major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — is holding its 15th heads of state and government summit in Johannesburg between August 22 and August 24.

Here are some key facts about the bloc and its members.

The acronym Brics, which did not initially include South Africa, was coined in 2001 by then Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill in a research paper that underlined the growth potential of Brazil, Russia, India and China.

The bloc was founded as an informal club in 2009. Its creation was initiated by Russia.

The group is not a formal



multilateral organisation like the United Nations, World Bank or the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

The heads of state and government of the member nations convene annually with each nation taking up a one-year rotating chairmanship of the group.

Who are the members? Brazil, Russia, India and China are the founding members.

South Africa, the smallest member in terms of economic clout and population, was the first beneficiary of an expansion of the bloc in 2010 when the grouping be-

came known as BRICS.

Together the countries account for more than 40 per cent of the world population and a quarter of the global economy.

Apart from geopolitics, the group's focus includes economic cooperation and increasing multilateral trade and development.

The bloc operates by consensus. All the Brics countries are part of the Group of 20 (G20) of major economies.

Which nations have joined Brics this year?

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Thursday that the Brics club of emerging nations will admit six new members, including Saudi Arabia, UAE and Iran, at the start of next year.

Delhi Police To Monitor Social Media, Hold Drills In Markets For G20 Summit

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police will track social media to prevent any rumour-mongering or inflammatory posts, identify and check criminal elements and focus on malls, markets and religious places in the city as part of security drills for the G20 summit, officials said on Thursday.

All borders will be "sealed to prevent unwarranted entry" into the national capital, though normal vehicular and public movements will be allowed, officials said after a review meeting held by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena with top Delhi Police officials, including the police commissioner.

They said that if some particular groups intend to stage protest or indulge in nuisance during the two-day mega event, it will come under "unwarranted entry" and police will stop them from entering the city.

The LG was informed during the meeting that 60 deputy commissioners of police (DCPs)

were drafted to oversee and manage specific tasks related to the G20 summit next month, Raj Niwas officials said.

The DCPs will oversee security in and around the summit venue at Pragati Maidan, airport, designated hotels where dignitaries and delegates will stay, places where spouses of the state heads will visit, traffic routes among others, they said.

The LG directed the Delhi Police to ensure strict compliance of security measures with a focus on the G20 summit. He asked them to ensure law and order in general, and security of women and other vulnerable groups in particular, the officials said.

The other security measures to be implemented by Delhi Police as per the LG's direction included cordial behaviour with delegates and tourists and people in general, continuous vigil to prevent unlawful gathering, "sealing of all borders to prevent unwarranted entry into the city", identifying and restraining activities of bad characters, among others.

NEWS MAKERS

Supreme Court Frees UP Man Facing Death Penalty For Killing Son, Brothers

Press Trust of India

The Supreme Court has set free a death row convict, acquitting him of the charge of setting afire his son and two brothers, who were allegedly killed in his second marriage, at his Bijnore home in 2014, saying the dying declarations of two victims were not in sync with the testimonies of key witnesses.

The top court also dealt in detail with the legal principle on dying declaration and its trustworthiness on the presumption that a person on death bed does not lie.

"Dying declaration while carrying a presumption of being true must be wholly reliable and inspire confidence. Where there is any suspicion over the veracity of the same or the evidence on record shows that the dying declaration is not true it will only be considered as a piece of evidence but cannot be the basis for conviction alone," a bench comprising justices B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Prashant Kumar Mishra said in its 36-page judgement.

The top court also ordered im-

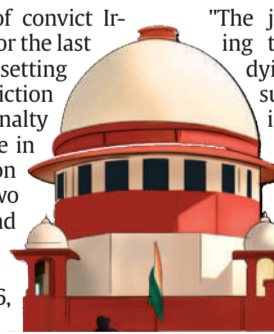
mediate release of convict Irfan, who is in jail for the last eight years, after setting aside his conviction and the death penalty for his alleged role in the death of his son Islamuddin and two brothers Irshad and Naushad on the intervening night of August 5-6, 2014.

The three succumbed to their injuries at Delhi's Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on different dates.

The trial court had relied upon the dying declarations of Irshad and Islamuddin naming Irfan as the person who set them on fire.

The judgement and the sentence were upheld by the Allahabad High Court on 2018, after finding no discrepancies in the statements.

While allowing Irfan's appeal, the top court referred to the legal position and judgements, both Indian and foreign, on trustworthiness of dying declarations in a case hinging on circumstantial evidence.



"The juristic theory regarding the acceptability of a dying declaration is that such declaration is made in extremity, when the party is at the point of death and when every hope of this world is gone, when every motive to falsehood is silenced, and the man is induced by the most powerful consideration to speak only the truth," the bench said.

Notwithstanding this, great caution must be exercised in considering the weight to be given to such dying declarations, it said.

"Since the accused has no power of cross-examination, the courts insist that the dying declaration should be of such a nature as to inspire full confidence of the court in its truthfulness and correctness. The court, however, should always be on guard to see that the statement of the deceased was not as a result of either tutoring or prompting or a product of imagination," it said.

Rajasthan Minister's Bizarre Remark on Chandrayaan-3

Agencies

JAIPUR: In a bizarre incident, Rajasthan Sports Minister Ashok Chandna made a massive gaffe while expressing his happiness over India's historic Chandrayaan-3's successful lunar landing and congratulated the non-existent passengers of the spacecraft.

The Minister is being trolled on the social media for his bizarre statement on Chandrayaan-3.

He said, "We were successful and made a safe landing. I salute all our passengers who have been sent in Chandrayaan."

Chandna had reached Jaipur on Wednesday to inaugurate the Khelo India Centre at the SMS Stadium.

Speaking to media, he said, "Our country has moved one step further in science and space research. I congratulate all the countrymen."

It is noted that there is no astronaut (passenger) sent on Chandrayaan-3. Therefore, netizens are making fun of Rajasthan Sports Minister Ashok Chandna on the social media.

Meanwhile, earlier, he too has prayed for successful landing of the Chandrayaan-3.



Veteran actress Seema Deo of 'Anand', 'Kora Kagaz' fame dies at 81

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Veteran actress Seema Deo, remembered for her roles in "Anand" and "Kora Kagaz", died here on Thursday morning due to age-related ailments, her filmmaker son Abhinav Deo said. She was 81.

Deo, who acted in over 80 Hindi and Marathi films, passed away at her Bandra home. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for over three years.

"She passed away at 8.30-9 am at her residence in Bandra due to old age. She had been withdrawn completely, and eventually it is just old age. Alzheimer's is such a thing that you stop figuring out how to function. She had dementia leading up to Alzheimer's and she was suffering from it for over three years.

"There's no specific reason (for her death). Due to Alzheimer's and dementia, the person forgets how to walk. The muscle memory starts coming down and one by one, the organs start shutting



down," Abhinav Deo told PTI.

The last rites will be performed at 5 pm at Shivaji Park.

Her husband, Ramesh Deo, also a veteran of Hindi and Marathi cinema, died in 2022 at the age of 93.

She is survived by two sons — actor Ajinkya Deo and Abhinav Deo. While Ajinkya Deo has featured in films such as "Sansaar", "Indrajeet" and "Aan: Men at Work", Abhinav Deo is a director known for "Delhi Belly" and "Force".

Rahul Gandhi Interacts With Youngsters In Kargil



Press Trust Of India

KARGIL: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held an interaction with a group of youths after he reached Kargil town on Thursday evening on the last leg of his over week-long tour of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The former Congress president is scheduled to address a public meeting on Friday in poll-bound Kargil before returning to Delhi, senior Congress leader and former legislator Asgar Ali Karbalai said.

The election to 26 seats of the 30-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Kargil, is slated for September 10 and the counting of votes will be held four days later.

After an overnight stay at Padam in Zanskar Tehsil of Kargil, the 53-year-old Gandhi reached Kargil town late this afternoon, riding on his motorcycle. He was accorded a warm welcome by a massive crowd who chanted slogans in praise of "Bharat Jodo" and the Congress leader.

Later, he interacted with the youngsters for one-hour from 5 pm at a special programme organised by the local Congress unit, Karbalai told PTI.

He said more than 1,000 youths turned up and highlighted their problems including joblessness.

Gandhi assured them that he and his party members would become their voice in Parliament and ensure justice with them.

Gandhi talked about the party's victory in Karnataka and

Himachal Pradesh assembly elections and also exuded confidence about the party's win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well as state polls later this year, Karbalai said.

He termed the interaction between Gandhi and the youth a "historic moment" and said the people of Kargil were all praise for the efforts of the Congress leader to safeguard democracy and secularism in the country by exposing "divisive forces and hatemongers".

"Gandhi's visit has nothing to do with the local elections in Kargil. He is not here to campaign for the party candidates. He has a larger goal to remove hatred and spread love," Karbalai said.

Earlier, Gandhi shared several pictures about his journey from Zanskar to Kargil including the one with a group of security personnel on the foothills of a mountain with a captain "on our frontiers stand the brave children of Bharat Mata ready to take on any challenge for her sake. A look into their eyes, a heartfelt conversation, or a glimpse into their lives is enough to leave you inspired for a lifetime".

Gandhi went round almost all famous places including Pangong lake, Nubra valley, Khardungla top, Lamayuru and Zanskar on the motorcycle during his Ladakh trip which started on August 17 initially for two days. He later extended his tour which Congress termed an extension of Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra from Kanyakumari to Kashmir from September 7, 2022 to January 30, 2023.

Jammu Industry Body Calls For Bandh Against Smart Meters, Toll Plaza Collection

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Jammu (CCI) on Thursday gave a call for a bandh on August 26 to protest against the installation of smart meters in the city.

They also demanded that the process of collection of toll on the highway in Samba district be kept in abeyance.

"We have given a bandh call in Jammu on Saturday. Jammu will be shut down. I want the entire Jammu region to observe a bandh. All organisations are with us," CCI President Arun Gupta told reporters here.

He said the people of Jammu are fed up with the installation of smart meters and toll plaza issue at Sarore village.

"The decision was taken in the meeting of the associations of Jammu. The meeting of the different market and trade associations comprising more than 100 bodies was held today (Thursday) at Chamber house," he said.

He said the meeting has been convened to discuss the issues regarding installation of smart meters and subsequently switching over to prepaid system of billing and Toll Plaza at Sarore.

Twenty-seven activists were detained for violation of restrictions around Sarore toll plaza by the police during protests on Monday.

Authorities had imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which forbids the gathering of four or more people at a particular place, in and around the toll plaza late Monday.

Regarding the toll plaza at Sarore, he said till the damaged bridge of Taranah Nallah on National Highway is completely restored and the damaged roads are repaired

Cong Holds Protest Over Detention Of YRS Activists

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Congress workers on Thursday held a protest and allegedly tried to enter a jail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district against the detention of 'Yuva Rajput Sabha' (YRS) activists who are demanding the removal of the Sarore toll plaza.

Scores of Congress workers, led by former deputy chief minister Tara Chand, gathered in Kathua town and marched towards the jail to meet the detained YRS activists. However, police stopped them before they could reach the jail, officials said.

At least 27 activists of YRS were detained for violating restrictions around the Sarore toll plaza. Authorities had imposed Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which forbids the gathering of four or more people at a particular place, in and around the toll plaza late Monday.

The YRS is demanding the removal of the toll plaza on the Jammu-Pathankot na-

tional highway in Samba district, claiming that it was illegally set up to collect toll from the common people.

Congress leader Chand lambasted the BJP government at the Centre for imposing taxes on the people amid unprecedented price rise and unemployment.

"We want their release. The government is crushing the voice of common people for every genuine cause. The BJP has utterly failed to safeguard the rights of the Jammu people and save them from all sorts of undue harassment," he told reporters here.

He also targeted the J-K administration for detaining the YRS leaders for holding a "peaceful protest" demanding the removal of the toll plaza.

In Samba, members of various organisations held protests and blocked traffic for hours on the highway.

Former minister Manjit Singh asked the Centre to stop "illegal collection" of toll tax at Sarore.

and made fully operational, the toll tax collection be kept in abeyance.

In this regard, he also requested the Lieutenant Governor to give an appointment to discuss these issues, he added.

LG Pays Obeisance To 'Chhari Mubarak' At Srinagar Temple

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday offered prayers to Shri Amarnathji Chhari Mubarak at Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhada here, an official said.

The Lt Governor sought the blessings of Lord Shiva and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of all, an official spokesman said.

Mahant Deependra Giri, the custodian of the holy mace of Lord Shiva, was present when Sinha offered the prayers, he said.

The spokesman said the 'Chhari-Pujan' on the auspicious occasion of 'Shravan Shukla Panchami' is an important ritual prior to the culmination of the annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas.

"The holy mace will be taken to the Shri Amarnathji cave on August 26 following the traditional practice of Chhari Mubarak yatra," he added.

After the puja, Giri told reporters that it was a practice of the head of the state to visit the Dashnami Akhada for paying respects to the holy mace.

"Before 1989, the head of the state would visit to pay re-



Abid Bhat/IKO

Interacts With Young Delegates From 9 Countries

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday interacted with 19 young leaders from 9 democratic countries, who are visiting India under ICCR's Gen Next Democracy Network Programme.

The Lt Governor welcomed the young delegates from Ireland, Namibia, USA, Iceland, Luxembourg, Italy, Denmark, Albania and Moldova to Raj Bhavan.

During the interaction, the Lt Governor shared his views on transformational journey of Jammu Kashmir. He said the J&K UT is moving ahead on the path of development with ambitious goal of building digital society and inclusive, sustainable development.

He also highlighted the historic landing of India's Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface. "The historic achievement belongs to the entire world, the humanity and to the young leaders like you," he said.

The Lt Governor responded to the questions of the members of the foreign delegation. Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President ICCR; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor were present during the interaction.

spects. Till Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was alive, there used to be a big gathering of around 20,000 people on this occasion and he would address it," added Giri.

Chairman JKBOSE Visits Ladakh To Assess State Of Education

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Prof. Parikshat Singh Manhas, along with Joint Secretary Administration, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak and other officers from Academic and Administration visited UT of Ladakh to assess the state of education within the UT and gain firsthand understanding of the overall functioning of sub offices, schools affiliated with JKBOSE as well as Accredited Study centres of JKBOSE.

The visit was to ensure implementation of NEP 2020 in its true spirit in the affiliated institutions of JKBOSE as envisaged by Lieutenant Governor of UT of J & K, Manoj Sinha, who has provided a concrete road map to JKBOSE in this regard.

During this visit, the Chairman interacted with administrators of UT of Ladakh, officers of education department and other stakeholders to gather insights into the current educational landscape and to identify areas where JKBOSE can efficiently contribute for the betterment of education in the UT of Ladakh.

He also sought their active support to JKBOSE in its functioning in the region for providing better education as envisioned under NEP 2020.

While sharing his ideas, he said that our commitment to education goes beyond our institutions, adding that we believe in fostering a holistic educational ecosystem. He highlighted this visit is a step towards understanding the diverse educational landscape and working together with stakeholders to create a positive impact on students' lives. He added that with the help of several ongoing initiatives especially after the NEP 2020, the region will witness significant progress and development in Education sector in the near future.

These interactive sessions were designed to foster meaningful dialogues, share best practices, and explore potential partnerships that can elevate the quality of education provided to the students.

One of the primary focuses of this visit was to closely examine the functioning of pri-

vate schools affiliated with JKBOSE in the UT of Ladakh. The team interacted with heads of all affiliated institutions and discussed the unique challenges and opportunities faced by these schools and also explore ways to collaborate efficiently and enhance the overall educational experience for the betterment of students. The team also highlighted the best practices that schools should follow to raise the standards of the Education in the region. The issues /challenges were also part of the meeting to ensure smooth functioning of the pvt.Schools.

During the meeting with the heads of Accredited Study centres of JKBOSE, it was highlighted that open schooling has great scope in the region due to rigid terrain.

During the meeting, DIET principal was requested to highlight the open schooling among masses so that all the aspirants get a second chance to continue their education especially through SOS, so that no child should be left behind, to achieve the goal envisioned under NEP 2020 of Universalisation of Secondary Education by 2030.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
NAAC Accredited Grade 'A+' (Cycle-3)

SRI PRATAP COLLEGE

A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF CLUSTER UNIVERSITY SRINAGAR
M. A. ROAD SRINAGAR
Phone / Fax: 0194-2476828 | <http://www.spcollege.co.in>
E-mail: spcsg1905@gmail.com

NO:SPC/1982 Date: 24-08-2023
Subject: Non-CUET List 2023

NOTICE

The counseling/Verification for NON-CUET candidates aspiring for admission in is semester under NEP-2020 session 2023 at this college will commence from 26:08:2023(Saturday) from 10:00 a.m. The selection lists issued for various subjects arc available on college website(www.spcollege.edu.in). Grievances if any may be communicated to admission committee in person or 7006082223 (Convener Admission Committee). The grievance can also be mailed on college official e-mail: spcsg1905@gmail.com within a period of one day i.e.. on 25:08:2023(Friday) upto 4:00 p.m.

Principal DIPK-7724-23 DT: 24/08/2023 Convener Admissions

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION BUDGAM

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111
E-mail: xenmbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX: 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender NO:- 88 of 2023-24/6767-83 Dated:23.08.2023
For and on behalf of the President of India, tender are invited from registered transport firm/Unions/stands for hiring of one vehicle (Taxis) (As per Notice issued by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir vide No. RTOK/Esstt/2023/11270-73 dated:-24/03/2023) of following make on monthly rental basis for office use for the year 2023-24 (upto 31.03.2024). The vehicle should be only registered with RTO Kashmir.

S. No	Type of Vehicle	Cost of Tender/ Document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	For the year
1	Hiring of one vehicle (Taxis) for office of the Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Budgam use Mahindra Scorpio, Toyota Inova	Rs.300/-	Rs.3000/-	2023-24

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Quotation	23-08-2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-08-2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	23-08-2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	29.08.2023 upto 04.00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.08.2023 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer, (R&B) Division Budgam

No: EE/MDB/NIT/ 6767-83 Dated:-23.08.2023 DIPK-7725-23 DT: 24/08/2023 Sd/- Executive Engineer, (R&B) Division Budgam

Take Number Of Ayushman Bharat Gold Cards At Least Par With Aadhar Cards In JK: CS

Insurance Companies Authorizes Treatment For Rs 1484 Cr At A Premium Of Rs 990 Cr Since 2021

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday impressed upon the officers of the Health Department to make concerted efforts to take the number of Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY (Gold Cards) at par with that of Aadhar Cards in J&K.

Dr Mehta was speaking in the 7th Governing Council Meeting of State Health Agency (SHA) here which besides the Secretary Health was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, H&UD; Secretary, Labour & Employment; CEO, SHA; Secretary in RDD; Principal, GMC Srinagar/Jammu; Director General, Codes; Director Health Kashmir/Jammu and others concerned.

During the meeting, Dr Mehta emphasised on running campaigns in the educational institutions and government offices for saturating the coverage of whole population under the scheme. He directed for

dedicating a helpline to assist the general public in availing this benefit.

In order to decongest the public health institutions and shorten the waiting period for general public for appointments, the Chief Secretary asked for creation of online appointment management system for providing time slots each patients. He also directed creating other online services.

He observed that the public should be encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyle by making sports, yoga and other physical exercises part of their lives. He maintained that it is an age old adage that prevention is better than cure. He advised people to take care of their health before it worsens. He also asked for taking full advantage of the on-line services like e-Sanjevani and Tele-MANAS for taking the best medical advice from the comforts of their homes instead of taking the pain of visiting hospitals to the extent possible.

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR

ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is below reports that he/She has lost his/ Her DOB certificate/ s having the following description:-
Roll No:- 16124225
Class:- 10th
Year & Session:- Annual Regular 2020
Registration No:- 1932000000200058
Name:- Radif Ahmad Wani
Father's Name:- Gh Ahmad Wani
Mother's Name:- Saleema Akhter
Date of Birth:- 28-02-2006
Residence:- Drach Pulwama

Now the candidate has applied for issuance of DUPLICATE DOB CERTIFICATE/S. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody have any kind-of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.
(Besides, the losted "DOB CERTIFICATE", bearing Serial No/s 20ARKAM-1040409 is/ are to be treated as "CANCELLED").

Sd/-
No:- FICerts-I-DQC/B/KD/20 Assistant Secretary
Dated:-24/08/2023 FKO Certificates, KD

IN TILL: COURT JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE CLASS PAMPORE.

Case No. 52/2023
Date of Institution 18/08/2023
Firdous Akhter D/o: Mohd Sultan Wani R/o: Nambalabal, Pampore (Applicant)
VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths
Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pampore (Non-Applicant)
In the matter of: Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.
CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No. JK00208

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court seeking direction to the non-applicant for Registration of Date of Birth. Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of Birth of Applicant (who has been born on 02/01/1979 at Kadial, Pampore) to the non-applicant he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law
Given under my hand and seal of the Court today on 23/08/2023
No: 11/JMIC/Pampore (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray)
Dated: 23/08/2023 U.I.D No JK00208 Munsiff/JMIC Pampore

IN THE COURT JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS PAMPORE.

Case No. 47/2023
Date of Institution 08/08/2023
Aijaz Ahmd Mirazi F/o: Azam Aijaz R/o: Jawbrara, Awantipora (Applicant)
VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths
Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pampore (Non-Applicant)
In the matter of: Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.
CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No. JK00208

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant through his father namely Aijaz Ahmd Mirazi in this court seeking direction to the non-applicant for Registration of Date of Birth. Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of Birth of Applicant (who has been born on 20/05/2022 at SDH, Pampore) to the non-applicant he/she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court today on 23/08/2023
No: 15/JMIC/Pampore (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray)
Dated: 23/08/2023 U.I.D No JK00208 Munsiff/JMIC Pampore

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 25-08-2023

A Giant Leap For India

India achieved an unparalleled feat by successfully landing the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission on the south polar region of the moon. The achievement not only cements India's position at the forefront of lunar exploration but also highlights the nation's commitment to pushing the boundaries of scientific knowledge and space exploration.

As the Vikram lander touched down on the moon's uncharted south polar terrain at 6:03 pm, India scripted its name as the first country to achieve such a feat. This remarkable endeavor catapults India into the elite group of nations capable of lunar landings, with only the United States, Russia, and China preceding its achievement. This mission, with a relatively affordable price tag of \$74.6 million, stands in stark contrast to the enormous budgets of major spacefaring nations. This success not only emphasizes India's technical prowess but also underlines its ability to achieve more with less. Therefore, the mission's significance extends far beyond national pride, as it represents a giant leap forward for global lunar exploration efforts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi applauded the ISRO for the successful moon landing. He said that the achievement sounded the bugle for a developed India. The PM, who is on an official visit to South Africa to attend the BRICS Summit, joined the scientists gathered at ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) to view Chandrayaan 3's moon landing. Earlier he suggested the creation of a BRICS space consortium at the summit. The proposal will now be taken more seriously after Chandrayaan 3's success.

The journey to the moon has not been without challenges. India's previous attempt to land near the moon's south pole ended in disappointment, with contact lost just moments before landing. However, ISRO engineers meticulously studied the data from the failed mission, working diligently to rectify the issues and ensure the success of Chandrayaan-3.

The moon's south polar region has long remained a mysterious expanse that holds the potential to unlock invaluable scientific insights. This accomplishment is poised to revolutionize our understanding of lunar geology, water-ice deposits, and the moon's evolution. The successful landing of Pragyaan rover has opened a gateway to scientific discoveries that promise to reshape our comprehension of the moon's characteristics.

In a world often dominated by space superpowers, India's Chandrayaan-3 mission serves as a beacon of inspiration for the less developed countries. It highlights the potential for meaningful contributions to space science and exploration through innovative thinking, and a spirit of perseverance. As India's example proves, the pursuit of the cosmos knows no bounds, and with visionary efforts, even modest budgets can yield remarkable results.

OTHER OPINION

On the moon, over the moon

At 5.40 p.m. on August 23, the Chandrayaan-3 lander was a 1.7-tonne hunk of metal, plastic, and glass speeding in an orbit some 30 km above the moon. But in the next 23 minutes, it had made history by slowing down, righting itself, and — guided by a suite of sensors and actuators — gently descending to the moon's surface. As it touched down shortly after 6 p.m., people gathered at the various Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) centres, and across India were jubilant. India is only the fourth country in history to have soft-landed a spacecraft on the moon, and the first to have done so in the moon's South Polar region. The feat illustrated a simple fact of complex space flight missions: by virtue of their enormous hunger for resources but at the same time capacity for caprice, succeeding at them is indistinguishable from a triumph of human will. That is why they are capable of galvanising people — as Chandrayaan-3 has now done for India. The immediate implication of the Chandrayaan-3 lander now sitting on the moon is that ISRO took away the right lessons from the failure of the preceding mission, Chandrayaan-2. In September 2019, as the Chandrayaan-2 lander was 2.1 km above the lunar surface, ISRO lost contact. Based on data transmitted by the lander until then and that from other sources, including the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, ISRO pieced together the distal causes of the lander's premature demise. Experts at ISRO then modified 21 subsystems to give rise to the upgraded Chandrayaan-3 lander. The latter is particularly distinguished by the redundancies built into it: if one component or process had failed, another would likely have taken over.

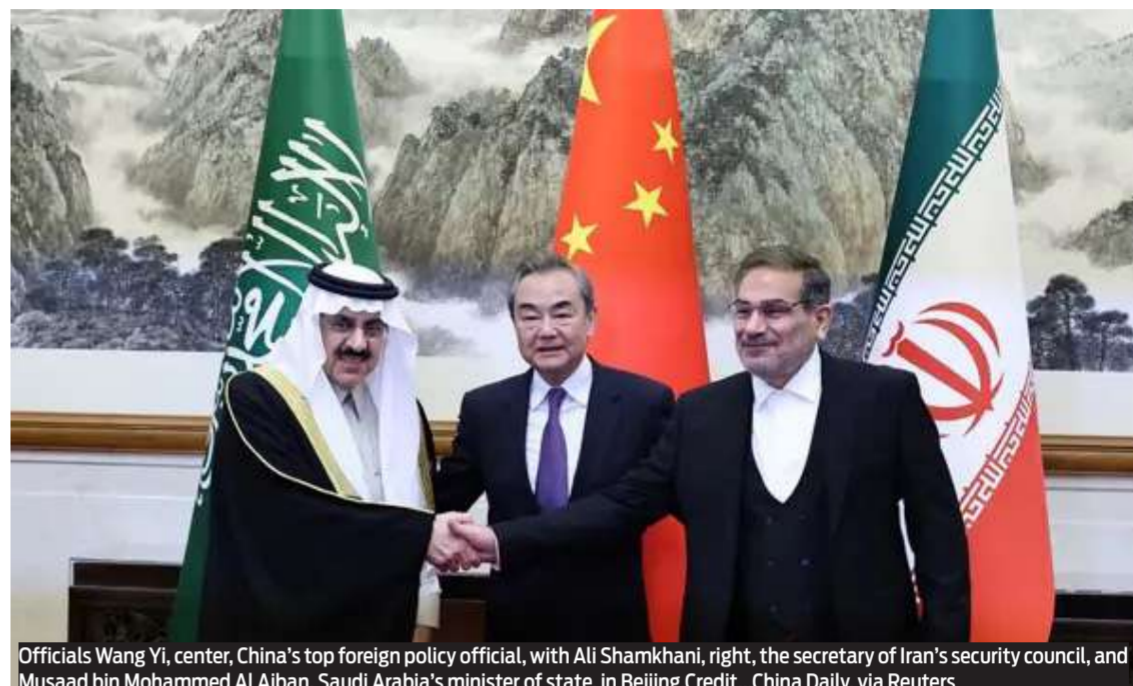
Taking a broader view of time, Chandrayaan-3 sits at an important juncture. India is now a member of the Artemis Accords, the U.S.-led multilateral effort to place humans on the moon by 2025 and thereafter to expand human space exploration to the earth's wider neighbourhood in the solar system. Given the firsts that India has now achieved, it has an opportunity to lead the other Artemis countries interested in maximising the contributions of the space sector to their economies, alongside the U.S. While Russia and India were not racing to land on the moon this week, the failure of Russia's Luna-25 spacecraft on August 19 foretells the country's ability to contribute in more limited fashion, in this decade at least, to the International Lunar Research Station programme, which it leads together with China as a parallel axis to the Artemis Accords.

The Hindu

Saudi-Iran Ties on Mend

Iran and Saudi Arabia have started a new chapter of cautious and incremental diplomatic exchanges to revive the strained bilateral ties, which broke down in 2016

Asad Mirza



Officials Wang Yi, center, China's top foreign policy official, with Ali Shamkhani, right, the secretary of Iran's security council, and Musaad bin Mohammed Al Alban, Saudi Arabia's minister of state, in Beijing. Credit: China Daily, via Reuters

Iran's hope is to use this road to erode Saudi Arabia's room for manoeuvre relating to a potential deal with Israel. Riyadh is aware of all these machinations and therefore it is keeping expectations modest in terms of the incremental reconciliation with Tehran

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) met Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, on 18th August, Riyadh. The meeting was the first in a series of high-level talks since both countries reconciled in March this year, after years of bitter rivalry that destabilised the region, in a peace deal brokered by China.

Saudi Arabia broke ties with Iran in 2016 after protesters attacked its embassy in Tehran in retaliation for Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric, Nimr Al Nimr.

Rivalry between Iran's revolutionary, Shi'ite Muslim leaders and Saudi Arabia's Sunni ruling family dominated the Middle Eastern regional politics for years as they competed for influence in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Bahrain.

After the meeting, Iran's semi-official news agency Tasnim reported Abdollahian as saying the de facto Saudi ruler had accepted his invitation to visit Tehran. This shows how MbS has pushed to reorient the Saudi foreign policy in recent years amid signs of troubles in its historically close relationship with the United States.

Earlier, the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal visited Tehran in June and said he hoped Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi would visit the kingdom at the "appropriate time". Apparently, after years of rivalry, and with some of the main regional arenas for their competition more stable than in previous years, both sides have reason to change tack.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei wants to end political and economic isolation imposed by the United States and saw new relations with Saudi Arabia as a way to do so, Iranian officials have been quoted as saying.

Saudi Arabia had meanwhile lost confidence in the U.S. commitment to shared regional security concerns and wanted to bolster ties with China, which has

also retained good relations with Iran. This month it succeeded in getting China to attend a diplomatic meeting on Ukraine that Beijing had earlier avoided.

Iran also hopes that the Houthis in Yemen will be legitimised by the new relationship and that Iran's role in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon will grow. Iran also hopes to undermine the U.S. and Israel, through this reconciliation. These strategies are stated openly in Iran where officials boast about the decline of U.S. influence in the region.

However, Iran may not be the only one getting what it wants. Saudi Arabia also has an agenda and to achieve it, it has sought to reorient its policies in the region.

In addition Riyadh's independent policy now includes outreach to China and Russia and also an attempt to broker more deals in the region and abroad. This comes with increasing reports about positive development in potential Israel-Saudi ties.

Iran's attempts at inroads in Riyadh are not only for Tehran's benefit. Saudi Arabia also has seen how balancing ties with Iran and other countries can increase its clout in the West; this was the method that Qatar and Turkey have used in the past. Therefore, managing expectations is important for Iran and Saudi Arabia, both.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah praised the Iranian visit, according to Arab News.

Kuwait has taken a very prudent view of things in the region over the last decades, watching tensions between Riyadh and Tehran, from the periphery. Kuwait also is more hostile to Israel than the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Therefore Kuwait views the reconciliation as a huge potential benefit for the Gulf.

However, we cannot ignore Israel's view on the latest developments. In a report published by Jerusalem Post, the newspaper opined that Iran-Saudi reconciliation could only go so far. There are many different issues in the region and Iran's role in numer-

ous countries continues to destabilise those countries. Iran also seeks to incite others against Israel and create tensions in the West Bank by using groups like Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Iran's hope is to use this road to erode Saudi Arabia's room for manoeuvre relating to a potential deal with Israel. Riyadh is aware of all these machinations and therefore it is keeping expectations modest in terms of the incremental reconciliation with Tehran. Meanwhile, it also understands that cutting off ties with U.S. in one go may affect its defence preparedness.

Meanwhile, Talal Al Otaibi, an aide to the Saudi defence minister, met with Aziz Nasirzadeh, the deputy chief of staff of Iran's armed forces, during the sidelines of the 11th Moscow Conference on International Security, last week, according to a post by the Saudi defence ministry on the social media platform X. During the meetings, the officials reviewed bilateral relations in the defence and security fields, as well as ways to improve them, the ministry said. This shows that MbS is adopting prudent approach for the future and not putting all eggs in one basket, instead he is trying to spread the spectrum by easing relations with old rivals and break the U.S. hegemony in the region, by engaging with Russia and China, along side.

This meeting between top defence officials creates an impression that things may move at a fast pace in the near future between the two old regional rivals, but they will be more in tune rather than opposing one another, and the main casualty in this might be the waning of the American influence in the region.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator



OBSERVER MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Over-aged and Unmarried

If only I had dreamt of the upcoming horrible issues! The situation is exacerbating each passing day sometimes succumbing to devour the poison and sometimes strangulating herself with a rope. "What to do?" a person asked me.

His gloomy eyes, face defined by melancholia, and a series of pathetic expressions — all these were suggesting that he was being dragged to suicidal depression by something.

Whilst listening to his words, I couldn't comprehend what actually he was trying to say. Confused, I asked him what the matter was. And

he unleashed what had been unnering him.

"You know, she (his sister) has crossed almost above forty years of age. And, whenever she faces a guy for a match, she gets rejected." the man muttered with utter dismay.

"A few days ago, being accustomed as I was to check the whole bungalow of ours before going to sleep to get to know if everything was in accordance, I smelt something cigarette like fragrance. And upon peering from the edge of the window — I was stunned and shocked to see my sister puffing at something strange

and talking to herself that, 'Mai barbaad horahe hoon-Mujhsay kon shadi kareyga' (That I am being ruined-who will marry me?)," he narrated.

The question again arises: who — or what — is responsible for our delaying marriages? Is it because of some man-made complications in our marriage system that has made it hard for a person to even think of marriage? Is it because of the dowry system — which, I must mention, to the great extent, has been throwing its dreadful effects onto those who hardly manage to make both ends meet?

The dire need of the hour is to

ask ourselves and contemplate over things that obstruct us from marrying at the right time. If the things that obstruct us from marrying at the most appropriate time can be resolved at an individual level, let's do it.

At the same time, we must not overlook and instead speak against the social evils which have crept everywhere here in this piece of the planet — be it unnecessary dozens of dishes in Kashmiri cuisine, or the exchange of heavy load of golden items — for they affect the destitute. Negatively. Beyond imagination

Peer Faizan Bashir

Mindful Fridays

The Loving Equation: Self-Compassion + Romance = Relationship Success



The pursuit of perfection and the fear of falling short could overshadow the crucial practice of treating oneself kindly in moments of difficulty. In such a climate, the concept of self-compassion might appear counterintuitive or even selfish

Wasim Kakroo

In the intricate dance of romantic relationships, the foundation for lasting connection goes beyond compatibility and chemistry. It extends to an individual's ability to be self-compassionate. In this article, we explore the profound impact of self-compassion on the health of romantic relationships, highlighting the significance of this often-overlooked trait.

Understanding Self-Compassion:

Self-compassion, a concept proposed by psychologist Kristin Neff, revolves around extending the same gentleness and empathy to oneself as one would to a dear friend. The framework rests on three core pillars: self-kindness, shared humanity, and mindfulness. Embracing self-compassion entails embracing one's flaws without harsh self-criticism, acknowledging that pain is an intrinsic part of the human journey, and embracing the current moment without becoming entangled in negative feelings. This approach contrasts with the societal tendency towards self-critique and comparison. By fostering self-compassion, individuals can cultivate emotional resilience, a balanced perspective on life's challenges, and a deeper connection with themselves and others. In a world often focused on relentless self-improvement, the idea of treating oneself with the same care as a cherished friend offers a refreshing and essential path to emotional well-being.

The Link Between Self-Compassion and Healthy Relationships

Healthy relationships serve as vital components of our well-being and happiness. While various factors contribute to relationship dynamics, one often overlooked aspect is self-compassion. Self-compassion, the practice of treating oneself with kindness and understanding in times of difficulty, plays a crucial role in fostering and maintaining healthy relationships.

1. Self-Compassion and Emotional Resilience:

Individuals who cultivate self-compassion tend to possess higher emotional resilience. This ability to handle personal challenges with grace and understanding extends to interactions within relationships. When partners display self-compassion, they approach conflicts with empathy rather than defensiveness, leading to more constructive discussions.

2. Empathy Towards Others:

Self-compassion acts as a foundation for empathy towards others. People who are kind to themselves are more likely to extend that kindness to their partners. Understanding one's own flaws and accepting them makes it easier to recognize imperfections in others without judgment, resulting in a more compassionate and supportive relationship environment.

3. Reducing Relationship Anxiety:

Individuals high in self-compassion tend to experience lower levels of relationship anxiety. The ability to approach oneself with patience and understanding translates to reduced fears of rejection or inadequacy in relationships. This, in turn, fosters a sense of security, allowing partners to express themselves more authentically.

4. Forgiveness and Conflict Resolution:

Self-compassionate individuals are better equipped to forgive both themselves and their partners. Mistakes and conflicts are viewed as opportunities for growth rather than as indicators of failure. This perspective facilitates more effective conflict resolution, as the focus shifts from blame to understanding and resolution.

5. Maintaining Autonomy:

Paradoxically, self-compassion also encourages autonomy within

relationships. Individuals who value self-compassion are less likely to overly depend on their partners for validation and happiness. This healthy self-reliance contributes to a balanced dynamic where both partners can flourish independently while nurturing the relationship.

6. Reducing Unrealistic Expectations:

Self-compassionate individuals are less likely to hold themselves and their partners to unattainable standards. This reduces the strain caused by unrealistic expectations, creating an environment of acceptance and understanding.

7. Enhancing Communication:

Self-compassion fosters open communication. Partners who are kinder to themselves are more likely to express their feelings and needs without fear of judgment, leading to healthier discussions and conflict resolution.

Challenges to Self-Compassion in Relationships:

1. Cultural and Societal Influences:

Cultural and societal norms exert a powerful influence, often promoting self-sacrifice and perfectionism that can impede the cultivation of self-compassion. The pressure to conform to these ideals might cause individuals to overlook their own well-being while striving to please their partners. The pursuit of perfection and the fear of falling short could overshadow the crucial practice of treating oneself kindly in moments of difficulty. In such a climate, the concept of self-compassion might appear counterintuitive or even selfish. As a result, individuals might neglect their emotional needs, potentially leading to imbalance and dissatisfaction within relationships.

2. Vulnerability and Fear of Rejection:

Being self-compassionate demands a willingness to be vulnerable. The fear of rejection or abandonment can often discourage individuals from honestly sharing their insecurities and challenges with their partners. This fear stems from the worry that exposing their inner struggles might lead to diminished acceptance.

3. Comparison and Jealousy:

The absence of self-compassion can fuel feelings of inadequacy and envy. Insecure individuals often find themselves trapped in the cycle of comparison, measuring their worth against others and feeling endangered by perceived competitors. Without the buffer of self-acceptance, their sense of self becomes fragile, making them susceptible to the corrosive effects of jealousy. This emotional cocktail of insecurity and resentment can poison relationships and hinder personal growth, as it hampers genuine connection and breeds negative emotions.

Ways to nurture Self-Compassion in the Context of Relationships

In the pursuit of healthy and harmonious relationships, nurturing self-compassion is an essential practice that lays the foundation for personal growth and mutual understanding. Here are four strategies that couples can embrace to foster self-compassion within the context of their relationship.

1. Mindfulness Practices:

Engaging in mindfulness practices such as meditation and self-reflective exercises offers partners the opportunity to cultivate self-compassion. Mindfulness encourages individuals to observe their thoughts and feelings without judgment, fostering a sense of self-acceptance. By becoming more attuned to their inner experiences, partners can develop a greater understanding of their emotional landscape and offer themselves the

same kindness they would extend to others.

2. Self-Care Rituals and "Me Time":

Encouraging each other to prioritize self-care without guilt creates an environment where emotional well-being is valued. Partners can understand that taking time for oneself is not a neglect of the relationship, but rather an investment in their own mental and emotional health. When partners approach the relationship from a place of emotional abundance, they are better equipped to offer genuine care and support to each other.

3. Encouraging Self-Discovery:

Partners can embark on a journey of self-discovery together, celebrating each other's personal growth. This includes fostering emotional self-awareness, working on self-forgiveness, building self-esteem, and enhancing self-efficacy. By creating a safe space where vulnerabilities are embraced and celebrated, couples can empower each other to overcome challenges and nurture their self-compassion.

4. Assertiveness as Part of Self-Compassion:

An often overlooked aspect of self-compassion is assertiveness. Partners can practice assertiveness by openly communicating their needs, boundaries, and concerns. This practice ensures that individual voices are heard and respected within the relationship, promoting mutual understanding. Assertiveness nurtures self-compassion by valuing one's own feelings and needs while also considering the feelings of the partner.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Unlocking The Secret To A Good Life

The Path To Fulfillment And Happiness

The Conversation

How do we live good, fulfilling lives? Aristotle first took on this question in his Nicomachean Ethics arguably the first time anyone in Western intellectual history had focused on the subject as a standalone question.

He formulated a teleological response to the question of how we ought to live. Aristotle proposed, in other words, an answer grounded in an investigation of our purpose or ends (telos) as a species.

Our purpose, he argued, can be uncovered through a study of our essence the fundamental features of what it means to be human.

Ends and essences

Every skill and every inquiry, and similarly every action and rational choice, is thought to aim at some good; Aristotle states, and so the good has been aptly described as that at which everything aims.

To understand what is good, and therefore what one must do to achieve the good, we must first understand what kinds of things we are. This will allow us to determine what a good or a bad function actually is.

For Aristotle, this is a generally applicable truth. Take a knife, for example. We must first understand what a knife is in order to determine what would constitute its proper function.

The essence of a knife is that it cuts; that is its purpose.

We can thus make the claim that a blunt knife is a bad knife if it does not cut well, it is failing in an important sense to properly fulfil its function. This is how essence

relates to function, and how fulfilling that function entails a kind of goodness for the thing in question.

Of course, determining the function of a knife or a hammer is much easier than determining the function of Homo sapiens, and therefore what good, fulfilling lives might involve for us as a species.

Aristotle argues that our function must be more than growth, nutrition and reproduction, as plants are also capable of this. Our function must also be more than perception, as non-human animals are capable of this. He thus proposes that our essence what makes us unique is that humans are capable of reasoning.

What a good, flourishing human life involves, therefore, is some kind of practical life of that part that has reason. This is the starting point of Aristotle's ethics.

We must learn to reason well and develop practical wisdom and, in applying this reason to our decisions and judgements, we must learn to find the right balance between the excess and deficiency of virtue.

It is only by living a life of virtuous activity in accordance with reason, a life in which we flourish and fulfil the functions that flow from a deep understanding of and appreciation for what defines us, that we can achieve eudaimonia the highest human good.

Existence precedes essence

Aristotle's answer was so influential that it shaped the development of Western values for millennia. Thanks to philosophers and theologians such as Thomas Aquinas, his enduring influence can be traced through the medieval period to the Renaissance and on to the Enlightenment.



During the Enlightenment, the dominant philosophical and religious traditions, which included Aristotle's work, were reexamined in light of new Western principles of thought.

Beginning in the 18th century, the Enlightenment era saw the birth of modern science, and with it the adoption of the principle nullius in verba literally, take nobody's word for it which became the motto of the Royal Society. There was a corresponding proliferation of secular approaches to understanding the nature of reality and, by extension, the way we ought to live our lives.

One of the most influential of these secular philosophies was existentialism. In the 20th century, Jean-Paul Sartre, a key figure

in existentialism, took up the challenge of thinking about the meaning of life without recourse to theology.

Sartre argued that Aristotle, and those who followed in Aristotle's footsteps, had it all back-to-front.

Existentialists see us as going about our lives making seemingly endless choices. We choose what we wear, what we say, what careers we follow, what we believe. All of these choices make up who we are. Sartre summed up this principle in the formula existence precedes essence.

The existentialists teach us that we are completely free to invent ourselves, and therefore completely responsible for the identities we choose to adopt. The first effect of existentialism, Sartre wrote in his

1946 essay Existentialism is a Humanism, is that it puts every man in possession of himself as he is, and places the entire responsibility for his existence squarely upon his own shoulders.

Crucial to living an authentic life, the existentialists would say, is recognising that we desire freedom above everything else. They maintain we ought never to deny the fact we are fundamentally free. But they also acknowledge we have so much choice about what we can be and what we can do that it is a source of anguish. This anguish is a felt sense of our profound responsibility.

The existentialists shed light on an important phenomenon: we all convince ourselves, at some point and to some extent, that we are bound by external circumstances in order to escape the anguish of our inescapable freedom. Believing we possess a predefined essence is one such external circumstance.

But the existentialists provide a range of other psychologically revealing examples. Sartre tells a story of watching a waiter in a cafe in Paris. He observes that the waiter moves a little too precisely, a little too quickly, and seems a little too eager to impress.

Sartre believes the waiter's exaggeration of waiter-hood is an act that the waiter is deceiving himself into being a waiter.

In doing so, argues Sartre, the waiter denies his authentic self. He has opted instead to assume the identity of something other than a free and autonomous being. His act reveals he is denying his own freedom, and ultimately his own humanity. Sartre calls this condition bad faith.

In The Court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pampore.
Case No.46 of 2023

Misbah Manzoor D/o Manzoor Ahmad Malik R/o Wuyan Oanoire Date of Institution: 07/08/2023
Tehsil Pampore District Pulwama (Applicant)

VERSUS

Registrar Birth & Deaths (Non-Appllicant)
Block Development Officer Pampore

In the matter of:
Application for Registration of Date of Birth of applicant and issuing the certificate thereof under Section 13 of the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969.

CORAM: Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No. JK00208

NOTICE TO ENERAL PUBLIC

Whereas, the above titled petition has been filed by the applicant in this court seeking direction to the non-appllicant for Registration of Date of birth. Whereas through the medium of this notice, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the Registration of Date of birth of Applicant (who has born on 05-06-2001 at Wuyan Pampore) to the non-appllicant he/she/they shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objections will be entertained and matter will be taken up for disposal in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and Seal of the Court today 24-08-2023
No: 19/JMIC/Pampore dated: 24-08-2023
FKO

Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray U.I.D No JK00208
Munsiff/JMIC Pampore.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Construction Division Kashmir, J & K Sports Council, Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 41 of 2023-24
D A T E: 22.08.2023.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible registered companies (Sports Related) or their authorized dealers for below mentioned works: -

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender documents	Administrative Approval No. & date	Time of Completion
1	Up-gradation of Sports facilities at VMS Bemina Srinagar	30.00	Registered sports companies or their authorized dealers or AAY/BEE Class having Authorization Certificate from Authorized Dealer and Manufacturer.		Rs.1100/-	Sports Council Order No: 640 of 2023 dt: 07.08.2023	60 days

Position of funds = Committed Under Capex 2023-24
Position of TS = Accorded

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria ,specification, Drawings, bill of quantities(B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No	Particulars	Date
1	Date of issue of Tender Notice.	22.08.2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22.08.2023 from 2.00 PM to 04.09.2023 upto 4.00 PM.
3	Bid Submission Start Date.	25.08.2023 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid submission End Date.	04.09.2023 upto 04.00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	05.09.2023 at 10.00 AM. In the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.
6	The sample should be in accordance with the specifications of BOQ/NIT	The sample shall be submitted by first lowest bidder only within a period of weeks' time after the opening of financial bid.

3. The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder. (No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

1) Name of Bank = J&K Bank Ltd.
2) Account Title = Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC
3) Account No = CDG-036510200000842
4) Branch = Lal Mandi
5) IFSC Code = JAKA05B0000000000000000

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.
4. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.
5. The bidder shall upload Valid Email, Address and functional WhatsApp No.
6. The first lowest bidder shall have to produce CDR/FDR equivalent to 5% of Contract Value within a period of three days from the date of opening of financial bid. Moreover, the Earnest Money Deposit shall only be released after the completion DLP which shall be calculated from the certified completion of work.

7. The date and time of opening of technical bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message one their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of all e-Bidders shall be opened on same Web site in the office of Executive Engineer J&K Sports Council Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
9. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
a. Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid /tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and condition of the bid.
b. Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c. Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 25 days after fixation of contract.

10. Instruction of bidders regarding e-tendering process :-
a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "downloads" option as well as from "bidder Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov. into acquainted bid submission process.
b. To participate in bidding process. Bidder has to get digital signature Certificate (DSC). As per information technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.
c. The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
f. The DSC and registration shall be in the same name otherwise tender shall be rejected.
g. Note:-Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
h. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
i. Scanned copy of cost of tender documents in shape of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer construction Div. Kashmir J&K Sports Council must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (bill of quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
13. Price escalation and Taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include Price escalation and all taxes up to completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
14. Qualification Criteria:- To qualify for award of contract, the bidders must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts:-
a. All bidders shall upload Copies of original documents defining constitution/ legal status, place of registration and principal place of Business with Cell No. and Correspondence address.
b. All bidders shall upload Bank deposit receipt / Pay in slip.
c. All bidders shall upload Earnest Money Deposit in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Ex. Engineer, Construction Division Kashmir J&K Sports Council Srinagar.
d. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN Registration. & PAN No.
e. All bidders shall upload Scanned Copy of latest GST clearance Certificate-July 2023-24 in case of Monthly return & APR-JUNE 2023-24 in case of Quarterly return.
f. Valid authorization certificate issued to the bidder by the authorized company/dealer.
g. The bidder shall upload Authorization of manufacturer to the Authorized Company or dealer.
h. Product should be FIBA approved & supported by latest FIBA (Federation Internationale de Basketball Association) approved listed certificate.
i. Valid Certificate issued by FIBA shall be considered only.
j. Only single authorization from the Authorized dealer for the instant NIT shall be entertained. In case the authorized dealer issues more than one authorization to different agencies for participating in the tender, his authorization from that sports company shall be treated as Null and Void and none of the authorization shall be considered.
k. Trade Name of the product should be embossed on the tile. If the trade name of the company is not embossed on the tile, then the bidder must have the undertaking provided by the Agency / Company / Authorized dealer that their product / tile do not carry embossed feature.
l. The bidder shall upload Valid Email, Address and functional WhatsApp No.
m. If the Bidder / Agency having Civil Registration Enlistment Certificate shall have to upload its renewal 2023-24 and Verification Report duly signed by Issuing Authority of the Registration Card or if the verification of Registration card is being processed, the bidder shall UPLOAD an Affidavit stating therein that the Verification report shall be produced well before the issuance of allotment

Executive Engineer
Construction Division Kashmir
J&K Sports Council

No.: SC/CDK/e-01/2831-34
DIPK-NB-2805/23 Dated: 24.08.2023

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division Baramulla, MED Kashmir
Tele fax 01952234426 e-mail, id, executiveengineermdb@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender
NIT No: MDB/TS/2023-24/15/1438-44
Date: 24-08-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on items wise basis from Authorized service providers of OEMs /Registered / Reputed Workshop holders for the below mentioned repair works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Administrative Approval	Technical Sanction
01.	Repairs / jobs required for Departmental Dozer BD50 (Make BEML) MODEL 2019 CHASIS NO 14269-BD50 pertaining to SCCR Gurez of MFSD Baramulla (All spares to be replaced should be of BEML genuine parts)	01.668	200.00	3336/-	07 days	Accorded	Accorded
02.	Repair / Replacement works to Snow Cat Preet 90HP, Snow Cat New Holland 75HP and BD50 dozer 2012 and 2014 model pertaining to snow clearance control room Dawar Gurez of Field Sub Division Baramulla	0.722	200.00	1444/-	07 days	Accorded	Accorded
03.	Periodic maintenance and repair work of JCB Front End Loader 455ZX deployed at snow clearance control room Gurez	0.755	200.00	1510/-	07 days	Accorded	Accorded
04.	Overhauling, Calibration & Phasing of F.I pump and repairs/replacement to cooling system of XGMA Front End loader of Field Sub Division Baramulla presently deployed at Dawar Gurez	01.117	200.00	2234/-	07 days	Accorded	Accorded

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 24-08-2023 (06.15PM)

2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 24-08-2023 (06.30 PM) to 06-09-2023 (06.55 PM) in two covers.

3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 07-09-2023 (13.00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla.

4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers. Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:
I Tender Fee Rs. 200.00 (Rupees two hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgment excluding mPay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Baramulla. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher.
Bank: J&K Bank.
Branch: T.P Baramulla.
IFSC Code: JAKA05SHIL
Account No.: 02131010200000051.
II EMD Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 5% Performance Guarantee from (L1) bidder while executing agreement with the Firm.
III Terms & Conditions Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
IV Tax Clearance Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
V GST Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
VI Undertaking Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
Note: - Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.
Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.
5. The complete bidding process will be online.
6. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla after evaluation of the technical bid.
7. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
8. The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
9. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division Baramulla.
10. The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
11. The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.
12. The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract from the date of issue of Allotment Order.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Division
Baramulla

No - MDB /TS/e-tender-15/1438-44
DIPK-7733/23
Dated: - 24-08-2023

Likely Impact Of Food Price Shock On Overall Inflation Prompted RBI To Keep Benchmark Rates Unchanged

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The possibility of a second round impact of food price shocks on the overall inflation prompted Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das to opt for the status quo on benchmark interest rate at the bi-monthly monetary policy review earlier in the month.

The Reserve Bank at its last bi-monthly monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting on August 10 decided to keep the benchmark interest rate (repo rate) unchanged at 6.5 per cent citing inflationary concerns.

All six members including M D Patra, Shashanka Bhide, Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R Varma and Rajiv Ranjan voted for status quo on the policy rate.

"Our task (of containing inflation) is still not over. Given the likely short-term nature of the vegetable price shocks,

monetary policy can look through the first-round impact of fleeting shocks on headline inflation.

"At the same time, we need to be ready to pre-empt any second-round impact of food price shocks on the broader inflationary pressures and risks to anchoring of inflation expectations," opined Das, as per the minutes of the meeting released by the RBI on Thursday.



According to RBI Deputy Governor Patra, ensuring the sustained easing of core inflation was crucial to the MPC's objective of bringing inflation down to the target.

"This objective should not be undermined by supply shocks that show any signs of persisting and getting broader-based," he argued while voting for maintaining the status quo on the policy rate and for persevering with the withdrawal of monetary policy accommodation.

'India To Clock Highest Growth Rate Among Top 5 Global Economies In Foreseeable Future'



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance secretary T V Somanathan on Thursday said India will continue to clock the highest growth rate among the top five economies in the world in the foreseeable future and asked Indian diaspora to act as a catalyst and supplement government efforts in making India the biggest opportunity.

India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world. The top four are US, China, Japan and Germany.

An S&P Global report had earlier this month projected India's economy to double to USD 6.7 trillion by 2031, from USD 3.4 trillion currently.

"India is already the world's fifth largest economy and it is the largest country by population. India's rate of growth by any measurement is much faster than the top four. Today we can safely say that all four are likely to have lower growth rates than India in the foreseeable future.

"... in terms of the size of opportunity, India is arguably the biggest development opportunity of the future because we are large and we are growing faster than the other large economies," Somanathan said

in his address at the Indiaspora G20 forum.

The Indian economy grew at the rate of 7.2 per cent in 2022-23 and economists peg GDP growth to be in the range of 6-6.5 per cent in the current fiscal (April-March).

The top bureaucrat in the finance ministry asserted that India is the "most beautiful opportunity in the world" and the extent to which India harness this opportunity will mainly depend not on diaspora but on India's domestic policies and domestic population.

He said there are three channels through which diaspora can influence -- fund flow, trade and knowledge.

"If we do the right things, and we are doing the right things right now, then you can be a catalyst and a strong accelerator in what India can achieve," he said, adding in India's present stage of development knowledge transfer would be increasingly important. India is the biggest country in terms of population and all challenges are of mega size. India is facing the challenges and we have the ability to tackle them.

"You need to be patient with India... We can have a zig-zag line to progress, but we will keep progressing," Somanathan added.

J&K Bank Hosts 85th Annual General Meeting

Shareholders appreciate Bank's performance, express gratitude for the dividend



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank Thursday hosted 85th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of its shareholders for the financial year 2022-23 here at Kashmir International Convention Centre (KICC). The meeting themed as 'Unleashing the power of shared prosperity: facilitating Atma-Nirbharta' was the first shareholders meet organised in-person by the Bank after holding three consecutive AGMs virtually due to Covid-19 guidelines.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash chaired the meeting in presence of Advisor to LG Ladakh Dr Pawan Kotwal (IAS) - representing UT Ladakh Administration as Additional Director on Bank's Board, Principal Secretary to Government (Finance Department) Santosh D Vaidya (IAS) - representing majority share-holder and promoter i.e. J&K UT Government on the Bank's Board along with other Directors-on-Board of the Bank. Amid a large number of valuable shareholders, the meeting was also attended by the Bank's General Managers, Deputy General Managers, Company Secretary and other officials.

The Bank's MD & CEO Baldev Prakash began his address to the shareholders by congratulating the countrymen in general and the scientists of ISRO in particular over the historic landing of

India's Chandrayaan-3 on the far side of the moon.

While expressing pleasure over the first in-person shareholders meeting after three years, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash stated, "What makes this event further special is that all of you are joining us on the occasion when the country is also celebrating its Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on account of 75 years of independence."

MD & CEO also acknowledged and appreciated the support of Bank's various stakeholders on the occasion by saying, "I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you, particularly our shareholders and the governments of UTs of J&K and Ladakh, for unwavering support and trust in this institution. It is because of your continued faith that we have been able to achieve remarkable milestones over the past year."

Giving an overview of country's banking sector, he said, "Driven by increased infrastructure spending, rapid project implementation, and ongoing reforms, the banking sector in India is well poised for robust progress. Credit has seen double-digit growth in FY2022-23 and the trend is expected to continue in FY24."

Summing up the Bank's recent performance, MD said, "Our transformational journey for the last few years has been quite eventful and happening.

Bank has witnessed remarkable performance across the business parameters as reflected in our Annual Results for the FY2022-23. And in recognition of this outstanding performance, I am delighted to announce that the Board of your Bank has recommended a dividend of ₹0.50 per equity share of ₹1/- each fully paid for the financial year ended March 31, 2023."

"This decision reflects our commitment to sustainable growth and maximizing shareholder value", he added.

While acknowledging that the Bank's success is intertwined with the success of its customers, he said that the Bank continues to invest in enhancing customer experience, streamlining processes, and offering innovative financial solutions to meet their evolving needs. "We are committed to staying at the forefront of digital banking, ensuring our customers have access to seamless and secure banking experiences. Our flagship mobile banking platform J&K Bank mPay is under upgrade and the revamped app named M-Pay Delight + which will be made available shortly offers a next level experience integrating m-Banking, e-Banking, UPI, IMPS into one single application providing a unique "Bank in the Pocket" experience. We are determined to become one of the technologically smart banks in the country", he said.

World Sees Optimism, Confidence In Indian Economy: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India is seen as a combination of openness, opportunities and options as the world sees optimism and confidence in the Indian economy.

In a video message at the G20 Trade and Investment Minister's meeting here, the prime minister said that during the last nine years, India has become the fifth largest global economy and it has increased its competitiveness and enhanced transparency.

"Today we see global optimism and confidence in the Indian economy. India is seen as a combination of openness, opportunities and options," he said. India has expanded digitisation and promoted innovation and it has moved away from red tape to red carpet and liberalised FDI flows, he said.

"Above all we have brought policy stability," he said, adding, "we are committed to make India the third largest global economy in the next few years."

He further said that the global uncertainties have tested the world economy and as members of the G20, it is the responsibility of the countries to rebuild confidence in international trade and investments.

"We must build resilient and inclusive global value chains that can withstand future shocks. In this context, India's proposal to create a generic framework for mapping global value chains is important," Modi said.

He added that this frame-



work aims to assess vulnerabilities, minimise risks and enhance resilience.

About increasing growth of e-commerce, the prime minister said that there is a need to work collectively to ensure equitable competition between large and small sellers.

"We also need to address the problem faced by consumers in fair price discovery and grievance handling mechanisms," he said, adding that there is a need to put special focus on MSMEs as they account for 60 to 70 per cent of employment and contribute 50 per cent to the global GDP.

"They need our continued support... For us MSME means maximum support to micro, small and medium enterprises," he said.

Further, he said that the proposed 'Jaipur Initiative to foster seamless flow of information to MSMEs' will address the challenge of inadequate access to market and business related information faced by the sector.

"I am confident that you will work collectively to ensure that the global trading system gradually transitions into a more representative and inclusive future," he added.

CBI Books Visa Power For Bank Fraud Of Rs 1,964 Crore

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered an FIR against Visa Power and its then chairman Vishambhar Saran in connection with an alleged bank fraud of Rs 1,964 crore, officials said Thursday.

The action of the agency was initiated on a complaint from Punjab National Bank, one of the members of a consortium of 14 lenders which have sanctioned term loans of Rs 1,964 crore. PNB was the lead bank of the consortium and sanctioned loan of Rs 394 crore.

The bank has alleged that the company and accused officials -- Saran and directors Vikas Agarwal and Subrato Trivedi, both named in the FIR as accused -- had approached the bank seeking loans for developing coal-based thermal power project with a generation capacity of 1,200 MW in Raigarh in Chhattisgarh, they said.

"It has transpired that the accused persons in connivance

and in furtherance of criminal conspiracy with each other have caused wrongful gain to themselves and wrongful loss to the banks to the tune of Rs 1,964 crore apart from interest dues from the date of NPA," according to the FIR.

The project was executed in two phases of 600 MW each and was to be financed through the consortium of lenders.

The account was declared a non-performing asset (NPA) by banks between 2015-16 because the project failed to achieve milestones like a failure of promoters to bring their respective share, expiry of the power purchase agreement, and delay in environmental clearance, among others.

"It is clear that accused persons hatched a conspiracy against public sector banks with intent to cheat them by diverting and siphoning off money and committed various offences under relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code," the complaint from the PNB said.



JKEDI Facilitates 1st Meeting Of TiE Global's J&K Chapter

Will give a boost to entrepreneurship and startup ecosystem of the UT

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), entrepreneurs from J&K and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global through TiE Chandigarh Thursday conducted its first meeting to formalize the opening of TiE-J&K satellite chapter.

The J&K Chapter will provide budding and established entrepreneurs with a global platform to connect, learn, and will give fillip to their businesses.

Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat convened the meeting online and the participants included local startups and entrepreneurs from J&K besides it also witnessed the presence of key individuals from TiE Chandigarh. Jitin Talwar, Chief Mentor; Harit Mohan, President; Satish Kumar Arora, Vice President; and Anjum Singh, Executive Director



represented TiE Chandigarh.

"It is indeed a significant step forward in fostering entrepreneurship and economic growth in the UT. The TiE-J&K satellite chapter holds great promise for the aspiring and established entrepreneurs of J&K. By becoming a part of the TiE network, they will gain access to a vast global platform that facilitates connections, knowledge sharing, and valuable insights. This platform will catalyze the growth of their businesses and provide them with the resources they need to expand their reach," said Director JKEDI.

By offering a platform for learning, networking, and mentorship, the TiE-J&K satellite chapter will play a pivotal role in driving innovation, economic progress, and job creation in the region.

In line with this vision, the meeting also laid out the membership framework, including Charter and Associate memberships. It was also informed that reputed Universities and Technical Institutes of J&K can apply for Institutional Membership.

Moreover, a dedicated point of contact will be designated to streamline the onboarding process for entrepreneurs and startups from J&K, ensuring their seamless integration into the TiE network.

Jio, Airtel Drive Telecom Subs Base In India Rose To 1,173.89 Mn In June

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Telecom subscriber base in the country grew marginally to 1,173.89 million at the end of June on account of new customer additions led by Reliance Jio, sector regulator Trai said on Thursday.

The subscriber base growth was driven by mobile telephony where Reliance Jio added over 2.27 million new customers and Bharti Airtel added 1.4 million customers.

"The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,172.57 million at the end of May-23, to 1,173.89 million at the end of June-23, thereby showing a monthly growth rate of 0.11 per cent," the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in its monthly subscriber report.

However, the overall growth was mitigated by



the loss of subscribers by state-owned BSNL, MTNL and Vodafone Idea (VIL).

BSNL lost 1.87 million mobile subscribers, VIL lost 1.28 million subscribers and MTNL (1,52,912 subscribers).

The net addition in wireless subscribers of telecom operators in the month of June was 3,73,602.

"Total wireless subscribers increased from 1,143.21 million at the end of May-23, to 1,143.58 million at the end of June-23, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.03 per cent," Trai said.

After a marginal decline in May, wireline connections increased in June. The growth in the wireline segment was led by AP-

FPL which added 6,56,424 new connections. It was followed by Reliance Jio with the addition of 2,08,014 connections, Bharti Airtel (1,34,021), V-Con Mobile and Infra (13,100), Tata Teleservices (12,617) and Quadrant added 6,540 connections in June.

The total broadband subscribers increased to 861.47 million at the end of June 2023 from 856.81 million at the end of May with a monthly growth rate of 0.54 per cent, the report said.

"Top five service providers constituted 98.37 per cent market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of June-23. These service providers were Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd 447.75 million, Bharti Airtel 248.06 million, Vodafone Idea 124.90 million, BSNL 24.59 million and Atria Convergence 2.16 million," the report said.

Dir Agri Inaugurates 7 Days Training Programme On Scientific Bee-Keeping

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal Thursday inaugurated seven days divisional level training programme on scientific beekeeping under (NBHM) at Agriculture Complex, Lalmandi Srinagar.

Under the Aegis of Meri Maati Mera Desh, the inaugural session of the week-long programme was attended by Joint Director Extension, Joint Director Inputs, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar, students and a large number of beekeepers.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the Director highlighted the importance of small scale Agri- Cottage industries including bee keeping, Mushroom Cultivation and other allied activities in the overall development of agriculture sector. He said the main aim of organising such training programmes is to promote entrepreneurial culture among the farmers and educated youth of the region.

Iqbal said the agriculture diversification is the key to reduce risk in farming activities and hence beekeeping has emerged as one of the important tools which enhances agricultural income of the farming community and also secures it against changes in climate and soil resources.

ED Files Charge Sheet Against Supertech Chairman R K Arora

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Thursday filed a charge sheet against R K Arora, chairman and promoter of real estate major Supertech Group, his company, and eight others in a money laundering case, accusing them of hatching a "criminal conspiracy" to cheat home buyers.

They have been accused of defrauding at least 670 home buyers of Rs 164 crore.

The nearly 100-page prosecution complaint, ED's equivalent of charge sheet, was filed before Special Judge Devender Kumar Jangala, claiming there was sufficient evidence to prosecute Arora for laundering money. The court posted the matter for August 28 for taking cognisance of the charge sheet.

Arora was arrested on

June 27 under the criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after three rounds of questioning.

The money-laundering case against the Supertech group, its directors and promoters stems from a clutch of FIRs registered by police in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

ED's Special Public Prosecutor N K Matta and advocate Mohd Faizan Khan had told the court that the anti-money laundering agency was probing the matter related to 26 FIRs registered by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh police against Supertech Ltd. and its group companies for alleged criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and forgery.

According to the charge sheet, the company and its

directors hatched a "criminal conspiracy" to cheat people by collecting funds from prospective home buyers as advance against flats booked in their real estate projects.

The company allegedly did not adhere to the agreed obligation of providing possession of the flats on time and "defrauded" the general public, the agency said, adding the funds were collected by Supertech Limited and other group companies.

The company also took project-specific term loans from banks and financial institutions for the purpose of construction of housing projects, the ED said.

However, these funds were "misappropriated and diverted" for buying land in the name of other group companies which were pledged as collateral to borrow funds from banks and financial institutions, it added.

CS Directs NHAI For Immediate Improvement Of National Highway From Jammu To Kathua

Says Govt Is Committed To Alleviate The Problems Of Travelers On This Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday took a

review meeting with senior functionaries of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Government of J&K to review the condition of road connectivity along the NH-44 from Jammu to Kathua and to deliberate upon immediate steps required for improving the road condition to make the journey of commuters comfortable.

The review meeting was attended by Chairperson, NHAI, Santosh Kumar

Yadav, Principal Secretary PW(R&B) Department, Shailendra Kumar, ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioners, Samba/Kathua, Regional Officer, NHAI and other senior officers of UT and NHAI.

At the outset, the Chairperson, NHAI briefed all present regarding the ongoing works on the National

Highway-44, the current status of road connectivity from Jammu to Kathua, efforts being made to reduce the travel time from Jammu to Kathua and to restore the Tarnah Bridge.

Thereafter, the Chief Secretary sought details of the stretches of the NH-44 which were majorly affected due to monsoon as also the ongoing works and reviewed the actions being taken to ease the travel of the

commuters on these stretches.

On the issue of Tarnah Bridge, it was acknowledged that the break-down of the bridge was natural calamity which has increased the travel time substantially. The Chief Secretary was assured by NHAI that work to restore the bridge was going on war-footing basis despite the challenges being posed by the frequent flash-floods.

In this regard, the Chief Secretary

directed NHAI to ensure that the causeway is ready for LMV traffic within a week's time. On the issue of poor condition of road being reported along certain stretches, the Chief Secretary asked NHAI to ensure that all service roads are black-topped, made pot-hole free within a week's time so as to provide smooth alternate connectivity to the commuters in view of the ongoing works.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Only J&K

the complete particulars of the beneficiaries, including AADHAAR. "Deputy Commissioner shall forward the case(s) to Tehsildar concerned for inquiry, who shall identify the state land and verify the particulars of the beneficiaries, including their status of being landless," the order states.

The grant of land on lease shall not be construed as permission for construction, and the lessee shall seek permission from the competent authority for the construction of the house.

"The lessee shall use the land only for the purpose for which it is granted and shall start construction of the house within three months (03) from the date of the lease, failing which land shall stand resumed to the government without any compensation," it reads.

The government said that the lessee shall not sub-let/sub-lease/alienate/transfer the leased land, and any contravention shall terminate the lease, and the land shall stand resumed to the government without any compensation—(KNO)

LG Dispels Rumors

the people so that they remember me for a long time," he said.

He made these remarks while addressing a gathering at Raj Bhawan here on Thursday during the e-inauguration of several developmental projects for central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Without naming anyone, the LG said that 30 years of conflict had produced a few conflict profiteers who filled their own coffers, sent their children to foreign countries and left poor kids to die on roads.

"The shops of these conflict profiteers have been closed forever on August 5, 2019. These few people are feeling the pain of peace and development in J&K. I want their pain to continue," Sinha said.

He also launched a veiled attack on J&K mainstream parties for allegedly misleading people over his administration's land to landless scheme. He said the UT administration has received many applications from Jammu province where many people were found eligible to get land.

"They misguided people on PMAY—home for the homeless and land for the landless as they can't digest the prosperity of J&K. Let their pain grow day by day," he added.

About the Amarnath Yatra which is concluding next week, the LG said that this year a record number of over 4.5 lakh pilgrims visited the holy cave shrine of Baba Amarnathji.

"Now these people have gone back to their respective states and villages. They will surely spread a word about the peaceful atmosphere in Kashmir which ultimately will push more pilgrims into J&K," the LG said.

To a query whether preparations were on for local bodies elections, the LG said polls will be held in time. (With KNO inputs)

'J&K Has Come A

technology are breaching new frontiers.

The session was attended by vice-chancellors of various universities, experts from India and young leaders from nine countries. Deliberations were held on redefining agricultural education, leadership, entrepreneurship, employment and discovery.

Highlighting the reforms introduced across the sectors, the L-G said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has come a long way in the last four years.

"From new highways, rural roads and agriculture to industry we are witnessing the beginning of a qualitative change and tremendous growth in every sector," he said.

Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors powered by the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme are offering multi-fold growth opportunities to our farmers and agri-entrepreneurs, Sinha said.

He said the success of SKUAST in promoting agricultural education through international collaboration, assistance in policymaking and entrepreneurship is proof that given a proper enabling environment, India's experts and scientists in this sector are second to none.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor released the Srinagar Declaration of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association, a multi-institutional MoU among all state agricultural universities as a part of the educational reform programme of SKUAST.

The president of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Vinay Sahasrabudhe, also spoke on the occasion and shared his views on increasing global cooperation in the agriculture sector.

'We've Touched

fulfill the aspirations of all sections," he said.

This, Sinha said, after inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various developmental projects of Budgam district and launched the "Beautification of Budgam Town" initiative

In his address, the LG congratulated the District Administration, public representatives and the people of Budgam.

"I am hopeful that planned infrastructure development projects & amenities for sustainable living by Budgam District Administration will create healthy competition amongst cities of Jammu Kashmir and encourage public

and ULBs to improve infrastructure and make the urban spaces beautiful and inclusive," he said.

"The initiative for beautification of Budgam town will boost rapid development of economy, strengthen its ecology and ensure ease of living. These projects are reflective of the vibrancy and resolve of the district," he added.

Addressing the gathering at Raj Bhawan, Sinha called upon the public representatives, civil society members and the youth to discharge their collective responsibility in realizing the developmental goals for a glorious future.

"India is moving ahead with new thinking and new resolve. We have touched the moon. Now, we should set big goals. Now, we should work with new speed and scale and dedicate ourselves in building a progressive society and realize the vision of Smart Cities, Smart Towns and Smart Villages," he said.

The UT administration, he said, is sensitive to the developmental needs of the people and is making every possible effort for inclusive and sustainable development of Jammu Kashmir.

He commended the endeavour of District Administration for honouring Acharya Abhinav Gupt Ji by creating infrastructure, facilities and beautification works of the Bairam Cave at Beerwah.

"It is a wonderful example of 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi' and multi-dimensional approach will help developing Beerwah as a major tourist destination," Sinha added.

Nazir Ahmad Khan, Chairman, District Development Council, Budgam expressed gratitude to the LG-led administration for taking development to the grassroots level.

The projects inaugurated by Lt Governor today include Public and Children Parks around Charar-e-Sharif Shrine; Renovation/ Beautification Works for Bairam Hill Cave at Beerwah, Budgam; Jogger's Park at MC Chadoora; Water Supply Scheme, Harinoo and New Type Primary Health Centre, Choon.

The projects worth Rs 41 crore for which the foundation stones were laid are Transit Accommodation at Kakanmaran, Budgam; New Bus Adda Chadoora; Modernization of DC Office Complex; Water Supply Scheme, Gundipora, Beerwah and Construction of 19 new Panchayat Ghars across Budgam.

'No Constitutional Fraud'

having become extinct, Article 370 acquired a permanent status, they have said.

"We cannot postulate a situation where ends justify the means. The means have to be consistent with the ends," the CJ observed when Attorney General R Venkataramani said it was necessary to abrogate Article 370 and there were no infirmities in the process adopted.

There was no constitutional fraud, as alleged, in abrogation of the provision, said Venkataramani, who opened arguments on behalf of Centre.

"Due process was followed. There was no wrong-doing and there was no constitutional fraud as alleged by the other side. The step was necessary to be taken. Their argument is flawed and inconceivable," Venkataramani told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

CJ Chandrachud told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, also appearing for the Centre, that eventually he will have to explain as to how the word "constituent assembly" which existed in clause 2 of Article 370 was replaced with the word "legislative assembly" on August 5, 2019, the day the provisions of Article 370 were done away with.

"You will have to argue how it was not a constituent assembly but a legislative assembly in its original form. You will have to answer how it will square up with clause 2 of Article 370 which specifically says the constituent assembly formed for the purpose of framing the constitution of that state...because, there is a textual answer which may militate against your line of approach," CJ Chandrachud told Mehta.

The solicitor general said he will try to satisfy the conscience of the court and explain the procedure adopted and how it was constitutionally permissible.

The relevant provision of Article 370, before its reading down in 2019, said: "Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification."

On August 5, 2019, the newly inserted Article 367(4)(d) amended Article 370(3) by replacing the expression "Constituent Assembly of the State" with the "Legislative Assembly of the State".

"I will show how Article 370 worked till 2019. Some of the things are really shocking and I want the court to know about it. Because, practically two constitutional organs—state government and the President—in consultation with each other, can amend any part of the Constitution, whichever way they want and apply it to Jammu and Kashmir," Mehta said.

As an example, Mehta said the preamble of the Indian Constitution was made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir by way of Constitution Order under Article 370(1)(b) in 1954.

"Thereafter 42nd amendment took place in 1976 and the words 'socialist' and 'secular' came to be added in the Indian Constitution but that was not made applicable (to J-K) till August 5, 2019. The Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir was not having either the term 'socialist' or 'secular,'" Mehta said, adding he will show the "devastating effect" Article 370 could have had if it were not repealed.

"This court has rightly flagged that end may not justify the means but I will justify the means also. They are constitutionally permissible," Mehta said.

The CJ asked the Centre to furnish a list of states out of the 562 princely states which merged with India without signing any merger agreement besides original papers existing with the Department of State under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The solicitor general countered the argument of the petitioners that Article 370 was a special feature and it was a privilege given to the people of Jammu and Kashmir which could never be taken away, and said there were several similarly situated princely states, which put certain conditions for integration but eventually subsumed themselves with the Union because of Article 1 of the Constitution.

The bench prima facie agreed with the submissions of Mehta and said the only difference was that princely states like Kathiawar, Saurashtra and Baroda did not follow the Article 370 route but still were integrated with India.

"For J-K the Constitution decided to go to Article 370 and for other states there was no provision like Article 370. They merged and they were integrated completely. They accepted List 1, they accepted List 3 and they accepted the ultimate powers of the legislature of dominion of India," the bench said.

The CJ said many of these states came into the Union of their own volition.

"We take it as voluntary but there may have been little bit of persuasion, there may have been politics involved. This is because of genius like Sardar Patel and there is no doubt about it. But the fact, however, remains is that in so far as J-K is concerned, it bucked that trend and went through the Article 370 route," CJ Chandrachud added.

Mehta also countered the argument of petitioners that instrument of merger was a necessary attribute for complete integration otherwise there existed a kind of internal sovereignty.

"This court may recall that J-K never signed instrument of merger but then many states did not sign instrument of merger. But, from the date on which Constitution of India came into force and Article 1 came into force, they became integral part of India," he said.

He also questioned the argument of the petitioners that although J-K gave up its external sovereignty, there existed internal sovereignty with the erstwhile state.

"In my view, the petitioners are confusing internal sovereignty with autonomy. External sovereignty nobody can dispute it is with UOI (Union of India) and internal sovereignty in the facts of our case and the constitutional structure which we have accepted, would mean autonomy of a federating unit. This autonomy exists with every state," Mehta submitted.

The CJ agreed with the submission and said, "Yes, this is there with every institution. This exists with every autonomous institution. Like we have autonomous authority to decide the constitutional issue, so we can't say that internal sovereignty vests with us. We are an independent autonomous institution under the Constitution."

The hearing remained inconclusive and will resume on August 28.

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

Action Under

were not able to properly reach out to the customers because of Covid and issues relating to (abrogation of Article) 370. So, it could be hesitation from our side, but now that Covid and Article 370 are past us, now this recovery is going on as per the rules.

"The implementation of SARFAESI Act before 2019 was not as good as it is today. It could have been a hesitation from our side or the customer's side. The people were not able to reach out due to law and order issues as well as Covid issues," he said.

Referring to NPAs, Prakash said the bank has been able to bring them down significantly.

"Last year, we ended at 6.04 per cent of NPA, we were at 8.67 per cent to start with and then in between it had gone to 9 per cent also. In the first quarter this year, we have further improved to 5.7 per cent," he said.

"A few borrowers are there, who have the capacity to repay, but they have not paid it. They have diverted the money. The bank's money was taken for 'x' purpose but was utilised for 'y' purpose. So, that is where the problem lies. We have been requesting those borrowers to immediately repay that money,"

he added.

To a question on widespread complaints about its mobile banking app, Prakash said M-Pay was a very popular payment app but maybe because of bandwidth or other issues, it was not performing up to the expectations, particularly when the increased inflow of transactions happened.

"We have taken note of that and I am happy to tell you that we are now ready with a state-of-the-art solution - 'M-Pay Delight Plus' -- which will be launched in a very few days' time and this problem will be a thing of past now," he said.

Asked about the recent termination of a bank employee for allegedly being a threat to the security of the state, and recruitment scams in the past, Prakash said law will take its own course.

"Wherever the wrong doings have happened, appropriate agencies and the bank will be looking into those things and whatever actions will be taken, we will inform the public also. I think that those things which have happened, are history now, and a lot of transparency has come into the system. So, those things are past now for us," he added.

He said the bank is on a rising trajectory, having booked the highest ever profit of Rs 1,197 crore last year.

"We are in the same journey this year also. The first quarter has been very good. The business is growing very well. The assets quality of the bank is improving.

"The capital adequacy ratio of the bank, after a very long time, has crossed 15 per cent. We are at 15.38 per cent as of now. The economy of our core territory - J-K - is doing very well," he said. With inputs from PTI

Building Permission

pursuance of which the violation were committed in Green Belt Park and Gandhi Nagar areas.

"Out of the total minor/major violation, in how many cases the Commissioner, JMC after finding the role of the sub-ordinate officers, Departmental/Penal action against the erring/delinquent subordinate officer (khilaf-warzi Officer) with whose tactical consent the minor/major violations were committed has been taken in Green Belt Park and Gandhi Nagar areas."

The court also directed the Commissioner to provide details whether the Jammu Master plan 2032 permits change of land use in the residential colony of Gandhi Nagar and Green Belt Park.

If so, the officer has been asked to inform to what extent the area of the plot can be converted from residential to commercial.

Also, the Commissioner has been asked to inform whether commercial buildings being run in residential areas of Gandhi Nagar and Green Belt park have any such valid permission accorded by the competent authority in their favour for running such commercial activities.

The Commissioner has been asked to provide details as to what action has been taken in case of the establishments in which the residential permissions have been accorded and yet the commercial activity is being going on in violation of the permission granted for land use.

1987 Rigged

while as Article 370 was there from 1950 onwards," Lone said, addressing a press conference here.

"When the gun did not come for about 40 years, how would it have come overnight," he questioned.

Referring to the Supreme Court hearing a batch of petitions against the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, Lone expressed hope that "justice" will prevail and the people of J-K will get their rights.

"We hope that God willing, the SC restores August 4, 2019 position and it ends the humiliation that J-K had to go through from being one of the politically strongest and most empowered states in India to one of the most underpowered and a UT," Lone said.

He said the people of J-K hope that both Articles 370 and 35A are restored and the top court rules its decision in the favour of the people of the erstwhile state.

I thank the lawyers who brilliantly argued in the court. They presented the case in a very brilliant manner, he said.

Lone said the biggest takeaway from the hearings in the apex court so far has been that all the main lawyers opposing the abrogation were non-Kashmiris.

"That is India's federalism and its pluralism that they are arguing on our behalf. Our hearts get happy that there are some souls in India even today, in this surcharged and polarised environment, who have decided to speak on behalf of the people of J-K. That's I think the biggest takeaway," he said.

ADGP Kashmir

undermines the integrity of the public transport system but also incurs substantial loss to the railway exchequer," ADGP said in a communiqué, copy of which is possession of Kashmir Observer.

The provincial police chief has said the behavior of such police personnel has not been non-compliant with the establishment norms, but also disrespect for legal requisites that govern the public transport system.

Such actions set an undesirable precedent to follow the suit, thereby perpetuating the problems of ticketless travel, reads the communiqué.

The ADGP, as per the communiqué has asked all district police chiefs of the Kashmir division to issue an advisory in their respective districts/ units with the instructions to travel with valid passes and tickets.

"Keeping in view seriousness of the matter, appropriate directions be passed to all officers and officials posted in your respective districts/ units to desist from ticketless travel and advisory from your concerned districts/ units should be issued with the advice to travel on valid tickets/passes and desist from ticketless train travels. In case any officer/official is found indulging in ticketless travel, appropriate action under law shall be taken," it added.

Meanwhile an official from the northern railways said the directions were issued following a complaint by the Chief Area Manager that besides locals, some personnel of police department also travel without tickets in trains, thus causing huge losses to the railway exchequer.

He said that an advisory is likely to be issued by all SSPs of the Kashmir Division in this regard soon with strict instructions to all police officials/ officers to refrain from such illegal activities.

Drug Menace

about its destructive results." To overcome the menace of drug abuse, the court said, "concerned agencies hand-in-hand with the community heads are required to come forward and deal with this menace with iron hand to save the society more particularly the young generation and families."

ULB Head

a report to the Government within 15 days. In the month of July, Government had ordered an inquiry against incumbent deputy mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Parvez Qadri over allegations of corruption based on a report of anti-corruption bureau.

In September last year, Jammu & Kashmir Government had removed president Municipal Committee Awantipora after an inquiry confirmed allegations against him—(KNO)

Rahul on Pvt

"Some Congress leaders left for Sonamarg on Thursday night to give Rahul Gandhi a warm welcome. By Friday evening, he will be in Srinagar," the Cong leader said.

For the next two days, he said, Rahul will visit many places in Srinagar, including the Old City and will also meet public delegations.

Unconfirmed reports said that Rahul will stay at a hotel in Rainawari area here, after checking out from the houseboat.

Pertinently, Rahul started his trip on August 17 initially for two days. He later extended his trip in the cold desert.

Property Attached

The property was attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for "wilful" harbouring of terrorists, police said.

3 Killed As Truck

person has been hospitalised.

Electric Shock Kills

"The group of persons received a strong jolt, leaving one of them dead on the spot and injuries to five others," they said.

Identifying the deceased as one Mohammad Aslam son of Abdul Kareem, of Mandi Arai the sources at the same time identified those injured in the incident as: Mohd Azmat (40) son of Mohd Azeem Khan, of Gundi; Liaqat Hussain (26) son of Mohd Hafiz of Shankar Nagar; Mohd Imran son (25) of Mohd Bashir Age, of Galinag Mandi, Abdul Razaq (44) son of Wali Mohammad Age of Kanuyian and Mohammad Shakeel (26) son of Mohd Hafiz of Shankar Nagar.

"All those injured were hospitalised soon after incident" they said.

Confirming it, SHO Poonch Deepak Pathina said that the injured persons are under treatment at a local hospital.

KPs Perform

"We are very grateful to our Muslim brothers because they have helped us more than what we had expected. If we are worshipping here and staying here for the night, all this is possible only when our majority community are by our side," he said.

Thanking villagers, he said that they preserved Asthapan till now and even in the most difficult situations, they did not allow anyone to harm it.

Setting an example of communal harmony and brotherhood, the local Muslims came together to extend best wishes to Pandits and helped the devotees in the smooth celebration of the religious event.

"The event was held for the second continuous year after covid and we received a lot of love from the locals," said a visiting devotee, Bhushan Lal.

"The humanity is still alive in the people of Kashmir and we had spent the time here due to the trust and strong brotherhood with our Muslim neighbours," he added.

ASIA CUP

Team India Undergoes Rigorous Drills

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Ahead of the Asia Cup 2023, Indian cricketers on Thursday underwent rigorous fitness drills, including the Yo-Yo test which was aced by the players in attendance in Bengaluru.

The exercise is a part of the six-day conditioning and skill-set enhancement camp, and, not surprisingly, Virat Kohli scored a high 17.2 in the test.

The BCCI mandated fitness parameter is 16.5.

Apart from Kohli, it is learnt that skipper Rohit Sharma and ODI vice-captain Hardik Pandya among others have participated in the drills at the KSCA-Alur grounds in Bengaluru, and successfully completed the tests.

"The tests were successful and the reports will be sent to the BCCI soon," a source following the developments told PTI. Four players - Jasprit Bumrah, Prashidh Krishna, Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma - are expected to join the camp on Friday.

The quartet is flying out of Dublin to Bengaluru after the three-match T20I series against Ireland at Malahide.

While the drills were largely restricted to indoor sessions on this day, except the Yo-Yo test, there will be increased



outdoor activities from Friday.

However, those returning from Ireland might not be put under the Yo-Yo test as they will be put through the skill-set segment of the camp.

The PIT had reported on Wednesday that several parameters of players will be checked during the camp including lipid

profile, blood sugar (fasting and PP), uric acid, calcium, Vitamin B12 and D, creatinine, testosterone and Dexa tests etc.

Apart from the fitness routines, the outdoor events will also include match simulation sessions monitored by batting coach Vikram Rathour and head coach Rahul Dravid.

Indian Wrestling Federation Suspended For Failing To Hold Elections On Time



Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) was banned by the sport's global governing body on Thursday in a fresh crisis for the national federation battling a sexual harassment scandal.

The United World Wrestling (UWW), in a letter to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), conveyed its decision to suspend the WFI for failing to hold fresh elections in the wake of the scandal. IOA acting Chief Ex-

ecutive Officer Kalyan Chaubey confirmed receiving the UWW letter but did not elaborate when contacted by Reuters.

WFI President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh was charged with sexual harassment and criminal intimidation last month after several women wrestlers, accompanied by their male counterparts, staged sit-in protest in April. Singh, an influential member of parliament from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, has denied any wrongdoing and was granted bail last

month.

In May, the UWW had threatened to suspend the WFI if it did not hold fresh elections within 45 days. After multiple delays, the elections were scheduled to be held on Aug. 12 before a high court stayed the polls following legal disputes.

The UWW did not immediately reply to a Reuters email seeking details. The suspension means Indian wrestlers will compete as neutral athletes at the World Championships in Belgrade from Sept. 16.



CHESS WORLD CUP FINAL

Praggnanandhaa Falls In Final Hurdle As Carlsen Wins World Cup

Press Trust of India

BAKU: Indian prodigy R Praggnanandhaa could not pull off a repeat of his giant-killing acts of the last few days as fancied Magnus Carlsen beat him 1.5-0.5 in the tie-break to win the FIDE World Cup here on Thursday.

Praggnanandhaa's dream run in the tournament ended at the hands of the world No. 1 after the classical games ended in a stalemate. For the five-time World Championship winner and Norwegian superstar Carlsen, who has been at the top of the sport for over a decade now, this was his first-ever World Cup title.

The second 25+10 tie-break game ended in a draw in 22 moves as Carlsen played it safe after he had won the first one, displaying his superior end-game skills.

After a keenly contested first game, the second game was a rather tame affair with Praggnanandhaa falling behind quickly and agreeing to a draw.

The two classical games on Tuesday and Wednesday had ended in

draws, forcing the final into a tie-break.

Carlsen, who had been under the weather due to food poisoning and did not look at his best in the first classical game, showed why he is so tough to get past with his remarkable comeback in the tie-break.

He overcame a stiff challenge from his 18-year-old Indian opponent in the first tie-break game, winning it in 45 moves. Carlsen then saw off the problems he encountered due to Praggnanandhaa's enterprising play in the middle to turn the tables on the Indian and seize the advantage.

As fortunes swung from one side to other, the Indian surrendered the point after coming under time pressure in the first rapid game.

Carlsen won game 1 in 45 moves and made full use of the advantage of playing with white pieces in the second game.

Praggnanandhaa, playing with white in the day's first game, made the first move -e4 - and got into a better position due to some careful maneuvering.

At one point of time, the play-



ers were left with their two rooks and minor pieces - two knights for Carlsen and a knight and a light co-

loured bishop for Praggnanandhaa. The Indian was under time pressure and resigned after making a mistake,

having realised that the game was gone. In the second game, Carlsen be-

gan with e4. The first exchange happened when the sport's superstar took a pawn on the eighth move after Praggnanandhaa took a second pawn with the queen.

Faced with a must-win situation in the second game, the Indian teen came under time pressure early and chose to agree to a draw with white (Carlsen) holding the upper hand.

Earlier, the two classical games ended in draws that forced a tie-break to decide the World Cup champion.

Praggnanandhaa enjoyed an incredible run in the tournament, having beaten world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura and world No.3 Fabiano Caruana to set up a final date with Carlsen.

The results in the ongoing tournament also helped Praggnanandhaa qualify for the Candidates 2024 tournament, which will be held in Canada to determine the challenger to world champion Ding Liren of China.

Praggnanandhaa also became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

FOOTBALL

Brazilian Superstar Neymar Could Play In India With Al Hilal

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: If having Pele, Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi was not enough, India could next host Brazilian superstar Neymar when his new club, Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal, visits the country to play against Mumbai FC in an AFC Champions League game.

Mumbai FC players and coaching staff could not hide their excitement the moment the team drew Al Hilal on Thursday, realising that it could pave the way for them to rub shoulders with one of the world's best players in the group stage of the continental club showpiece.

Al Hilal, the third-place finishers in the 2022-23 Saudi Pro League, had recently signed Neymar, a former Barcelona FC star -- with whom he won the UEFA Champions League title. His last club stint was at Paris Saint Germain, alongside Messi and Kylian Mbappe.

Neymar's new Saudi club is also the most successful team in the AFC Champions League



history, having won the title four times, besides being runners-up on five occasions.

Al Hilal have bolstered their squad for the upcoming season with some big-name signings including Neymar Jr, Kalidou Koulibaly, Ruben Neves, Sergej Milinkovic-Savic, Yassine Bounou and Aleksandar Mitrovic. The group stage of the AFC Champions League is a home-and-away affair and thus it will be interesting to see if Neymar is seen in action at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in

Pune, Mumbai City FC's home venue.

If Neymar travels to Pune, it would be an opportunity of a lifetime for Indian fans to catch a glimpse of him playing in the country.

FC Nassaji Mazandaran of Iran and PFC Navbahor Namanagan of Uzbekistan are the other two sides in Group D.

Meanwhile, Cristiano Ronaldo's Saudi side Al Nassr were drawn with Persepolis FC of Iran, Al Duhail SC of Qatar and FC Ishtiklol of Tajikistan in Group E.

Real Madrid To Go For 3rd Straight Win In La Liga With Red-Hot Bellingham

Agencies

MADRID: Jude Bellingham's promising start with Real Madrid has quickly helped quell some of the disappointment prompted by Karim Benzema's departure and the club's failure to bring in Kylian Mbappe.

Madrid's top signing so far this year got off to a red-hot start, scoring once in the team's 2-0 win at Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish league opener and twice in the 3-1 win at Almeria last weekend. Bellingham will be attracting all the attention again when Madrid visits Celta Vigo on Saturday to try to stay perfect.

His arrival brought plenty of excitement to Madrid fans hopeful he could make an instant impact and boost the team's midfield, and his early performances exceeded even some of the most optimistic expectations.

The England midfielder was one of the most sought-after players this year, joining Madrid on a 130 million euro



(\$141 million) move from Borussia Dortmund.

Celta, with former Madrid coach Rafa Benitez at the helm this season, will be looking to win its first match after opening with a 2-0 home loss against Osasuna and a 1-1 draw at Real Sociedad thanks to Oscar Mingueza's stoppage-time equalizer.

Madrid is playing its first three games on the road be-

cause of renovation work at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Defending champion Barcelona will face Villarreal on Sunday to try to win its second consecutive match after opening with a 0-0 draw at Getafe. The Catalan club will still be without coach Xavi Hernandez and forward Raphinha, who received two-game suspensions after being sent off against Getafe.

Iranian filmmaker Ebrahim Golestan dies, aged 100

LONDON: Prominent Iranian filmmaker and author Ebrahim Golestan has died, aged 100.

In an Instagram post, his daughter Lili said her dad passed away on Tuesday at his home in the UK. "Father, you have left us. Farewell," she added.

Golestan was known for his multifaceted roles and innovative contributions to Iranian cinema and literature.

Born in the south-central Iranian city of Shiraz in 1922, he left Iran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution after emerging as a pioneer of modern and progressive cinematic artistry within Iran and internationally.

His politically and culturally charged works, which examined themes such as loneliness, alienation, and social injustice, established him as an intellectual who helped shape 20th-century Iran.

After a short venture in journalism, he set up Iran's first film studio in 1957 and started producing documentaries and feature films such as "Brick and Mirror," an epic indictment of Iranian society.

Other notable movies included "The Hills of Marlik," "Secrets of the Treasure of the Jinn Valley," "Waves, Coral, and Rock," "From a Drop to the



Sea," and "A Fire," a highly visual treatment of a colossal oil-well fire in southwestern Iran, which earned him two awards at the Venice Film Festival.

Among his many achievements, he produced the documentary film "Black House," directed by his partner and Persian literature great Forough Farrokhzad, who died in a car accident at the age of 32.

Golestan moved to the UK in 1979, and during his career published several novels and short stories often influenced by the works of Western authors including Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner.

In 2003, he experienced a personal tragedy when his BBC cameraman son Kaveh died in northern Iraq after stepping on a landmine.

"India Took A Walk On Moon": Pragyan Rover Embarks On 14-Day Lunar Mission

Bengaluru: Chandrayaan-3 mission's Lander Module which touched down on the lunar surface, has rolled out the rover, Pragyan, with ISRO saying "India took a walk on the moon".

On its official X handle, ISRO said the "rover ramped down." "Chandrayaan-3 ROVER: Made in India--Made for the Moon! The Ch-3 Rover ramped down from the lander and India took a walk on the moon!" it said. Official sources had earlier confirmed the development. President Droupadi Murmu congratulated the ISRO team for the successful deployment of Pragyan.

"Its rolling out a few hours after the landing of Vikram marked the success of yet another stage of Chandrayaan 3. I look forward with excitement, alongside my fellow citizens and scientists, to the information and analyses that Pragyan will acquire and enrich our understanding of the moon", she said.

In precision landing, Chandrayaan 3's LM Vikram touched down the lunar surface at 6.04 pm on Wednesday, sending the nation into wild celebrations.

The ISRO had earlier said the 26 kg six-wheeled rover was scheduled to descend from the lander's belly, onto the Moon's surface, using one of its side panels as a ramp.



The lander (Vikram) and rover (Pragyan) -- with a total mass of 1,752 kg -- are designed to operate for one lunar daylight period (about 14 Earth days) to study the surroundings there.

However, ISRO officials do not rule out the possibility of them coming to life for another lunar day.

The rover will carry out in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface during the course of its mobility. Both the lander and the rover have scientific payloads to carry out experiments on the lunar surface.

The rover would study the surface of the moon through its payloads APXS - Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer - to derive

the chemical composition and infer mineralogical composition to further enhance understanding of the lunar surface.

Pragyan also has another payload--Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) to determine the elemental composition of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site.

ISRO Chairman S Somnath had earlier said, "After powered descent (of lander) on to the landing site, there will be deployment of ramp and rover coming out. After this all the experiments will take place one after the other -- all of which have to be completed in just one day on the moon, which is 14 days."

How Cape Town Muslims saved South Africa's oldest Quran

An Indonesian imam who was exiled to the southern tip of Africa by Dutch colonizers over two centuries ago meticulously transcribed a Quran, and this historical manuscript now holds a place of immense pride among Cape Town's Muslim population.



Safeguarded within the Auwal Mosque in the city's historic Bo Kaap district, the Quran was discovered in the mosque's attic during renovations in the mid-1980s.

Imam Abdullah ibn Qadi Abdus Salaam, known as Tuan Guru or Master Teacher, is believed to have committed the Quran to memory after being banished to Cape Town as a political prisoner in 1780. His exile from Tidore Island in Indonesia was a punishment for his involvement in the resistance movement against Dutch colonizers.

Cassiem Abdullah, a member of the mosque committee, shared with the BBC that the attic had an air of disuse, untouched for more than a century, when builders stumbled upon the unbound Quran packed in a paper bag. Alongside this discovery were other religious texts authored by Tuan Guru.

Despite its age, the unnumbered loose pages of the Quran were in remarkable condition, except for the initial few pages

that exhibited fraying along the edges. The Arabic script, penned with black and red ink, was beautifully clear and remains so even now.

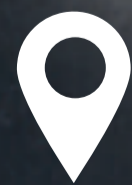
The principal challenge faced by the local Muslim community was the preservation of this cherished relic, which traces its roots back to 1694. The task of arranging the more than 6,000 verses of the Quran in the proper sequence was taken on by the late Maulana Taha Karaan, the chief jurist of the Muslim Judicial Council based in Cape Town, working alongside several local scholars of the Quran. This painstaking process, culminating in the binding of the pages, spanned three years.

The Auwal Mosque, founded by Tuan Guru in 1794 as the first mosque in present-day South Africa, became the permanent home for this precious Quran. Following three unsuccessful attempts at theft, the mosque committee decided to safeguard the invaluable manuscript within a fire- and bullet-resistant enclosure at the mosque's front a decade ago.

Bun Maska



Famous
Irani Chai of
Bombay
now in Srinagar



JK Bank Lawns,
Opp Ghat 6 Boulevard,
Srinagar