

Kashmir's Warming Climate: Fruits, Flowers And Nature's New Tune

Farzana Nisar

Nestled in the tranquil environs of Nigeen Srinagar, a few square feet of Murtaza Ahmad's home-garden boasts the unexpected presence of orange trees. Its evergreen foliage, glossy and dark green creates a refreshing contrast against the bright blue sky. Nearly five years ago, Murtaza embarked on the journey of cultivating these trees, nurturing them with care and patience as they took root in this unlikely setting. It's not just him; many of his neighbours

have also started experimenting with citric fruits. While they look at these trees as personal triumphs, in reality, they hold a tale of nature's response to a changing world.

Within the realm of Kashmir, where vibrant fields of apple, saffron and paddy paint the landscape with their abundance, an ominous shift is taking place. The sun's fiery caress, extending its hot fingers across the valley, carries a subtle message—a message of change, of uncertainty, and of a world grappling with the ravages of climate change. This



year, Srinagar, the main city of Kashmir, recorded hottest June day after 18 years at 35.0 degree Celsius.

Over the past century, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has experienced a temperature rise surpassing the global average.

While the world's temperature has increased by around 0.8 to 0.9 degrees Celsius, Kashmir has witnessed a more pronounced rise of 1.2 degrees Celsius.

The Jammu and Kashmir State Action Plan on Climate Change, a comprehensive report compiled by the Climate Change Cell of the state government, underscores the urgency of the situation. The report emphasises that Kashmir is on a trajectory toward an exceptional climatic scenario characterised by a consistent rise in overall temperatures. Experts say that as the

temperatures continue to increase, the implications for various sectors of Kashmir could be far-reaching. "Rising temperatures are speculated to affect all the water dependent sectors, be it agriculture, horticulture, hydropower production or tourism. Furthermore, it can also increase the incidence of cryosphere-related disasters like the thawing of frozen landscapes translating into landslides/ mudflows, glacial lake outburst floods, rock-ice avalanches etc.," Dr. Irfan Rashid, senior Assistant Professor, Department

Met Issues Landslides, Flash Flood Advisory

Agencies

Srinagar: The weather department on Friday advised concerned authorities to remain cautious till August 26 as "rain over higher reaches may generate landslides, flash floods in vulnerable spots at lower catchment areas".

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that generally cloudy weather was expected with possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain at scattered places of J&K during next 24 hours.

On August 26, he said, weather is expected to be generally cloudy with possibility of "intermittent light to moderate rain at scattered places."

"Although there's no forecast of heavy rain, still all concerned are advised to remain cautious during August 25-26th as rain over higher reaches may generate landslides, flash floods in vulnerable

Fake DoB: 8 Govt Employees Chargesheeted

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Crime Branch Kashmir on Friday produced a chargesheet against eight employees of the Agriculture Production Department for submitting fake date of birth certificates at the time of their initial appointment in government service.

The chargesheet was filed by the Economic Offences Wing (EoW) of the Crime Branch Kashmir against 8 accused persons before the court of city Munsiff Srinagar for their alleged involvement in commission of offences punishable under Sections

India Showed Its Capability By Hoisting Tricolour On Moon: PM



Press Trust Of India

Athens: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India has shown its capability to the world by hoisting the tricolour on the Moon, asserting that its science and technology and innovation are creating a wave globally.

Addressing the Indian diaspora in Greece, he also cited several development feats achieved by his government in the last nine years and emphasised that never before has so much investment been made in the infrastructure sector.

Over 25 lakh km-long optical fibre cable has been laid in India since 2014 which is, he noted, more than six times the distance between the Earth and the Moon. India has taken indigenous

5G technology to around 700 districts in record time, he said, drawing cheers from the audience.

The world's highest-altitude rail bridge and motorable road besides the biggest cricket stadium and the tallest statue are in India now, he said.

Top global bodies like the World Bank and the IMF are praising the Indian economy with leading companies vying with each other to invest in India, he said, asserting that the country's role is changing fast in the post-COVID-19 world order.

Referring to the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface earlier this week, Modi said India has shown its capability to the world by hoisting the tricolour on the Moon.



MIGRANT WORKERS PLUCKING APPLES FROM A HIGH DENSITY orchard in Chadura area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Mobile App Boosts Online Sale Of Kashmir's Medicinal Plants

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Mohamad Shaban Bhat, 58, was struggling to sell Kahzaban (Arnebia benthami) and other medicinal plants that he had grown over 20 kanal of land in Central Kashmir's Budgam district with the help of Jammu and Kashmir forest department and he was unable to find buyers.

Bhat regretted that his investment of lakhs of rupees in growing medicinal plants got wasted. His worries, however, subsided when he came to know about an e-Charak mobile application as well as web portal for the promotion and marketing of medicinal plants and herbs.

"An official of the forest department informed me about the online portal. I don't know how to use it but my son is familiar with the portal," said Bhat. Within a month, Bhat sold all his medicinal plants online and generated good revenue in return.

The e-Charak mobile application and web portal was jointly launched by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) for the



promotion and marketing of medicinal plants/herbs.

The e-channel is a platform to enable information exchange between various stakeholders, mainly farmers involved in the medicinal plants sector across

the country. The application supports different local languages and it also provides a fortnightly market price of 100 Medicinal Plants from 25 herbal markets across India.

Notably, the Jammu and Kashmir government is keen to promote and encourage the people to cultivate the medicinal plants in the valley. The government is making a strategy and mechanism for developing and cultivation of Medicinal plants across the UT.

The government has so far developed three nurseries of Medicinal Plants at Gurez Bandipora, Bhaderwah in Doda and Tappal in Samba. According to officials, the centre has approved medicinal plant nurseries for four more districts of the UT and the work on them will start soon.

Pertinent to mention that the UT is famous for its rich variety of plants with medicinal qualities, which are used in medical treatments. However, the demand from other countries have made medicinal plants vulnerable to smuggling.

"This is being done to reduce the stress on endangered medicinal plants

HC Permits Army To Carry Out Repairs In Sonamarg Says Security Forces Can Be Treated To Be Class By Itself Distinguishable From Other Commercial Enterprises'

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that the security forces "can be treated to be a class by itself distinguishable from other commercial enterprises", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has allowed the army to carry out repairs and maintenance works in Sonamarg, the gold meadow.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Choudhary passed the orders while allowing an application filed by the army, seeking permission in the backdrop of restraint imposed by the Court to carry out maintenance and repairing works in respect of the existing structures in High Altitude Warfare School (HAWS) and other transit camps located in Sonamarg.

When the matter was taken up by the court, T M Shamsi,

DSGI, furnished the details of the works for maintenance and repairs required to be executed in the Army installations in Sonamarg (HAWS) and the Sonamarg Military Stations in a sealed cover and submitted that disclosure of the detail particulars may compromise with the security of these installations.

"Considering that carrying out the maintenance/repair works are urgently required, and the fact that this pertains to security of the Nation which is of paramount importance, and thus cannot be equated with other commercial enterprises engaged in profit making activities," the court said, adding, "The army/security forces can be treated to be a class by itself distinguishable from other commercial enterprises, we are of the view that an exception can be made to the

Sonia Gandhi To Join Rahul In Srinagar Today

Press Trust of India

Srinagar: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will be reaching Srinagar on a two-day "personal visit" and will be joined by his mother Sonia Gandhi next day, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Vikar Rasool Wani said on Friday.

However, Wani said, the two senior leaders would have no political engagement or meeting with any party leaders in Srinagar during the "family tour".

Rahul has been in the Union Territory of Ladakh for the past one week and will be leaving for Srinagar after addressing a public rally in Kargil on Friday morning, the JKPCC president told PTI.

He said he would be joined by his mother Sonia Gandhi on Saturday.

Rahul reached Ladakh on



August 2, his first visit to the region which was granted UT status after being carved out from Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

Over the past one week, Rahul has gone round almost all famous places including Pangong lake, Nubra valley, Khardungla top, Lamayuru and Zaskar on his motorcycle before reaching Kargil on Thursday. Another Congress

SHORT TAKES

Iltija Mufti Granted Regular Passport

Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti was granted a regular passport with 10-year validity here on Friday, officials said. Iltija expressed satisfaction on the issuance of a passport to her after a long-drawn legal fight. The issuance of a regular passport to Iltija came more than a month after she moved the Jammu and Kashmir High Court with a fresh petition seeking its intervention for extending the duration of her passport along with no bar to travel to any country.

PCI Extends Entry Date For NAEJ

The Press Council of India (PCI) has extended the last date of receiving entries for National Awards for Excellence in Journalism (NAEJ) till 31st August, 2023 before 5:00 PM. A communique of PCI in this regard reads, "In continuation of the earlier Advertisement notice of the Press Council of India dated 02.07.2023, the last date of receiving the entries for National Awards for Excellence in Journalism is extended till 31.08.2023 before 5:00 PM". The communique also reads that the applicants who have already submitted

Jammu Bans Bovine Transportation

District Magistrate Jammu, in exercise of the powers vested under Section 144 Cr. P.C., has ordered that no Bovine animals such as Cow, Buffalo, Oxen, Bulls, Calves etc be transported from District Jammu to other Districts, except with written permission from undersigned or Addl. District Magistrate, Jammu under certain conditions imposed by this office, from time to time. This order shall come into force with an immediate effect and shall remain in force for a period of two months from date of its issue or till the order is rescinded whichever be earlier.

Falling Tree Kills Man

A man died on Friday after coming under a falling tree in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. 45-year-old Mohammad Amin Cheechi was grazing cattle in Behak Wali top forest area of the district on Friday afternoon when a tree fell upon him injuring him critically, reports said. Cheechi died due to severe injuries even before he could be removed to the health-care facility for treatment. The area, reports said, was experiencing a thunderstorm when the tree knocked down Cheechi. Meanwhile, further proceedings have been taken up in this regard.(KS)

Tyre Burst Injures 8 Students

Eight students were injured on Friday when a vehicle's tyre burst in Nutnusa area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The incident occurred when the students of Education Zone Sogam were waiting for transportation during a zone-level sports event at Nutnusa, a local news agency KNS reported. The sudden bursting of a vehicle's tyre caused injuries to several students present at the site. The injured students, including girls, reports said, were immediately rushed to GMC Hospital Handwara for

Army Porter Goes Missing In Rajouri

A man working as a porter with the Army has gone missing on Friday following which the security forces have launched an operation in Rajouri. The missing person has been identified as Ashok Kumar (32) son of Babu Ram resident of Bhawani village of Nowshera. Officials said Kumar left from his house on Friday morning and was on way to Army camp where he works as porter but he went missing enroute. "A missing report has been registered in the local police station," officials said. They added that search is being conducted by forces in the area from where the porter has gone missing—(KNO)



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Millions Of Carbon Credits Generated By Overestimating Forest Preservation: Study

Press Trust Of India

Millions of carbon credits are being generated by significantly overestimating the levels of deforestation they prevent, according to a study published in the journal Science.

This means that many of the "carbon credits" bought by companies to balance out emissions are not tied to real-world forest preservation as claimed.

Carbon credits, also known as carbon offsets, are permits that allow the owner to emit a certain amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases.

An international team of scientists and

economists led by the University of Cambridge in the UK and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands found that millions of carbon credits are based on crude calculations that inflate the conservation successes of voluntary REDD+ projects.

Consequently, many tons of greenhouse gas emissions considered "offset" by trees that would not otherwise exist have, in fact, only added to our planetary carbon debt, the researchers said.

REDD+ schemes generate carbon credits by investing in the protection of sections of the world's most important forests -- from the Congo to the Amazon basin. These credits represent the carbon that will no longer be released through deforestation.

Organisations and individuals can then offset their own carbon footprint by purchasing credits equivalent to a given quantity of emissions.

Carbon credit markets have exploded in recent years. Over 150 million credits originated from voluntary REDD+ projects in 2021, with a value of US USD 1.3 billion. Some companies use carbon offsetting to claim progress towards "net zero" while doing little to reduce greenhouse gases, the researchers said.

The study authors argue that the booming trade in carbon credits may already be a type of "lemons market": where buyers have no way of distinguishing quality, so some sellers flood the market with bad

products, leading to a breakdown of trust and ultimately market collapse.

"Carbon credits provide major polluters with some semblance of climate credentials. Yet we can see that claims of saving vast swathes of forest from the chainsaw to balance emissions are overblown," said study senior author Professor Andreas Kontoleon, from Cambridge's Department of Land Economy.

"These carbon credits are essentially predicting whether someone will chop down a tree, and selling that prediction. If you exaggerate or get it wrong, intentionally or not, you are selling hot air," Kontoleon said.

In the Court of 1st Additional Munsiff / Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Srinagar

Present: Shafeeq Ahmad Malik

Mohammad Ramzan Bhat V/s Abdul Aziz Bhat

Notice Through Publication to

1. Abdul Aziz Bhat

2. Ghulam Mohammad Bhat S/ons of Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Habbak Shaapora Srinagar

Whereas, above titled suit has been filed against you in this court and you have been conveyed as defendant no: 1 & 2

The next date of hearing is fixed on 21-10-2023

Whereas, Summons were issued for your appearance in this court, but you avoided to acknowledge the summons, as a result the summons got returned as untraced. This way you did not appear before the Court to answer the suit and it appears that your attendance may not be procured through the issuance of ordinary summons. You are as such summoned through this Publication and directed to appear before this Court personally or through counsel on -- failing to which appropriate orders will be passed against you. In case the date fixed in declared as holiday the matter shall be taken up on next following day.

Given under my Hand and Seal of this court.

1st Additional Munsiff Srinagar

nj_r

nk_r

Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla PWD Complex, Baramulla, Srinagar-193101

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT NO:- 14/SE/PMGSY/Bla/E-TENDERING-OF 2023-24 Dated:- 24-08-2023.

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla invites e-tender for stage contracts on Percentage Basis from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.

S. No	Name of Work with Package No.	Advertised Cost Incl GST (Rs in Lacs.)	Cost of document (Rs in Rupees.)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in Lacs.)	Period Of Contract	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of Tenders online	Class of Contractor
1.	Stage Contract of roads under the jurisdiction of PMGSY Division Baramulla on emergency basis (i.e.) by way of clearance of Snow, slides/slips other allied works required during maintenance of roads, failure of maintenance of road by regular contractor and any other emergent work likely to occur during financial year 2023-24.	50.00	1600	1.00	2023-24	5th	05-09-2023 At 10:00 AM	A/B- Class civil
2.	Stage Contract of roads under the jurisdiction of PMGSY Division Bandipora on emergency basis (i.e.) by way of clearance of Snow, slides/slips other allied works required during maintenance of roads, failure of maintenance of road by regular contractor and any other emergent work likely to occur during financial year 2023-24.	50.00	1600	1.00	2023-24	5th	05-09-2023 At 10:00 AM	A/B- Class civil

- The important dates and time are as under:-
- Date of issue of tender notice: 24-08-2023
- Period of downloading of bidding documents: 24-08-2023 at 06:00 PM to 04-09-2023 upto 05:00 PM
- Bid submission start date: 26-08-2023 at 11:00 AM
- Bid submission end date: 04-09-2023 at 05:00 PM
- Date & time of opening of Technical/financial Bids (Online): 05-09-2023 at 10:00 AM

- Cost of Bid Form @ Rs. 1600/- (non-refundable) only in form of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersjk.gov.in. The bidders are required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstendersjk.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAS can use the same in this tender.
- Bids must be uploaded along with Scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 4 in shape of e-challan/treasury challan/receipt favoring Accounts Officer PMGSY Kashmir by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and scanned copy of Bid Security as mentioned in column 5 pledged to Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla.
- The original documents, viz, the cost of tender document, Bid Security submitted by LI should be same as uploaded online (scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued. The tenders will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to Participate in any further/future tendering process in PMGSY for a period of one year.
- (a) The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website http://pmgstendersjk.gov.in from 24-08-2023 at 06:00 PM to 04-09-2023 upto 05:00 PM.
- (b) The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website http://pmgstendersjk.gov.in from 26-08-2023 at 11:00 AM to 04-09-2023 upto 05:00 PM.
- (c) A Pre bid meeting will be held on 25-08-2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersjk.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 05-09-2023 at 10:00 AM by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://pmgstendersjk.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids shall be opened accordingly online on same Web Site at the Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Baramulla at Baramulla.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 60 days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- The bids of such bidders shall be out rightly rejected whose record of performance is poor such as abandoning the works, not properly completing the contract, inordinate delays in completion, litigation history or financial failure etc.
- The contractor shall have to respond to all the locations as and when required at the direction of Engineer-In-charge at the same time.
- Any damage caused to the private/public property during execution of works shall in the liability of the contractor and no claim on account of any such restoration to be carried or disposal of mulba/excavated earth to the suitable dumping spot by the contractor shall not be entertained by the department.
- The Bidder shall quote Percentage rates for the items inclusive of GST (18%).
- The Employer shall not be held responsible for any delay due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the

Sd/-
Er. Mohd Ayub Wani
Superintending Engineer
PMGSY Circle Baramulla
No: -SE/PMGSY/Bla/1359-66
DIPK-7765/23 Dated- 25-08-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir, Rajbagh Srinagar

Tele-fax: 0194-2311287-2311484

Subject: Appointment of "Horticulture Technician Grade-IV" in the Department of Horticulture, Kashmir.
Reference: i) Letter No. JKSSB-SDSECY (JMU)/2/2023-01 (E-7166430) dated 23-06-2023 from Additional Secretary, J&K Services Selection Board.
ii) Administrative Department's letter No. Horti-NG/3/ 2021-34007 dated 14-07-2023.

Horticulture Order No:333/ E of 2023
Dated:21-08-2023

On the recommendations of the J&K Services Selection Board & in continuation of Horticulture Order No. 319/E of 2023 dated 09-08-2023, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidates as Horticulture Technician Grade-IV in the Department of Horticulture, Kashmir in the Pay Level-SL2 (Rs 15900-50400), in District Cadres, Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Baramulla, Bandipora and Shopian, notionally w.e.f 09-08-2023:

S. No.	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Address	Selection Category	Selection/District cadre	Office to whom to report
1.	Younis Ahmad Bhat	Gh Nabi Bhat	Herpora Anantnag	Kamad RBA	Ganderbal	Chief Horticulture Officer Ganderbal
2.	Ausifa Jan	Gh Hassan Sheikh	Dalwach Gagisgund Anantnag	OM	Anantnag	Chief Horticulture Officer Anantnag
3.	Asif Rasool Dar	Gh Rasool Dar	Charigam Heripora Sallar Anantnag	OM	Anantnag	
4.	Zahoor Ahmad Bhat	Ab. Gani Bhat	6, Gardhangigund Nowpora Anantnag	EWS	Anantnag	
5.	Nelofar Jan	Bashir Ahmad Bhat	Balapora Shopian	RBA	Pulwama	Chief Horticulture Officer Pulwama
6.	Hilal Ahmad Shah	Noor Mohamad Shah	06, Shah Mohalla Devsar Kulgam	OM	Kulgam	Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam
7.	Amir Akram	Mohammad Akram Shah	Amnoo Kulgam	OM	Kulgam	
8.	Aasif Ahmad Bhat	Ab Rashid Bhat	Katriteng Bijbehara Anantnag	OM	Baramulla	Chief Horticulture Officer Baramulla
9.	Zulkamane Sajad	Sajad Ahmad Bhat	6, Razloo Kund Devsar Kulgam	RBA	Baramulla	
10.	Javid Ahmad Bhat	Abdul Rehman Bhat	Aadpora Anantnag	Kamad RBA	Baramulla	
11.	Jeewan Lal	Badri Nath	1, Kanthal Bani Kathua	ST	Kupwara	Chief Horticulture Officer, Kupwara
12.	Nusrat Gull	Gh Mohammad Kawa	Sarai Sumbal Bandipora	OM	Bandipora	Chief Horticulture Officer, Bandipora

The appointees shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified by the concerned Chief Horticulture Officers subsequently:

- Academic/Qualification Certificates.
- Matriculation/ Date of Birth Certificate.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
- Reserved Category Certificate, where applicable.

The appointment of the above candidates shall further be subject to the following conditions:-

- The appointees shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if on verification, their Qualification/Date of Birth Certificate/Reserved Category Certificate, are found fake/forged, their appointment as Horticulture Technician Grade-IV in the Department of Horticulture, Kashmir shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against them.
- In case the candidates have taken loan

DLSA Srinagar Settles 29 Cases In Special Lok Adalat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority organised a Special Lok Adalat on 24th and 25th August 2023 in the District Court Complex Srinagar.

The said Special Lok Adalat was organized under the Chairmanship of Jawad Ahmad, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar and over all super-

vision of Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

A Special bench for MACT cases was constituted, consisting of Jeema Bashir (Presiding Officer, MACT Court) Srinagar and Khursheed ul Islam (1st Additional District Session Judge) Srinagar.

A total number of 52 cases were taken up by this bench for their amicable settlement. Out of which 29 Cases were settled, with a settled amount of Rs. 54, 05,000.

AS College holds Lecture On 'Intellectual Property Rights And Small Scale Innovations'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Research Development Cell of Amar Singh College Srinagar on Friday organised a special lecture on the theme 'Intellectual Property Rights and Small Scale Innovations' which was delivered by Dr Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, Faculty member at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China.

The lecture was attended by a large number of students and faculty members of the college.

In his special lecture via virtual mode, Dr Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, provided an exhaustive evaluation of Innovation Development and Intellectual Property Rights. He highlighted the role of innovation in the advancement of human civilization historically and its even more significance in an increasingly technol-

ogy and market driven world today.

He emphasized on the need to create a conducive atmosphere in the colleges and universities of Jammu and Kashmir to provide skill and innovation based knowledge to create a productive human resource pool which is integral to the future development and prosperity of our society on an equitable and inclusive basis.

Dr Fayaz urged the stakeholders in academia to embrace Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication which are crucial in developing the innovative mindset among the students.

Dr Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad further called upon liquidating all the obstacles which are hampering the development of culture of innovation in our higher education system.



A woman joined by her children carries wild grass to her house in the hilly Faqeer Gujri area of Srinagar city on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Mental Health

Tele-MANAS Receives Over 23,000 Calls In 9 Months

Agencies

Srinagar: The UT-level Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) cell, established at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Srinagar, is proving to be a boon for persons requiring assistance in stress, drug addiction, anxiety-related issues as it has received more than 23,000 calls since its inception in Jammu and Kashmir nine months ago.

The first-of-its-kind mental health helpline, launched on November 4, 2022, is a three-tier system that has mental health

counselors, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists available for patients' calls.

Dr Qazi Haroon, State Program Manager Mental Health J&K said that till date over 23,200 calls including those related to stress, drug addiction, suicidal tendencies and anxiety have been received.

Among these, around 600 were very distressing calls having suicidal tendencies who were counselled on time, he added.

"Tele-MANAS helped us to reach so extensively to common people in such a short period of time. In the near future, more and more people suffering from men-

tal health will find refuge in it," Dr Haroon said.

He said India's first Tele-MANAS chatbot, designed to engage with people in distress, that was launched in Jammu & Kashmir last month has managed to provide assistance to around 150 youngsters so far.

"The Chatbot provides round-the-clock access to health counselors, clinical psychologists, and consultants," he added.

The doctor said that Chatbot encourages individuals to avail the benefits of this service from the comfort of their homes, addressing privacy concerns and promoting accessibility.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
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- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
8 Safar
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:30
ZUHR	12:33
ASR	5:14
Magrib	7:09
ISHA	8:33

This Day In History

- 1071 - Battle of Manzikert: Seljuq Turks led by sultan Alp Arslan beat and capture Byzantine Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes
- 1957 - USSR announces successful test of intercontinental ballistic missile
- Invention Morris Mini-Minor
- 1959 - British Motor Corporation introduced the Morris Mini-Minor,
- 1974 - Guinea-Bissau becomes independent of Portugal
- 1974 - Soyuz 15 carries 2 cosmonauts to space station Salyut 3
- 1978 - Soyuz 31 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 East German) to Salyut 6
- 1981 - Space Shuttle vehicle moves to Launch Complex 39A for STS-2 mission
- 1981 Voyager 2 takes photos of Saturn's moon Titan
- 1982 - NASA launches Telesat-F
- 1996 - US President Bill Clinton signs welfare reform into law, representing major shift in welfare policy
- 1997 - Beni-Ali massacre in Algeria; 60-100 people killed.
- 2002 - Earth Summit 2002 begins in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2004 - Germany wins its first ever Olympic women's field hockey gold medal with a 2-1 win against the Netherlands in Athens
- 2008 - Russia unilaterally recognizes the independence of the former Georgian breakaway republics Abkhazia and South Ossetia.
- 2012 - 15 year-old New Zealand golfer, Lydia Ko, becomes the youngest LPGA Tour event winner and the first amateur winner since 1969
- 2014 - Democratic Republic of Congo's health ministry informs the WHO of an outbreak of Ebola; later confirmed as a different strain to that affecting west Africa
- 2014 - Israel and Hamas accept another ceasefire
- 2017 - Violent clashes after conviction of spiritual leader Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh kill 31 in Panchkula, 120 admitted to hospital
- 2017 - Half a million people take part in a peace march in Barcelona, following terrorist attacks

From KO Archives

Officer Shifted For 7th Time, Goes On Leave

Observer News Service

Srinagar - The principal secretary, revenue, Sonali Kumar, has proceeded on leave following the recent transfers and postings in the state administration.

The high-ranking bureaucrat has been transferred for the seventh time in the changes announced yesterday.

During the two-and-a-half year tenure of the coalition government, Kumar has been shifted six times from her posts.

Before the coalition government came to power, Sonali Kumar had been made the commissioner secretary, education, on May 1, 2002.

Soon after the new government took over, she was transferred to the technical education department as commissioner secretary in November 2003. In February the next year, she was transferred to industries and commerce, and four months later, in July 2003, to the higher and technical education department

After serving on that post for one year, she was transferred again in July 2004, and made the principal secretary of the forest department. The government shifted her again in April 2005, this time to the health and medical education department.

Yesterday's revamp, which made her the principal secretary of the revenue department, was the sixth time she was transferred in 2-and-a-half years.

Fed up with the repeated transfers and postings, Sonali Kumar, has gone on leave in protest, sources told the KNS. She has asked the government to grant her leave till October.

(Kashmir Observer, August 26, 2000)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Wani S/o Mohammad Kamal Wani R/o Zewan Bala, Srinagar lost my Passport issued in 2007. Now I have to apply for a fresh passport. In case anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she should file the same with the office of Passport Officer Srinagar within seven days. After the expiry of date, no claim shall be entertained.

Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Wani
S/o Mohammad Kamal Wani
R/o Zewan Bala, Srinagar

abko

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Portfolio
Management Department (IAPMD)
Zonal office
Pulwama

Possession Notice

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

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices dated 28.11.2022 thereby calling upon 1) Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Dar S/O Mohammad Akam Dar R/O Akhal Rajpora, Pulwama, sole proprietor of M/s Walnut Sale Traders (Borrower/Mortgagor), 2) Mr. Shahid Ahmad Dar S/O Ab. Rashid Dar R/O Akhal Rajpora, Pulwama (Guarantor) 3) Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Dar S/O Gh. Mohd Dar R/O Below Rajpora Pulwama (Guarantor) 4. Mr. Bashir Ahmad Khan S/O Mohammad Akram Khan R/O Samsami Rajpora, Pulwama (Guarantor) 5. Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Wani S/O Ab Gani Wani R/O Below Dargund Rajpora, Pulwama (Guarantor) and 6. Mr. Feroz Ahmad Bhat S/O Gh. Hassan Bhat R/O Below Dargund Rajpora, Pulwama, to repay an amount of Rs.77.55 lacs /- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lacs and Fifty Five Thousand only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.10.2022 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 21st day of August 2023.

The said borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of J&K Bank Limited for the amount aggregating to Rs. 84,45,136.80 (Rupees Eighty Four Lacs Forty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six & Paise Eighty), being balance outstanding in the borrowers loan accounts as on 31.07.2023 together with future interest thereon from 01.08.2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

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

Description of the Immovable Property

Land measuring 06 Kanals and 18 Marlas under:
Khasra No. 108/210 (2 1/2 Marlas), Khata No. 13/17 and Khewat No. 5/7,
Khasra No. 22/42 (2 Kanals and 03 Marlas), Khata No. 13/18 and Khewat No. 5/8.
Khasra No. 141/495 (01 Kanal and 14 1/2 Marlas), Khata No. 17/25, Khewat No. 5/9.
Khasra No. 148/512 (01 Kanal and 08 Marlas) Khata No. 13/26, Khewat No. 5/10.
Khasra No. 103/199 (08 Marlas) Khata No. 18/30 Khewat No. 5/14.
Khasra No. 126/334 (01 Kanal and 02 Marlas) Khata No. 18/30 and Khewat No. 5/14.

Situated at Mouza Akhal Tehsil Rajpora and District Pulwama, standing in the name of Mohammad Ramzan Dar S/O Mohammad Akram Dar R/O Akhal Rajpora, Pulwama;

Dated: 21.08.2023
Place: Pulwama
(Mohammad Akram Khan)
Authorized Officer

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1938GCO00048; T: +91 (0)194 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0)194 248 1928; E: info@jkbank.com; W: www.jkbank.com

DIPK-NB-2838/23 dated: 25-08-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Department Of Skill Development
Office Of The Superintendent
Industrial Training Institute, Ganderbal.
E-MAIL :itigbl@gmail.com Tel. No:0194-2416231

FILLING UP OF VACANT SEATS FOR SESSION 2023-24-25

It is hereby notified for the information of all those candidates who are interested in admission in ITI Ganderbal in various trades for the academic session 2023-24-25 that the on-spot admission is being conducted for the below mentioned vacant seats. All the interested candidates are informed to attend this Institute for on spot admission on first come first serve basis. The candidates must be in possession of following documents in original.

- Marks Certificate of qualifying examination.
- Discharge Certificate from the Institute last attended.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex-Servicemen/Physically Handicapped/EWS if any).
- Aadhaar Card (photocopy) & Passport Sized Photographs (2 in no)
- Domicile certificate.
- Course Fee

DETAILS OF TRADES AVAILABLE FOR ADMISSION.

S. No.	Name of the Trade	Seats Vacant	Scheme
1.	Carpenter	10	Normal
2.	Plumber	23	Self-finance
3.	Plumber	5	PPP (Payment seats)
4.	Welder	10	Normal
5.	COPA	4	Self-Finance
6.	MMV	4	Normal

The last date for on-spot admission is 31st of August 2023.

No. ITI/Gbl/Trgs/2023/300-02

DIPK-7796/23
dated: 25-08-2023

Dated: -25-08-2023
Sd.
Superintendent
ITI, Ganderbal.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Green Campus, Ganderbal-191201 (J&K)

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION: 07 of 2023

Online applications are invited in the prescribed format through CU-Chayan portal link (<https://curec.samarth.ac.in>) from eligible candidates for appointment of Associate Professors on substantive basis in the departments of English, Information Technology, Convergent Journalism, Economics, Law, Mathematics, Education, Tourism Studies, Urdu, Politics & Governance, Animal Sciences (Zoology), Biotechnology, Physics, Religious Studies, Physical Education, Chemistry, Kashmiri, Plant Sciences and Civil Engineering. The detailed notification regarding the number of vacancies, eligibility and other terms and conditions is available on the University website www.cukashmir.ac.in. The online applications shall be available on CU-Chayan Portal w.e.f 1st September, 2023. The last date for submission of online application form/s is 21st September, 2023 & the submission of downloaded application form/s along with annexures is 29th September, 2023.

CUKmr/RCT/F.No.456/23/1944

Sd/ Registrar

G20 SUMMIT

Curbs On Public Transport In New Delhi

Agencies

In view of the upcoming G20 Summit in the national capital, the Delhi Traffic Police on Friday imposed a ban on auto-rickshaws and taxis from entering or operating in the New Delhi district from 5.00 am on 9 September to 11.59 pm on 10 September.

Addressing a press conference, Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Surendra Singh Yadav stated that non-essential vehicles will be directed to use the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways and other alternate routes.

This restriction applies to Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), Medium Goods Vehicles (MGVs), and Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs), which will not be allowed to enter Delhi. However, goods vehicles transporting Essential Commodities like milk, vegetables, fruits, and medical supplies, with valid 'No Entry Permissions,' will have entry permission.

Also Read: G20 poured record levels of public money into fossil fuels in 2022: Report Interstate buses, on the other hand, will be granted entry into Delhi.

"These buses will have designated termination points along the Ring Road. Buses already



present in Delhi will operate on the Ring Road and the road network beyond the Ring Road, heading towards Delhi's borders. These buses will be allowed to exit Delhi," stated the official.

Normal traffic, encompassing all types of commercial vehicles and buses already within Delhi, will be permitted on the Ring Road and roads beyond the Ring Road, leading to Delhi's borders.

Auto-rickshaws (TSRs) and taxis will be authorised to operate on road networks outside the New Delhi district. However, goods carrying residents and tourists with valid hotel bookings within the New Delhi district will be allowed to operate within that district's road network.

Facilitation of passenger movement to the Airport, New Delhi Railway Station, and Old Delhi Railway Station will be ensured. Passengers are advised to follow suggested routes and allocate sufficient travel time.

Iran Stages 'Electronic Warfare' Drills Against Mock Enemy Drones



Agencies

TEHRAN: Iran on Friday launched exercises to test its "electronic warfare" capabilities against mock enemy drones, fighter jets and helicopters, state television reported.

It said units from the military's navy, ground and air forces as well as air defenses took part in the drills in the central, largely desert region of the Islamic Republic.

The exercises featured domestically manufactured radars, drones, manned and unmanned fighter jets, micro aerial vehicles and other military equipment, state TV said.

"The army has the appropriate infrastructure, and we have achieved favorable results in countering threats in today's world and predicting future threats in this sensitive and

complicated arena," said Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the army's coordination department, according to the state-run English language Press TV.

Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that bar it from importing many weapons. Tehran announced on Tuesday the building of an advanced, home-made drone named MoHajjer-10 with an improved flight range and duration as well as a greater payload capacity.

The United States has accused Iran of providing MoHajjer-6 drones, among other unmanned aerial vehicles, to Russia since its invasion of Ukraine last year. Tehran denies this.

Western military analysts say Iran sometimes exaggerates its weapons capabilities.

Denmark Proposes Bill That Could See Ban On Quran Burnings

Agencies

The Danish government presented a bill on Friday that could lead to a ban on burning the Quran in public.

Denmark's Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, told Danish radio that the move sends an "important political signal" to the rest of the world.

Burning a Quran under the new law would be an act punishable by fines or up to two years in prison.

Peter Hummelgaard, the justice minister, explained that the proposed law is intended to be written into the same regulation that curbs other countries' flags.

The Danish law would prohibit the "improper treatment of objects of significant religious significance to a religious community," he said.

Hummelgaard, speaking at a press conference, said that a spate of recent Quran burnings were "senseless taunts" aimed to incite "discord and hatred", adding that national security was the primary "motivation" for the ban.

The United States and United Kingdom governments recently announced that authorities in Denmark had disrupted a number of planned "terror" attacks and made



arrests following the Quran burnings.

"We can't continue to stand by with our arms crossed while several individuals do everything they can to provoke violent reactions," Hummelgaard said.

The bill would make it a criminal offence to burn the Muslim holy book, the Bible or the Torah publicly.

It remains unclear when the proposal will be presented to the 179-seat Danish Parliament.

The three parties in the governing coalition control 88 seats and are also supported by four politicians representing the semi-independent Danish territories of Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

Recent Quran burnings in Denmark and Sweden

In recent months, several copies of the Quran have been burned by far-right protesters and Islamophobic agitators in

Denmark and nearby Sweden.

Denmark, one of the most secular countries in the world, scrapped blasphemy laws in 2017. Sweden also has no blasphemy laws in place.

The provocative stunts, considered sinful by the Muslim world, have spurred anguish in several countries, where many have urged European governments to take stronger action and prevent the incidents.

In July, hundreds of protesters stormed the Swedish embassy in Baghdad in response to a planned Quran burning outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm, the Swedish capital.

The Swedish government recently ruled out any sweeping changes to its freedom of speech laws but repeated it would look into measures that would allow police to stop the burning of holy books in public if there is a clear threat to national security.



Greece Confers PM Modi With Grand Cross Of The Order Of Honour

Press Trust of India

Prime minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the prestigious Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President Katerina N Sakellariopoulou on Friday, a special honour reflecting the strength of the India-Greece partnership.

The honour is bestowed by the Greek president to prime ministers and eminent personalities who, by reason of their distinguished position, have contributed to enhancing the stature of Greece.

In a tweet, Modi thanked President Sakellariopoulou, and the Government and people of Greece for conferring upon him The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour.

"This shows the respect the people of Greece have towards India," he said, sharing a picture of the event.

The Ministry of External Affairs in a tweet said it is "a

special honour reflecting the strength of the India-Greece partnership".

The citation, according to pmindia.gov.in website, says, in the person of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an honour is bestowed upon the friendly people of India.

On the occasion of this visit, the Greek State Honours the Prime Minister of India, a statesman who has tirelessly promoted the global reach of his country and who works systematically for India's economic progress and prosperity, bringing about bold reforms. A statesman who has brought environmental protection and climate change among the top priorities of international activity, it states.

The Order of Honour was established in 1975. The head of goddess Athena is depicted on the front side of the Star with the inscription ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS SHOULD BE HONOURED.

A Child Was Sexually Abused Every Two Hours In Pakistan This Year, NGO Says

Agencies

Islamabad: An average of 12 children per day – or one every two hours – were subjected to sexual abuse in Pakistan in 2023, a report by a nongovernmental organisation says.

In its half-yearly report published on Thursday, Islamabad-based NGO Sahil said a total of 2,227 cases of child sexual abuse were reported to the authorities between January and June this year.

The NGO, which has been operating since 1996, compiles its data from newspaper reports as well as from cases directly reported to them. It said there were 1,207 girls and 1,020 boys in the cases it recorded in 2023.

Intiaz Ahmad Soomrah, the national legal aid coordinator for Sahil, told Al Jazeera that most of the abuse cases involved children between six and 15.

"Over 47 percent of the cases were reported between this age group and among these, more boys were reported to be sexually abused (593) compared to girls (457)," he said.

The NGO's report said in 912 of more than 2,200 cases they recorded this year, the accused



were acquaintances of the child victim.

The Sahil report further said almost 75 percent of these cases were reported from Punjab, the country's most populous province.

The southern Sindh province had 314 cases while the federal territory of the national capital Islamabad saw 161 cases of child sexual abuse in the first six months of 2023.

Soomrah said Punjab recording the highest number of cases is also attributed to better policing and reporting mechanisms in the province.

"While there is no doubt Punjab remains the most affected province, it is also a fact that we are able to know their figures due to efficient reporting mechanisms in place," he said.

'Death Better Than This Nightmare': Landslide Victims In Himachal Pradesh

Press Trust of India

"Death would have been better than going through this nightmare with nowhere to go and no shoulder to cry on," says Promila, who lost everything when a room in a building she stayed in crumbled in a landslide.

The landslide on the morning of 23 August partially damaged Prari House – a government accommodation in which Promila lived with her ailing mother near Indira Gandhi Medical College Hospital (IGMCH).

Narrating her plight to PTI on Friday, she said, "I live with my 75-year-old mother who is suffering from ovarian cancer and has been undergoing treatment since 2016. I also lost my job as a sales girl in a shop in Ram Nagar in the city market last week due to the recession as there were no customers."

"I slept at IGMCH on Thursday night as there is no place to go," says Promila, who is separated



from her husband. "I am desperately looking for a job and am willing to even clean and sweep as I am in dire need of money for my mother's treatment," she adds. "My mother is all I have."

"We could not salvage our belongings and the only things left are the clothes we were wearing while running out of the collapsed house," says Suman, whose room was adjacent to Promila's.

Suman, who works as a domestic help, says she has lost everything in the landslide and has no money to even pay her son's school

fees. She said they have no shelter, no clothes and that even the school books of her son, a student of class 5, were damaged in the landslide.

"Our plight is miserable but it did not attract the attention of the authorities as no casualty was reported in this landslide. What is the use of getting so many donations, if the state government cannot help the disaster victims?" she asks.

"We had food at a gurdwara and are shuttling between our relatives' houses, but we have not received any help or immediate relief," she adds.

NEWS MAKERS

Andhra Pradesh Devotee Offers Rs 100 Crore Cheque At Temple, Had Only Rs 17 In Bank Account

Agencies

VISAKHAPATNAM: A devotee deposited a cheque of Rs 100 crore in the 'hundi' (offering box) at Sri Varahalakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Simhalaham.

When the temple authorities sent the cheque to the bank concerned, they were shocked to learn that the devotee had only Rs 17 in his account.

The photograph of the cheque surfaced on social media on Thursday. The cheque was signed by Boddepalli Radhakrishna.

The devotee has not written the date on the cheque which belongs to Kotak Mahindra Bank. The cheque shows that the devotee is an account holder in the bank's branch in Visakhapatnam.

When the officials of the temple body found the cheque in the hundi, they



took it to the Executive Officer. He sensed something amiss and asked officials to check with the bank branch concerned.

The bank authorities informed the temple body that the person who issued the cheque has only Rs 17 in his account.

The temple authorities are planning to write to the bank to identify the donor. Sources said if the donor had the intention of cheating the temple authorities, the bank may be

requested to initiate cheque bounce case against him. The devotee's action evoked interesting comments on the Internet. While some netizens commented that the man invited wrath of the God, some others commented that he may have made an advance payment to the God to answer to his prayers.

Located on Simhalaham hill in the port city, Sri Varahalakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple is one of the famous temples of Andhra Pradesh.

Flight Makes Emergency Landing With Sick Passenger



Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: A Jabalpur-bound flight that took off from Delhi on Friday morning made an emergency landing at the Jaipur airport after a male passenger fell ill, officials said.

After the flight operated by Alliance Air took off from Delhi airport, a 52-year-old passenger fell sick mid-air and his blood pressure started dipping, officials at the Jaipur airport said.

In view of the man's health condition, the flight had to make an emergency landing here around 9.40 am, the officials said.

The passenger was taken to a nearby hospital for a checkup, after which the flight took off for its destination, they added.

Lalu Yadav Playing Badminton After Bail On Medical Grounds: CBI To Supreme Court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Friday told the Supreme Court that RJD supreme leader Lalu Prasad was playing badminton after being given bail in a fodder scam case on medical grounds, as it sought cancellation of the relief granted to the former Bihar chief minister.

Lalu Prasad Yadav's counsel opposed any move to cancel the leader's bail, saying he has undergone a kidney transplant recently.

The CBI has approached the seeking cancellation of Prasad's bail in the Doranda treasury case in which he has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the CBI, submitted that the Jharkhand High Court order granting bail to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader was "bad in law" and "erroneous".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing Mr Prasad, opposed the CBI's



application on account of the former union minister having undergone a kidney transplant surgery.

Mr Sibal told the bench that Mr Prasad has served 42 months behind bars in the case.

"He is playing badminton. He has been granted bail after conviction in the case. I will demonstrate that the high court order is bad in toto. There's a short ques-

tion of law. The bail has been granted on the erroneous assumption that he has spent more than 3.5 years considering that sentences are concurrent and not consecutive," S V Raju told the court.

Lalu Prasad Yadav has so far been sentenced in five cases of the ₹950 crore fodder scam, which took place between 1992 and 1995 when he was the Bihar chief minister and held the finance and animal husbandry portfolios.

Huge money was withdrawn from different treasuries in Bihar and present-day Jharkhand on the basis of fake and forged bills and vouchers related to fodder, medicines and artificial insemination. A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and M M Sundresh adjourned the matter to October 17.

In his reply to the CBI's appeal seeking cancellation of his bail, Lalu Yadav said poor health and said no purpose would be served by keeping him in custody.

SI RECRUITMENT SCAM Court Frames Charges Against BSF Officer, 23 Others

Observer News Service

JAMMU: A court here has framed charges against 24 people, including a CMO in the Border Security Force (BSF) in connection with the police sub-inspector recruitment scam.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Jammu Anjum Ara framed charges against BSF officer named Karnail Singh, Ashok Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, Jaisunya Sharma, Kewal Krishan, Raman Sharma, Amit Kumar Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Sharma, Suresh Kumar Sharma, Jagdish Lal, Kashmir Singh, Atul Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Yatin Yadav alias Nittu alias Guruji alias Ramu Sir, Vikas Sharma, Anil Kumar, Ashok alias Ashok Pandit alias Gaurav Pandit, Pawan Kumar, Asheesh Yadav alias Monu, Bajinder Singh, Surinder Kumar, Surender Singh alias Commando and Pradeep Kumar Katiyar.

As per the prosecution case, vide letter No. GAD-VIGOCOMP/285/2022-04-GAD dated 08.07.2022, Dr Mohammad Usman Khan, Deputy Secretary, conveyed the decision of Govt of J&K for investigation by CBI into allegations of irregularities in written examination of Sub-Inspectors

posts in the J&K Police conducted by J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on the basis of report of Inquiry Committee constituted by the Govt of J&K.

Perusal of the report of Inquiry Committee constituted by the Govt of J&K prima facie revealed criminal conspiracy amongst officials of JKSSB; M/s Merit Trac Bengaluru; beneficiary candidates and other accused persons causing gross irregularities in conduct of written examination of Sub-Inspectors posts in the J&K Police conducted by JKSSB. Accordingly, a regular case RC0042022A0008 was registered against accused persons under Section 120-B, 420 IPC.

"Prima facie it appears that accused have substantively committed the offences under Sections 420, 201, 411 IPC as such are required to be charged for offences. Therefore, prima facie commission of offences under Sections 120-B read with 420, 408, 201, 411 of IPC are clearly established against the accused persons. They are accordingly charged for commission of offences," CJM observed after hearing the arguments. (With agency inputs)

Will Raise Issues Of People Of Ladakh In Parliament: Rahul

'Kargil Is Not Just A Place, It Is A Saga Of Valour'

Press Trust Of India

KARGIL: Raising the Sino-India border issue here, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said everyone in Ladakh knows that China has "taken away our land" and claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that not an inch of land was occupied was "absolutely false".

Gandhi addressed a public meeting here on the last day of his nine-day tour of Ladakh.

He said, "I visited the whole of Ladakh on my motorcycle over the past week... Ladakh is a strategic place and when I was at Pangong lake, one thing was clear that China had taken over thousands of kilometers of Indian land. Unfortunately, the prime minister... made a statement that not an inch of our land was taken away which is absolutely false."

"Every individual of Ladakh knows that China has taken away our land and the prime minister is not speaking the truth," he alleged.

The former Congress president's remarks came after Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a conversation on the sidelines of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit in Johannesburg. The conversation was not a structured bilateral meeting and was an informal one.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra on Thursday said Modi conveyed to Xi India's concerns on the "unresolved" issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, underlining that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas was essential for normalisation of India-China ties.

The ties between India and China came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border standoff that began in May, 2020.

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

This is the second time during his Ladakh tour that the Congress leader has raised the border issue with China.

Last Sunday, Gandhi had claimed that Modi's statement



that not an inch of the land in Ladakh had been taken over by China was not true.

Addressing the public meeting on Friday, Gandhi also extended his support to the Leh-based Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), which are fighting for full statehood and safeguards under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, and said his party would not allow the BJP to hand over the resource-rich land of the Union territory to its corporate friend.

The former Congress president said he was briefed by the people about their demands for political representation, safeguards for land, culture and language, unemployment, non-functional Kargil airport and the problem of cell phone coverage.

"I heard you and want to convey that the Congress is standing with you in your struggle, whether linked to the demand for safeguards or employment issues. All the people know that Ladakh is rich in natural resources. The 21st century is of solar energy and Ladakh has no dearth of it," he said.

"The BJP knows and understands that if you are given (political) representation, they cannot snatch your land," he said and alleged that the "BJP wants to take away your land to give it to (industrialist Gautam) Adani and we will not allow that to happen".

The two powerful bodies are jointly campaigning to press for their four-point demands, including full statehood, safeguards under sixth schedule of the Constitution, creation of two separate parliamentary constituencies for Leh and Kargil districts, recruitment and job reservation for the youth of Ladakh.

In an apparent reference to Modi's Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Gandhi said, "Some are speaking what is in their heart but I came here to know

what is in your hearts. One thing is clear that the ideology of Gandhi and Congress exists in the blood and DNA of the people of Ladakh."

He said migrant labourers from different parts of the country, including Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, told him that they feel that Ladakh is their second home as locals are lending a helping hand whenever they come forward to seek their support.

Referring to his Bharat Jodo Yatra from September 7, 2022 to January 30, 2023, he said the only goal of the foot march was to stand up against the "hatred and violence being spread by BJP and RSS" in the country and spread the message of love and brotherhood.

"The yatra was not supposed to end in Srinagar but in Ladakh. The administration did not allow us to continue the march due to harsh winter and we accepted it. My visit is in continuation of the Bharat Jodo Yatra. I visited every nook and corner of the region on the motorcycle and heard the people," he said.

He also thanked the people of Kargil for always standing with the country during crisis and war, and said, "All the people in the country, irrespective of their religion, language and culture are equal for us and we all want to live together with love and respect."

After his over 15-minute-long address, Gandhi walked past the security cover to interact with the gathering amid chants of "Jodo Jodo, Bharat Jodo".

Gandhi also visited the Kargil War Memorial in Drass and paid rich tributes to the Indian Army personnel who sacrificed their lives during the 1999 war with Pakistan.

The memorial is located on the 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway and about five km from the city centre across the Tiger Hill, Kargil.

LAND TO LANDLESS SCHEME

J&K Parties Seek Clarity Over Beneficiaries

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Political parties in Kashmir on Friday sought clarity over the eligible beneficiaries of the administration's land for landless scheme, saying the right to domicile should be given to permanent residents of the Union Territory only.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has accorded sanction to the allotment of land on a lease basis to the landless people, with only domiciles of the Union Territory eligible for the scheme.

In a set of guidelines issued by the Revenue Department, the administration accorded sanction to the allotment of five Marla of state land on a lease basis in favour of landless PMAY (G)/Awas plus beneficiaries.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari called for greater transparency from the administration regarding the scheme's intentions and implications.

"Well, this whole policy which is purportedly called

land to landless is shrouded in mystery. Because, there have been statements coming from here and there, but the essential information that should have come out is still evading the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Bukhari told PTI here.

Initially, the administration informed that there were two lakh landless families, but later, they admitted that the number was lesser.

"And now, when they issued the guidelines, they said that the eligibility of this scheme would be the domicile of Jammu and Kashmir. Now, we know that this administration had issued domicile certificates to a number of people who essentially are not originally residents of Jammu and Kashmir. But, by means of this order they would be eligible for this scheme," he said.

Hence, the apprehensions that were raised by people at large which were also echoed and represented by the PDP and its president Mehbooba Mufti, seem to be getting strengthened, he said.

Officer Faces Heat For Violating 'Flag Code of India'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of J&K has decided to withhold two increments of an official in Kashmir Valley after a probe found him guilty of negligence in discharge of his official duty concerning the upkeep and distribution of national flags during last year's "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme.

The Housing & Urban Development Department has ordered withholding of two increments of the then executive officer municipal committee, Magam, Syed Aijaz Manzoor, who was put under suspension after it was found that national flags were being distributed in garbage hoppers in Magam, Budgam.

In an order, the HUDD said after news regarding alleged insult of national flags at Municipal Committee Magam went viral on social media on August 13, 2022, deputy direc-

tor (admin), urban local bodies, Kashmir visited municipal committee Magam to inquire into the matter.

The deputy director, ULB found that two hoppers parked in premises of Municipal Committee Magam were carrying national flags for distribution in connection with "Har Ghar Tiranga" programme.

According to the order, the sub-divisional magistrate Beerwah Budgam immediately placed the officer under suspension and ordered an enquiry into the matter.

Subsequently, the HUDD examined the case and served a memorandum, article of charges and statement of imputation to the officer.

After the officer submitted the statement of defence, the government appointed vice-chairman, Srinagar Development Authority as inquiry officer in the matter.

CS Calls For Ways To Cut Travel Time On Srinagar-Jammu Highway

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday called for finding ways to reduce travel time on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway for heavy motor vehicles ahead of the fruit season this year.

The chief secretary held detailed deliberations with all stakeholders, including highway authorities, in this regard, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, the traffic authorities presented empirical data on the actual movement of Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMs) on the highway and their driving patterns.

The traffic on the 70-km stretch of Navyug and Che-



nani-Nashri Tunnels for 15 days was considered, the spokesperson said.

Mehta asked officials to keep an eye on slow-moving vehicles and enquire from each of them about the reasons.

He also advised penalising erratic drivers who cause inconvenience to others.

Mehta asked highway authorities and deputy commissioners to designate no-halt zones.

He asked them to take steps to improve the roads near the

slide-prone stretches at Dalwas, Mehad, Cafeteria Morh and Sher-Bibi.

He insisted on better coordination between the traffic and district police.

Regarding movement of fruit trucks from the Valley, the chief secretary stressed on taking fruit associations on-board while devising the traffic plan.

Mehta asked for marking fruit-laden trucks with specially-designed stickers for their identification and giving unhindered access to reach the Mandis.

He also directed deputy commissioners of the Valley to establish district control rooms in their offices for giving real-time updates to fruit growers about the roads and other issues.

Switch Over To e-Office Completely: Div Com Kashmir

Asks District Administrations To Take Up Town Beautification Works

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the wake of e-governance, the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday impressed on Head of Departments (HoDs) of all departments to switch over to e-office in a meeting, here.

e-Office is pivotal in the transformation of administration leveraging ease of doing official work with effectiveness and efficiency.

He maintained that some offices have partially started e-office but reit-

erated that every office necessarily has to shift to e-office mode working.

Meanwhile, he instructed District Administrations to take up beautification works of towns for aesthetic upgradation. He emphasised that most of the beautification works do not require much funds and small interventions can uplift the face of towns. He further asked them to take on other

developmental projects to enhance the infrastructure development.

Moreover, he also reviewed various issues pertaining to PM Package employees.



Govt Keen To Address Concerns On Smart Meters, Toll Plaza: Div Com Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar on Friday reassured the public about the efficiency of Smart Meters, while listing the steps taken by the administration to dispel the doubts of consumers regarding the accuracy of power Consumption reading.

In a joint press conference held today, Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar and Additional Director General of Police Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh shared positive updates on the twin significant issues. They shed light on the ongoing efforts of the Government to address concerns related to Smart Meter installations and

installed in a warehouse area where it was found that readings are the same. The same practice would be replicated in other areas for the satisfaction of consumers" he added.

With over 80% of the installation work already completed in Jammu, the Div Com emphasized the progress made by Techno and Envil, the two certified companies responsible for the installations.

Clarifying the reasons for occasional high bills, he clarified that any discrepancies in bills were due to past pending amounts and he assured the public that the new system's bill cycle has been rectified.

"A dedicated grievance redressal cell has also been es-



the Toll Plaza.

While briefing the media, the Divisional Commissioner said that these installations are not unique to Jammu and Kashmir but are being carried out across the nation. He explained that Smart Meters offer connectivity and are designed to empower end consumers by curbing power loss.

The Div Com informed that a meeting with Civil society was held in which it was decided to install check meters (old digital meters in parallel to Smart meters) to verify the readings. "The Meters have been

established, with an impressive 90% complaint resolution rate. Additionally, flexibility has been introduced in Smart Meter installation heights, making it possible to install them on the wall of consumers if suitable conditions are met", he explained.

It was informed that a committee headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu consisting of Officials from Revenue Department, volunteers from Red Cross Society, Civil Society has also been constituted to receive grievances and redress the same at the earliest.

RTI Movement Remembers Syed Nasarullah

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir RTI Movement in association with Environmental Policy Group and JK Peoples Forum commemorated the first death anniversary of its founder trustee Syed Nasarullah Shah today in Srinagar.

The programme was chaired by former Chief Information Commissioner Khurshid Ahmad Ganai.

He stressed upon the volunteers of RTI Movement, Peoples Forum and EPG to follow the

footsteps of Syed Nasarullah Shah and work for society. Especially against Misgovernance, Drug Abuse and Environmental conservation.

Chairman RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, Convener EPG Faiz Bakshi and Chairman JK Peoples Forum Dr MM Shuja also participated in the meeting and spoke in detail about the great work done by Syed Nasarullah.

Speakers threw light on life and work of Syed Nasarullah Shah. Programme was moderated by Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction, Jalandhar City for and on the behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet system for the under noted work:-

Name of work & location	Completion period of the work	Approx. Cost of the work
Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KVAC single phase OHE, including OHE modification and Supply erection testing & commissioning of electrical wiring in residential Quarters/Railway Stations/Service Buildings/Roads/Sheds etc in c/w construction of Longer loop line at Sanehalw, Dhandari Kalan and Ladowal station on Ambala - Jalandhar section over Firrozpur division.	9 (Nine) months	Rs.4,76,28,460.32

Bid Security :- Rs.3,88,200/- Date & time for submission of e-tender and opening of tender: Bidders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on date 18.09.2023 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 18.09.2023.

The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 04.09.2023 to 18.09.2023. The bidders who desire to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 17-Elect/C/Comp/JUC/134C Dated: 25.08.2023 2638/2023
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JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SOLINA SRINAGAR, KASHMIR - 190001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in> Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530
email: jkpscsecretary@gmail.com Srinagar: 0194-2312629 (f) 2312631

Subject: Filling up of the posts of Medical Officer (Allopathic) in the Health and Medical Education Department.

NOTICE DATED : 25.08.2023

It is notified for information of all the concerned aspirants that the last date for filling the online application forms, for the posts advertised vide Notification No. 37-PSC(DR-P) of 2023 dated. 10.08.2023, is extended upto 05.09.2023.

However, the cut-off date for determining the eligibility shall remain as 26.08.2023

No. JKPC/DR/155/2023 (E-7221905) (Bashir Ahmad Dar)/JKAS
Dated. 25.08.2023
DIPK-7787-23 DT: 25/08/2023
Secretary
J&K Public Service Commission

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN/4FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 15.09.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering System	Bidding System	Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
Open	Works	Single Bid System	24.08.2023	01.09.2023	15.09.2023/15:00 Hrs

S.N.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1	179-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR	Extension of 06 Numbers Bridge on ASR-PTK section i.c.w EI under ADEN/PTK.	90,76,457,45/-	1,81,500,00/-	60 Days	06 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction of any Bridge work".						
2	139-2023-24-PLMX-DRM-FZR	CTR (S) NG of 16.626 km at KM 49.8 to 66.426 of the existing standard 58.5 LBS rails laid on ST sleepers M+3 density with 75R (SH) rails laid on ST (converted) sleepers 1340 nos/km, including increasing the ballast cushion to 15 cm with deep screening & recoumpment of ballast from existing standard of 0 to 2 cm on Pathankot Joginder Nagar Section under ADEN/PLMX	2,47,96,220,75/-	2,74,000,00/-	60 Days	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTT including raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like Tamping machines/Ballast screening/regulating machines and TTR by T-28".						

Note1. Before bidding bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender Tender Notice No: 179-2023-24-PLMX-DRM-FZR, 139-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR Date: 25.08.2023 2654/2023

Serving Customers With A Smile

Azad's Discourse Juggling

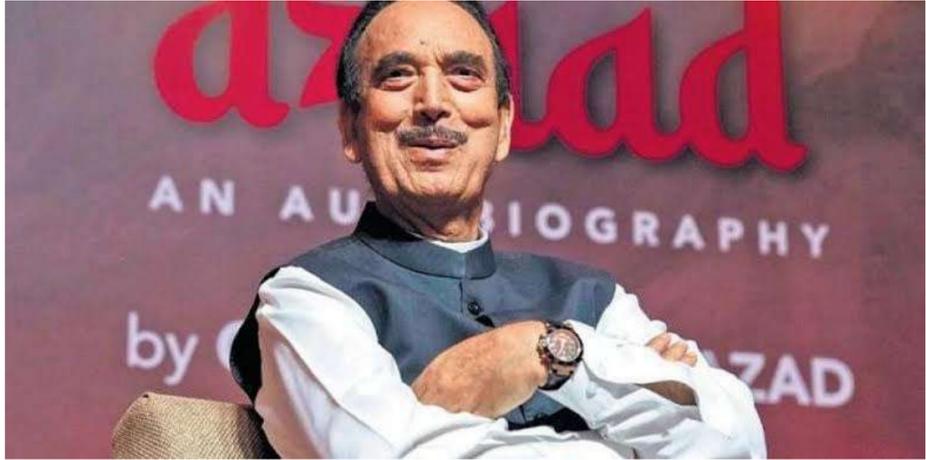
RIYAZ WANI

“Once a towering Congress politician, who held many important ministerial portfolios and senior organizational responsibilities at the national level, Azad's exit from the party and the subsequent floating of his own party has drastically shrunk his stature, confining him politically to his small region in Doda

Veteran politician Ghulam Nabi Azad created a stir when at a recent rally in a Doda village, he said almost all Muslims in India were descendants of Hindus. He, however, complemented the factual statement with more loaded ones, saying Islam is just 1500 year old while Hinduism is much older. Or that 600 years ago all of Kashmir's population was Hindu. And that all people in India are born into Hindu religion, whatever that meant. The fraught nature of his utterances, spoken against the backdrop of a polarized political climate in the country, was further reinforced by his clumsy articulation: the tone, body language and the overall vibes showed Azad's desperate need to nod to the reigning political creed in the country than to state any historical facts. In trying to counter the RSS narrative he ended up playing to it. Which of the two objectives was his intention is difficult to say. Or was the intention to play to both the narratives? If so, he has succeeded in pandering to the RSS side of the divide only, alienating large sections of Muslim population in the process. For, in the manner that Azad said it, he showed a certain defensiveness about being a Muslim.

That said, did Azad state any facts? He did, after broadly analyzing what he said, although some of his assertions do clash with the belief of Muslims. For example, Azad's claim that Islam is younger than Hinduism runs up against the belief among Muslims - or for that matter, even among Christians and Jews - that the provenance of their faith dates back to prophet Adam, the first human being according to Abrahamic religions.

But yes, as far as ancestry of Muslims in India, Azad is right: they are not outsiders but converts from Hinduism, a historical fact. Over a thousand years of Muslim rule, around one-third of Indians converted to Islam, a sizable chunk of the population which Jinnah came to describe as a "Muslim India". It is also



a fact acknowledged by the RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. In 2021, speaking at a function organized by Muslim Rashtriya Manch, Bhagwat said that Hindus and Muslims in India shared the same DNA and so, in cultural terms, Muslims in India were actually Hindus - albeit, the later part of his argument would be contentious from a Muslim point of view.

While Azad's argument seems to spring from the same RSS thought process, it is geared to contest an extreme nationalist narrative which sees Muslims in India as outsiders, hence not entitled to a place in India or to equal rights. So, one can justify it as a viewpoint that not only takes on a certain nationalist view but also expands horizons of Muslim politics - or at least opens space for a political party led by a Muslim politician, such as Azad's own party. It makes the concession that even if one were to make accommodation for one's rage over Muslim invasions of India, one couldn't exact revenge on the Muslims who were native to India - Hindus who adopted a different faith. Whether volitionally or forcibly is not the debate here - to speak on behalf of either is a political opinion, not a historical fact.

What Hindu right, in fact, is doing is oppressing their own people to avenge a real or imagined history in which the latter had no role.

Also, if go down the history, we can't stop only at Muslim invasions: India has earlier witnessed the arrival of Aryans who swamped the then indigenous population, saw en masse conversion from Hinduism to Buddhism, then back to Hinduism, even as Buddhism that birthed in India spread throughout the world. And this time, Buddhism is the mainstream religion of China, the world's No 2 power and India's biggest global adversary. The point is that history is extremely complex, so using it for ideological ends could serve to sway public opinion and advance political goals—even though it doesn't guarantee that it's accurate.

Returning to Azad's statements, all that he has tried to do is to spin the nationalist argument to his favour - albeit unsuccessfully so. His motivations again are essentially political. Once a towering Congress politician, who held many important ministerial portfolios and senior organizational responsibilities at the national level, Azad's exit from the party and the subsequent

floating of his own party has drastically shrunk his stature, confining him politically to his small region in Doda. As things stand and with some revival of Congress party across the country and also within Jammu and Kashmir, Azad will find it increasingly difficult to stay relevant to the changing political scene. This calls for a certain modulation of his politics to suit the current political climate. He also needs to forge a political narrative that transcends his appeal across the Hindu-Muslim divide, building on his longstanding secular credentials that once made him acceptable to both Kashmir Valley and Jammu division. But then he was a national leader in a pan-India party like Congress. He currently leads a fledgling subregional party that hasn't yet endeared itself to the people, let alone boast of their support in significant numbers.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

In the Inner Orbit of Geopolitics

Shyam Saran

The suspense is over. India is celebrating the remarkable success of Chandrayaan-3, which landed on the moon's surface on the designated day, time and location. One of the markers of global leadership is technological advancement. After the US, Russia and China, India is now only the fourth country to have achieved this landmark.

Chandrayaan-3 landed at the southern pole of the moon and is the only space-faring nation to have selected a particularly challenging and little understood location for exploration. Scientists say that it is only the polar regions which still carry the original geology of the moon—most of its surface having been overlaid with the debris of large and small asteroids which have been bombarding the moon through millennia and accumulating, layer after layer.

The experiments which the moon rover will be carrying out over this space, including looking for sub-soil water, will bring new knowledge about our closest celestial neighbour. This will also help our understanding of the history and make-up of our own fragile planet.

This great success in space exploration comes, coincidentally, when prime minister Narendra Modi is in Johannesburg, South Africa, for the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) summit.

Chandrayaan-3's success will boost India's profile and standing among its BRICS partners and enhance the influence of the BRICS itself as a grouping of economically and technologically capable states who are now peers among the constituency of developing countries.

Chandrayaan-3 succeeded where a Russian lunar landing craft—Luna-25—failed and crashed a few days earlier. It may have been a coincidence that Russia, already a seasoned space-faring nation, launched its moon landing project virtually days after India did. But Russian failure and Indian success will be assessed side by side. Russia's failure is already being seen as a symptom of its decline and inability, in terms of resources, to maintain its status as an advanced space power.

Space exploration is a high-risk and expen-



sive pursuit and India itself suffered disappointment when its Chandrayaan-2 also crashed on the moon's surface in September 2019. There is no reason to believe that Russia will not overcome this setback and pick up the pieces again. But perceptions matter. Chandrayaan-3 reinforces the international perception of India as a rising power and that of Russia as a declining power. If Russia undertook this project to counter the notion that it was no longer in the front ranks of technologically advanced countries, that the Ukraine War had not in any way dented that position, it failed. The political and psychological setback is obvious from the very limited coverage that the failed moon mission received in the Russian media.

China has always looked down upon India as being out of its league as a global economic and technological power. It sees India as pretending

to be a leading power without having the economic and technological capabilities to back it up with. India's earlier demonstrations of scientific and technological excellence, for example, in the nuclear and space fields or in its successful IT sector, have been received with surprise. They have often been dismissed as "borrowed" from other countries.

Chandrayaan-3's outstanding achievement may be difficult to dismiss in a similar manner. Perhaps this may lead China to shed some of its arrogance and approach India as a country which must be treated with respect rather than condescension.

The two countries can put their relations on an even keel only if they treat each other as equals. How China reacts to Chandrayaan-3's success will be a pointer to whether there is a shift in China's posture towards India after the

violent clashes at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh.

For India, Chandrayaan-3's success is also a boost to its status as the host country for the forthcoming G20 summit. One has no doubt that in the already pervasive publicity surrounding the summit, Chandrayaan-3 will add another prominent feather to India's cap. During the summit deliberations, India's voice will command greater attention. Its various initiatives will be considered with respect. Whether this will be reflected in substantive outcomes remains to be seen.

There are lessons for India and its development strategy. What Chandrayaan-3 has achieved is the result of the vision put forward by India's early leaders that the country, though poor and developing, should create and nurture institutions of excellence pursuing the most advanced science and technology.

The Atomic Energy Commission, which developed India's nuclear programme, was set up as early as 1948 with prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru as its chairman. This reflected the high importance attached to this advanced scientific pursuit by the then political leadership.

Originally, space research was entrusted to a committee under the Department of Atomic Energy known as Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), set up in 1961 under the well-known scientist, Vikram Sarabhai. This was later followed by the setting up of the Indian Space Research Organisation in 1972.

The Indian Space Commission was set up on the pattern of the Atomic Energy Commission, also under the chairmanship of the prime minister. These two commissions are the pillars of India's advanced science and technology, enjoying considerable autonomy and being well-funded.

It is these early, far-sighted decisions, followed by the efforts of India's scientists and technology workers, that have resulted in the success of India's latest space mission.

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

A Game Of Carrom

Saqib Rasool

I assume that you all will read this. Let's start with an assumption then. I think there is no harm in that. So, I assume that most of us, if not all, have played carrom or seen how the game of carrom works. During covid lockdown, carrom got a revival, if not a second life (assuming that this game was dead or dormant before). During lockdown days I used to play carrom with my elder siblings (who rarely had time before covid) and my nephew and little niece (jaun). Today, almost three years down the line I saw two students in the hostel basement playing the game with great focus and believe me they both were good players (a contested fact). Before proceeding further, I would like to put things in some context. Carrom has its origin from Indian soil (Soil: bollywood term). Remember the origin of the game is important here. It will tell us a lot about the society from which it emerged. After playing the game back home (Kashmir), I started to develop a keen interest in the game. Initially, comprehending the game's rules was bit of a challenge for me. Yet subsequently, it became apparent that this game serves as an intriguing avenue to grasp societal dynamics and the challenges it contends with. Aspects like racial bias, legal constraints, and gender discrimination are readily illuminated through this game, leading me to perceive it as a mirror to our society.

Presuming your continued presence, despite numerous suppositions, let's delve into the earlier conversation to comprehend the points discussed.

Color Discrimination: Within the game of carrom, distinct point types exist—white, black, Queen, and Striker. Notably, claiming a White point yields 20 rewards, whereas a black point garners merely 10.



Have you ever pondered the rationale behind this distinction? Given that both points share identical material and circumference, the basis for divergent point values solely rooted in color remains perplexing. Whether engaged in play or support, take a moment to question: why this differentiation based on color?

Being a student of law and society, a query emerges within me: "Is it feasible to confront this subtle (yet deeply ingrained) bias through legal means?" While law indeed tackles discrimination on societal and institutional scales, how would it respond to color

discrimination within such a context? The approach to addressing such matters is less apparent. Law is often considered an instrument of change, prompting the question: to what extent does it bring about transformation?

State restrictions and law: If you see, there are some lines drawn on the game. I feel these lines determine our rights and limits. You cannot win a point if it's on the line, but why? Who holds the authority to establish such a principle? What these lines tell us about the nature of rights. To explain this, let me take the example of rights: Positive and negative. Negative

IT IS ONLY THIS SACRIFICE WHICH OPENS YOUR WAY TO WIN THE QUEEN.

Think of it this way, the respect of the board (home) if affiliated to the queen. And to protect the respect, others have to give away their lives. However, it's important to keep in mind that the Queen lacks independent agency. She possesses no inherent value; instead, her worth is derived from her association with others. The question arises: why is this the case?

rights compromise constitutional restrictions on the state. For example, Article 17 of the Indian constitution abolishes untouchability, removes a social evil. It hardly bestows a special privilege on the untouchables. While on the other hand, Positive rights are those rights which are subject to constitutional restrictions. Right to freedom, right to acquire, hold and dispose of property and right to religion and cultural and educational rights fall in the category of positive rights.

Then comes the striker, one thing must be noted that the striker is larger in circumference than the other points.

It enables you to disturb/ move the points from their points. "It dictates you". It's reasonable to assert that the striker essentially "determines" the outcomes on behalf of the other points.

Sexism: Apart from points (black and white) and striker, there is another point, it is termed as "queen". The gender being alluded to can be deduced directly from the name itself. You can't touch this point, be it black or white. There are conditions to it, you can change its position only by hitting it indirectly. And if one desires to win the queen. The process isn't the same as winning other points. In order to win a queen, you have to sacrifice the other point (black/white). So, to win a queen, you need to sacrifice the other points. It is only this sacrifice which opens your way to win the queen. Think of it this way, the respect of the board (home) if affiliated to the queen. And to protect the respect, others have to give away their lives. However, it's important to keep in mind that the Queen lacks independent agency. She possesses no inherent value; instead, her worth is derived from her association with others. The question arises: why is this the case?

When I shared this half-baked analysis with my friend, he replied, "Itni choti baat par dhyani mat diya karo" (Don't stress too much on such trifles). However, I feel trifles say a lot (assuming all this is just a trifle). Law doesn't take account of trifles but literature does. Fyodor Dostoyevsky in his famous book "crime and punishment" writes "what matters people would remember it, and that would give them a clue for this business one should be as little conspicuous as possible...trifles, trifles are what matter! Why, it's just such trifles that always ruin everything."

The author completed his LLM from Azim Premji university

Avoid This Mistake When Trying to Be More Disciplined

Mark Travers Ph.D.

A new study published in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology investigates common beliefs about self-control and how they might impact people's willingness to employ self-control strategies in their lives.

Psychologist Anamarie Gennara of Carleton University in Ottawa, the lead author of the paper, reported, "My colleague, Dr. Johanna Peetz, came up with this project idea following a conversation with a friend who dismissed the use of strategies for self-control—they said one should be able to do it without having to resort to such 'tricks.'"

The study defined self-control strategies as "actions and thoughts people take to design their environments in a way that make goal-directed choices easier and more likely." For instance, if an individual who is trying to lose weight struggles with cookie cravings, they can either put the cookies out of their reach or remind themselves of their weight-loss goals or the many demerits of processed foods and sugars when they feel vulnerable.

In recent years, we have seen a proliferation of such strategies in the name of productivity or focus hacks (like dopamine detoxes, task stacking and chugging, the Pomodoro method, etc.). While the strategies have been widely circulated, they have also received criticism, with many people writing them off as superficial tricks that are a poor substitute for strong "willpower."

To better understand the beliefs people hold about self-control and how they influence behavior, the researchers conducted five experiments in which participants were presented with fictional characters described as having high self-control and asked to assess whether these individuals were more likely to rely on willpower or strategies to resist temptations.

The initial findings showed that



individuals perceived people with high self-control as more likely to use willpower over self-control strategies. Also, in subsequent experiments, targets described as using strategies consistently received lower self-control ratings compared to those who employed willpower.

Remarkably, this perception gap disappeared for participants who strongly believed in the efficacy of strategies for self-control. When individuals read an article emphasizing the importance of self-control strategies instead of willpower, the difference in perception between strategy users and willpower users was notably reduced. Moreover, participants who firmly believed in the effectiveness of strategies expressed higher intentions to use these techniques

themselves. The results thus indicated that:

1. "Strategy users" were consistently perceived as having less self-control than "willpower users."
2. Those who read about the importance of strategies rated fictional persons using strategies as higher in self-control and expressed greater willingness to use those strategies themselves.

"Our research shows that people's beliefs about the importance of strategies for self-control significantly shape their perceptions of others who employ these strategies, as well as their own willingness to use them," Gennara reported. The findings have important

implications, as they highlight the impact of beliefs on perceptions and behavior. By understanding the link between self-control and our theories about it, interventions can be designed to promote the use of effective self-control strategies. The authors suggest that educating individuals about the value of strategies can shift their beliefs and lead to an increased willingness to employ these techniques. Such efforts could pave the way for easier and more effective self-control in various real-world contexts.

In practical terms, individuals seeking to improve their self-control and resist temptations more effectively should be open to experimenting with different strategies. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, as different strategies may work better

for different people. Instead of solely relying on will, people should be encouraged to discover and implement strategies that align with their unique goals and preferences.

Believing that willpower is more central to self-control than strategies might be a disservice to your untapped potential. However, Gennara states, merely informing people about the benefits of strategies may not lead to lasting change. Instead, she suggests linking the use of strategies to positive traits, such as discipline. Tapping into individuals' inherent desire to perceive themselves positively can encourage them to find greater motivation to adopt self-control strategies in their daily lives.

Courtesy - Psychology Today

Unlocking The Secret To A Good Life: The Path To Fulfillment And Happiness

Modern-man-human-life-young-man-business-shut

Press Trust Of India

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.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Electric Division-3rd, Shereen Bagh, Srinagar.

Notice Inviting Tender
e-NIT No.: - ED-III /13 of 2023-24 Dated: - 26-08-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies Registered with ROC of INDIA, Original Manufacturers or relevant class A registered electrical contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPD, for "Creation of 02 no. 63 KVA feasible substations at different locations (01 no. at Kreshbal and 01 no. at Sangam) under Capex Budget 2023-24 work code- PDDSS2022100302 falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawakadal, ED 3rd (Partial Turnkey Basis)" as details below:

Name of the work.	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	EMD	Cost of Tender Document	Completion Period	Status of funds
Creation of 02 no. 63 KVA feasible substations at different locations (01 no. at Kreshbal and 01 no. at Sangam) under Capex Budget 2023-24 work code- PDDSS2022100302 falling under the jurisdiction of ESD Nawakadal, ED 3rd (Partial Turnkey Basis)	4.435	2% of estimated Cost Rs. 8870.00	Rs. 500/-	30 days	Under Capex Budget 2023-24

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

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document/Sale of Bid Document (Start) The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 26-08-2023; 10:00 AM	
B	Sale of Bid Document (End)	15-09-2023; 02:00 PM
C	Clarification start date	31-08-2023; 10:00 AM
D	Clarification End date	11-09-2023; 02:00 PM
E	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	31-08-2023; 10:00 AM
F	e-Bid submission (End) date and time Submission of e-tender fee, and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	15-09-2023; 04:00 PM
G	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
H	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	16-09-2023; 02:00 PM
I	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
J	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	Office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
K	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be uploaded with e-tender)	Rs. 500.00/- (Rupees Five Hundred only).

No.: - ED-III/TS/
DIPK-NB-2826/23
Date: -25-08-2023

Executive Engineer
Electric Division 3rd

The J&K Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjkbopee@gmail.com

Subject: - Conduct of Counseling (Physical) for Admission to M.Sc. Nursing Course-2023 in Govt./Pvt. Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K.

Reference: Notification No. 062-BOPEE of 2023 dated 14.08.2023.

Notification No. 069-BOPEE of 2023 Dated 25-08-2023

The Board vide Notification No.062-BOPEE of 2023 dated. 14.08.2023 had declared the result of Common Entrance Test conducted by the Board on 06.08.2023 and notified the Provisional Merit List of the candidates who had appeared in the said test for admission to M.Sc. Nursing courses - 2023 in the Government/Private Institutions of the UT of J&K and the candidates were asked to submit their representations against his/her result, if any, within three days from the date of issuance of the said Notification physically at the respective BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar. In response thereof no representation was received from any candidate and the merit List as such was treated as final.

In view of the above, it is hereby notified for information of all the concerned candidates that the Board shall conduct the physical round of counselling of only those candidates who have secured upto 35 marks out of 120 marks in the Common Entrance Test i.e. upto Rank 217 of Provisional Merit List. As such the candidates upto the Rank 217 are hereby advised to report for participation in the counseling process as per the following schedule:

Date	Rank	Remarks
31.08.2023 (Thursday)	01 to 217	All Candidates including reserved categories

All the eligible/interested candidates are advised to report physically at BOPEE Office Jammu/Srinagar on the above date between 08.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. for Attendance and Registration along with the following documents in original:

- Domicile Certificate; and
- B.Sc. Nursing / Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing/ B.Sc. Hons. Nursing Marks Card; and
- One Year work experience after B.Sc. Nursing/Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing; and
- Certificate as a registered Nurse or Registered Midwifery or equivalent with any state Nursing Council; and
- Valid Category Certificate, if applicable;

All the participating candidates shall have to deposit the Counseling fee of Rs.1000/- (Rupees one thousand only) through the POS Machines available at the BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar through Debit/Credit cards. Any candidate who fails to deposit the counseling fee shall not be allowed to participate in the counseling process.

Further, if any, candidate is not able to participate personally in the counseling on prescribed day & date of Counselling due to unavoidable circumstances, he/she can authorize his/her close family member who falls in his/her blood relation on the devised format of the Board to participate in the counseling on behalf of the concerned candidate. The said authorized person had to submit the authorization letter along with his/her Identity Card and Aadhar Card during the process of counseling otherwise he/she shall not be allowed to participate in the counseling on his/her own risk and responsibility.

The Board shall stop the counseling process immediately as and when the seats are fully exhausted and no further claim from the waiting candidates shall be entertained.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified by the Board through various Notifications/Notices issued from time to time in this regard.

E & O E

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations,
J&K BOPEE

DIPK-NB-2827/23

No. BOPEE/Exam-21/2023.

Dated: 25-08-2023

In The Court Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Pampore.
Case No.46 of 2023
Date of Institution: 09/08/2023
Mohd Amin Ganie S/o Gh. Nabi Ganie R/o Wuyan, Pampore (Applicant)

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

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-applciant for Registration of Date of Death of Applicant's Father and Mother namely Gh Nabi Ganie & Mukht Begum .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 Death of Applicant's father & Mother (who were died on 20-02-2018 & 06-03-2018 at Wuyan, Pampore) to the non-applciant 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: 20.JMIC/Pampore dated: 24-08-2023 (Mr. Touseef Ahmad Magray) U.I.D No JK00208 Munsiff/JMIC Pampore.

fko

A KASHMIRI HANDICRAFT BRAND PASHMKAAR

WE ARE HIRING STORE MANAGER (Male/Female)
Minimum 2 years experience in store management with good communication and computer skills
SALES GIRLS :2 No.
Minimum 1 Year experience in Sales
ACCOUNTANT
With minimum 2 years experience with any accounting firm knowledge of GST and Tally Software.
For above all posts please send your resume: Imtiyazdar73@gmail.com pashmkaarkashmir@gmail.com

CENTRE OF CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
NAAC Accredited Grade "A+"
University Campus, Hazratbal, Srinagar (J&K)- 190006

ADVERTISEMENT
Applications on plain paper are invited from the eligible candidates for the below-mentioned positions available under the research project entitled "Documentation of Wooden Khanqahs of Kashmir" funded by Endangered Wooden Architecture Program, Oxford Brookes University, UK.

S. No.	Positions
1	Research Assistant (02)
2	GIS Expert (01)
3	IT Expert (01)

The applications with full details along with xerox copies of relevant certificates should reach to the Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, Srinagar - 190006, J & K, India by or before **15th September, 2023**. The position is temporary and co-terminus with the tenure of the project. The emoluments will be paid as per the guidelines of the funding agency. The date of interview will be communicated separately through e-mail. No TA/DA will be paid for appearing in the interview. Kindly visit 2391.pdf (kashmiruniversity.net) for complete advertisement notice.

No: F (CCAS-EWAP) KU/2023 Sd/- Dr. Mohammad Ajmal Shah
Date: 24-08-2023 Principal Investigator

DIPK-NB-2838/23 dated: 25-08-2023

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Chief Engineer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
Email: - tender.sscsl@gmail.com Tel. No: 0194-2455370 (CIN: U70200JK2017SGC010107)

NOTICE INVITING Tender
E-N.I.T No. 20-SSCL of 08/2023-24, DT:- 25-08-2023

The Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) (hereinafter referred to as "SSCL" / "Authority" in this document) is executing SMART CITY MISSION (SCM) in Srinagar. Chief Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites bids, from interested parties/firms/agencies for the following work as detailed in table below:

S. No.	Name of the contract	Cost of Bid Document (INR)	Bid Security Deposit (INR)	Minimum Annual Reserve Bid Price (INR)	License Period
1	Engagement of Agency for Management & Maintenance of 7 No. Public Plazas under Flyover from Ram Bagh to Magarmal Bagh in Srinagar City, On Upfront Revenue Share Basis.	2000.00	2,30,000.00	Rs. 15.00 Lac/-	Five (05) Years

- The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB) and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, Conditions of Contract, and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in from 25/08/2023. The Bidders can take part in the bidding process as per below tabulated schedule:

S. No.	Description	Date
1	Date of issue of RFP	25/08/2023
2	Time period for Down loading of RFP documents	25/08/2023 to 11/09/2023
3	Last Date of submission of queries	31/08/2023
4	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	05/09/2023
5	Last date of Online Submission of Bid	11/09/2023 up to 16:00 Hrs.
6	Opening of Technical Bid	12/09/2023 at 14:00 Hrs.
7	Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated later

- Bids shall be received "on line" on or before 11/09/2023. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.
- If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.
- The Schedule indicated above is tentative and the Employer may change any or the entire schedule with prior intimation to all bidders.
- Interested and eligible bidders may submit their complete proposal as prescribed in the Bid Document along with the receipt of requisite Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and non-refundable Cost of Bid Document.
- The Cost of Bid Document is to be paid through DD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as under:
Name of Bank: ICICI Bank Ltd.
Branch: Karan Nagar, Srinagar.
Bank Account Number: 252705001239,
IFSC Code: ICIC0002527
MICR Code: 190229002
- The Bid Security Amount (Earnest Money Deposit) of Rs. 2,30,000/- may be paid through CDR/FDR/DD in favour of Srinagar Smart City Limited with Bank Account details as stated below or may be submitted through a Bank Guarantee, having a validity of 60 days beyond Bid Validity Period of 120 days. The Bank Guarantee shall be pledged to Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited, Srinagar and shall be submitted in the format provided in the Bid Document. The bank account details are as under:
- Bids are invited for the Project on the basis of the Annual Revenue Share Amount quoted by a Bidder. The Annual Revenue Share Amount quoted by the bidder shall be exclusive of GST, as applicable.
- Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offers or on any subsequent date is reserved by the Employer.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any delay in submission of bid due to any reason.
- The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, cancel the bidding process, at any time prior to the award of contract, without assigning any reason therefor and thereby assumes nonresponsibility of incurring any liability to the affected applicants.
- The Annual Revenue Share Amount quoted by the selected bidder for all 20 No. Toilet-Cafes shall be paid by the selected bidder to the "SSCL/Authority" in two instalments of half-yearly (six month) amount along with the applicable GST. The half-yearly Revenue Share Amount shall be paid in advance of each half-yearly payment period. The first payment shall be made at the time of start of Operation & Maintenance Period and subsequent half-yearly payments shall be made before one month of the commencement of the next half-yearly payment period.
- Any information regarding the Bid Document can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
Srinagar Smart City Limited.

No: SSCL/CEO/2023-24/214-17
DIPK-NB-2831/23
Dated: 25/08/2023

SEBI Submits Status Report On Adani-Hindenburg Probe, Says Awaiting Info From Tax Havens



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator SEBI on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it has completed the probe in all but two allegations against the Adani group and is still awaiting information from five tax havens on actual owners behind foreign investors investing in the conglomerate.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India in a status report to the Supreme Court stated that out of the 24 matters it was probing, findings in as many as 22 are final.

Without divulging the outcome of its investigations, SEBI gave a detailed breakdown of the steps taken by it during its probe, including related party transactions.

"SEBI shall take appropriate action based on the outcome of the investigations in accordance with law," the regulator said in the filing.

The probe reports finalised include allegations of manipulation of stock prices, alleged failure to disclose transactions

with related parties and possible violation of insider trading in some of the group stocks.

However, on the allegation of non-compliance with the minimum public sharing requirement by investing in its own companies through overseas proxies, SEBI said its investigation covered 13 overseas entities (12 foreign portfolio investors and one foreign entity).

These 13 were classified as public shareholders of the Adani group companies but allegations including the US short-seller Hindenburg Research termed some of them as close associates or run by Vinod Adani, the elder brother of group chairman Gautam Adani.

"As many of the entities linked to these foreign investors are located in tax haven jurisdictions, establishing the economic interest shareholders of the 12 FPIs remains a challenge," SEBI said adding efforts are still being made to gather details from five foreign jurisdictions pertaining to the actual owners of these investors.

India's Real Estate Sector Expected To Expand To USD 5.8 Trillion By 2047: Report

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: International Property Consultant Knight Frank India in its latest report, 'India Real Estate: Vision 2047', prepared in association with the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) has projected that India's real estate sector is expected to expand to USD 5.8 trillion by 2047. A press release from Knight Frank said this estimated real estate output value will contribute 15.5 per cent to the total economic output in 2047 from the existing share of 7.3 per cent.

The report will be unveiled by M Venkaiah Naidu, Former Vice President, at NAREDCO's Silver Jubilee Celebration event here in Hyderabad, along with other dignitaries present at the event here tomorrow, it said.

By 2047, when India reaches 100 years of independence, the size of India's economy is estimated to be around USD 33 trillion, and for study purposes, Knight Frank has taken the mean estimated growth of the Indian economy to be valued at USD 36.4 trillion by 2047.

Commenting on the occasion, Rajan Bandelkar, President NAREDCO India said, "Vision 2047, not just for NAREDCO but for Indian Real Estate, is about the roadmap of India's economic growth, and

the role of real estate as one of the leading engines of that growth story.

Significant expansion of the Indian economy by 2047 will be powered by real estate. A multifold economic expansion will boost demand across all the asset classes -- residential, commercial, warehousing, industrial land developments etc -- will grow at a multiplier rate to accommodate the growing needs of the economy and consumption needs of the individuals, he further said.

According to Knight Frank India, in the next 25 years, cumulatively there will be an estimated 230 million units of housing requirement in India. In terms of market value, the residential market has a potential to generate an output equivalent of USD 3.5 trillion in 2047.

Shishir Bajjal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said the next 25 years are going to witness a dramatic transformation in the Indian economy and the real estate sector. Factors like demographic advantages, improving business and investment sentiments, and government policy push towards high-value output sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure etc will robustly support the economic expansion of India.

Growth In June Quarter Should Be Good; Priority Is To Tame Inflation: FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India's economic growth in the first quarter of this fiscal should be good and that the government's priority is to tame inflation, which has touched a 15-month high.

Addressing business leaders in the national capital, she said that green shoots of private capital expenditure upcycle can be palpably felt as the government's enhanced capital expenditure is now crowding in private sector investments.

While mentioning about the key priorities of the government, Sitharaman also stressed that the focus is on Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) but essential imports will not be stopped.

She also emphasised on the need for diversification of supply chains at the earliest to avoid shocks.

Noting that India is the fastest growing major economy, she said that in another few days, the GDP numbers for the first quarter of 2023-24 will be released.

"As things stand, nobody has a clue. But everybody feels that yes, the first quarter did go on well, so the numbers should be good," Sitharaman said while speaking at the B20 Summit India 2023, being organised by industry body CII.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is scheduled to



release the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data for April-June quarter on August 31.

She said there is a lot of interest on what the US Federal Reserve is going to say from Jackson Hole. "All of us are wondering how that is going to come out because its spill over is also something which we notice," she said.

Investors are awaiting cues on the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy from Chairman Jerome Powell's speech at the Jackson Hole Symposium on Friday.

According to her, the key priority for economic growth "is taming inflation" because persistently high inflation will weaken demand.

"It's basic economics. I'm not saying anything new. Equally, elevated interest rates for considerable time can come in the way of economic recovery," the finance minister said and added that the tendency to use interest

rates as the only solution for dealing with inflation has its own downside.

"And most economies do have this problem, because I think, for want of a better word, obsession with using interest rate as the only tool to deal with inflation and not manage the supply side factors will not give a complete solution for inflation.

"Temporarily it can give but sooner the supply side issues can creep the ugly heads up," she said.

Most of the central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have raised interest rates to tackle inflation following the outbreak of Russia-Ukraine war in February last year that has also disrupted global supply chains.

"... task for the central banks therefore... particularly in today's context is to keep in mind growth and growth-related priorities even as equally looking at controlling inflation," Sitharaman said.

She also said that India has showcased an accelerated pace of economic reforms in the last nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

"Reforms have been continuing, wide ranging domains have been covered, whether it is fiscal, whether it is digital, whether it is physical infrastructure or social inclusion, you spoke about inclusion, yes on social inclusion as well.

India-UK FTA Negotiations Going On, Making Good Progress: Goyal

Press Trust Of India



JAIPUR: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the negotiations between India and the UK for the proposed free trade agreement are progressing and both countries are committed to concluding the talks as early as possible.

"We are working hard, we are all committed to a fair, equitable, and balanced trade agreement, respecting each other's sensitivities, respecting the different levels of developments that both the countries have and respecting the future potential that each country brings to the table," Goyal told reporters here.

Keeping all of these circumstances in mind, the two countries have made "good" progress and the 12th round of talks is under-going, he added.

When asked about the deadline for concluding the negotiations, the minister said no country in the world works through specific deadlines.

"But I would like to see it happen tomorrow, the faster the better ... We are both committed to a good outcome, at the fastest possible speed," he added.

UK Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch

on Thursday said that India and Britain are actively discussing business mobility under the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) and the negotiations are now in the final stages.

The ministers were here to attend the G20 trade and investment ministers meeting.

Out of the total 26 chapters in the proposed FTA, 19 have been closed. Investment is being negotiated as a separate agreement (bilateral investment treaty) between India and the UK.

The bilateral trade between the countries increased to USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23 from USD 17.5 billion in 2021-22.



DGCA Inspection Finds Lapses In Air India's Internal Safety Audits

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A two-member inspection team of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has found lapses in internal safety audits of Air India and the regulator is probing the matter, according to officials.

When contacted, an Air India spokesperson said that all airlines are subject to regular safety audits by regulators and other bodies.

"Air India actively engages in such audits to continually assess and strengthen our processes," the spokesperson said in a statement and added that the airline directly addresses any matters raised with the authority concerned.

According to the inspection report submitted to the DGCA, the airline was supposed to carry out regular safety spot checks in various areas of operations such as cabin surveillance, cargo, ramp and load but during a random inspection of 13 safety points, the team found that the airline prepared false reports in all 13 cases.

"Moreover, when cross-verified with CCTV, recordings, auditee statements, shift register documents, GD (General Declaration) list, passenger manifest

etc, it is understood that all the aforesaid 13 spot checks shown to be carried out in stations Mumbai, Goa and Delhi were verified and were established to have not been actually performed," the two-member team said in the 'Deficiency Reporting Form' (DRF).

The inspection found that these reports "were subsequently prepared/falsified when demanded by the DGCA team".

Further, the inspection report noted that these forged spot check reports were not signed by the Chief of Flight Safety (CFS) who has the authority to do it.

The team visited Air India's office in Gurugram in Haryana on July 25 and 26, and after inspection, they mentioned about the lapses in the DRF.

When contacted, DGCA Director General Vikram Dev Dutt said the matter is being investigated by the regulator.

According to the inspection report, the checklists were physically signed by an auditor from the Quality Management System (QMS) Department which does not fall under the approval and inspection scope of the DGCA and has different eligibility criteria/qualification industry standards.

How Two 20-Year-Olds Beat Grim Market To Mint India's Newest Unicorn - Zepto

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: Zepto, an instant grocery startup founded by a duo of Stanford University drop-outs, both 20, raised fresh funds at a \$1.4 billion valuation, creating a rare Indian unicorn amid a gloomy venture funding climate.

StepStone Group, Goodwater Capital and others invested a combined \$200 million in the Mumbai-based company, it said Friday in a statement. Zepto, built with backing from startup incubator Y Combinator, said it's on track to turn profitable within 15 months and intends to go public in two to three years.

Childhood friends Aadit Palicha and Kaivalya Vohra dropped out of Stanford's computer science program to return to India and build the startup when they were teenagers. They are now the youngest founders of any Indian unicorn.

"Quick commerce is India's fastest-growing consumer internet category, scaling far more rapidly than segments like ride-hailing and food delivery," Palicha said over video conference. "We are India's fastest-growing consumer internet company and will be Ebitda-positive within 15 months."

The Series E round comes at



a challenging time for the quick commerce segment globally, with startups like Gopuff in the US and Getir in Europe cutting jobs. Zepto itself faces stiffening competition from rivals in India, including Alphabet Inc.-backed Dunzo, Zomato Ltd.'s Blinkit and Naspers Ltd.-backed Instamart.

Startup momentum is sputtering worldwide. Venture funding declined by about 72% in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2022, according to data from Tracxn Technologies Ltd. No new unicorns were created in the country the first half, compared with 19 unicorns minted in the year-earlier period, according to Tracxn.

Zepto was founded in July 2021 and now has more than 220 so-called dark stores, or neighborhood warehouses, across cities including Mumbai, Bangalore and New Delhi, with plans for expansion. Its early backers include Nexus Venture Partners and Lachy Group.

AI Will Create More Jobs In India: N Chandrasekaran

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Artificial intelligence will create more jobs in India as it will empower more people with little skill or no skill to perform higher level jobs, B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said on Friday.

In a panel discussion at the B20 Summit India 2023 here, Chandrasekaran, who is also the Chairman of Tata Sons, said India has made a "fantastic breakthrough" towards data privacy and protection by taking a technological approach.

Seeking to address concerns over privacy and jobs with the advent of artificial intelligence (AI), he said, "Actually in a country like us, it (AI) will create jobs because it will empower people with the little skill or no skill, will empower them with information skill so that they can perform a higher level of jobs."

He cited the example of

a nurse and said due to AI "the nurse will be able to take away the workload of a doctor and that's the way we are going to scale up".

Chandrasekaran, however, stated that the impact of AI will play out in different markets and different segments of the society differently.

"We talk about a country like India, we say that hundreds of millions of people have to have access... Additional 250 to 300 million people are coming into the market. They have access to information, they have access to goods and services in their own way, they start consuming, it just multiplies the whole GDP to a different level and then their per capita income goes up and we will see the benefit for a very, very long time," he said.

On the other hand, he said the ageing economies are also going to face longevity and all these people have to

be taken care of and they don't have enough human resources to provide the kind of service that needed to be provided to support these people once they get aged.

"Again, AI will come in handy or play a very very important role because a vast majority of the things that need to be taken care of can be done by AI. So the benefits are going to be different to different segments and in different markets but everywhere (AI) is going to create jobs, it is going to empower people to do high levels of jobs," Chandrasekaran asserted.

In markets where there are no people it is going to substitute for human beings and provide the service that is expected, he added.

On data privacy and protection, Chandrasekaran said, "I do believe that India has made a big breakthrough in this whole privacy space. India has taken a technical legal approach,"

RBI Guv Asks NBFCs To Strengthen Governance Standards

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday asked non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies, to strengthen governance standards and assurance mechanisms.

The governor held a meeting with MD & CEOs of select large NBFCs. Government NBFCs and housing finance companies (HFCs) also participated in the meeting, the RBI said in a statement.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday asked non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including housing finance companies, to strengthen governance standards and assurance mechanisms.

These entities constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total assets of all NBFCs, including HFCs. Acknowledging the important role played by the sector in delivering credit to the unbanked and underserved areas, Das advised that NBFCs and HFCs need to remain alert to avoid any complacency during good times.

"The governor highlighted the need for further strengthening the governance standards and assurance mechanisms viz. Compliance, risk management and internal audit in these entities," the central bank said.

Sensex Declines By 365 Pts On FII Selling In Financials, Capital Goods Shares

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark Sensex declined by 365 points and Nifty settled below the 19,300 level in a volatile trade on Friday as financials, capital goods and oil shares took a hit amid concerns over potential rate hikes and weak trend in global markets.

Falling for a second day in a row, the BSE Sensex closed lower by 365.83 points or 0.56 per cent at 64,886.51. During the day, it dropped 519.77 points or 0.79 per cent to 64,732.57.

The NSE Nifty declined by 120.90 points or 0.62 per cent to end at 19,265.80. From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, ITC, Mahindra & Mahindra, NTPC, HDFC Bank, ITC, Reliance Industries and Tata Motors were among the major laggards.

Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank were among the gainers.

"Investor caution is evident globally, as concerns about potential rate hikes dominate the prevailing sentiment ahead of the Jackson Hole meeting. Furthermore, the minutes from the RBI MPC meeting reiterated their dedication to managing inflation within the target range, given the elevated domestic inflation levels," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Markets traded under pressure and lost over half a per cent, in continuation of Thursday's decline. All sectors traded in sync with the benchmark and, we saw profit-taking in the broader indices too," Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. In the broader market,

the BSE midcap gauge fell by 0.85 per cent and small-cap declined 0.24 per cent.

Among the indices, capital goods went lower by 1.29 per cent, realty declined 1.27 per cent, power fell 1.26 per cent, utilities dipped 1.24 per cent, FMCG (0.91 per cent) and commodities (0.89 per cent).

Telecommunications emerged as the only winner.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark declined 62.15 points or 0.09 per cent and the Nifty dipped 44.35 points or 0.22 per cent.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the negative territory.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended lower on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 1.25 per cent to USD 84.40 a barrel.

Nagarnar Steel Plant Scripts History – Hot Metal To HR Coil In 9 Days

Observer News Service

Nagarnar- In what is being described in steel circles as unprecedented, Nagarnar Steel Plant has today achieved the feat of producing its final product – HR Coil – 9 days after production of Hot Metal. Coming as it does from a mining major with no prior experience of steel making, the feat is nothing less than astounding.

An elated Amitava Mukherjee, Acting CMD and Director Finance of NMDC who along with other functional directors of the company arrived for the event, expressed satisfaction in fulfilling NMDC's commitment to Bastar. "For over 6 decades we had been playing a pivotal role in the domestic steel market as a supplier of quality iron ore. With today's development we emerge as the newest entrant in the domestic steel market and have put Bastar on the steel map. Today NMDC joins the coveted league of Indian steel makers. This is the fulfilment of a dream that the local community of Bastar had long looked forward to. It gives me immense pleasure to have fulfilled our commitment to make their dream a reality."

On 12th August, Mukherjee had blown in Nagarnar Steel Plant's blast furnace and set the ball rolling for the final commissioning. It may be mentioned that the pace of commissioning had gathered momentum in the recent past under Shri Mukherjee's leadership and the Board had been constantly visiting Nagarnar to sort out bottlenecks and motivate the team towards their goal and highlighting the significance of adherence to safety norms.

Industry veterans remarked that it is a rare feat to commission three critical units in the hot zone – Blast Furnace, Steel Melting Shop and the Mills (Thin Slab Caster – Hot Strip Mill) – in such a short period of time. Shri Mukherjee commended the



solid support of all stakeholders that helped the Project gain pace. "Even as we faced innumerable challenges, over the years we have been fortunate to have been supported at every stage by the Central and State governments, the Steel Ministry, the steel industry, other CPSEs, technological providers, the local community, the media and all stakeholders. We would not have reached our goal without their strong support."

Showering encomiums on K Praveen Kumar, Executive Director and In-charge of Nagarnar Steel Plant project and his team Mukherjee said, "The smooth commissioning of several critical units in the past few days which culminated in production of HR Coil from iron ore mined in Bastar is a testimony to the commitment and dedicated hard work of the team led by Shri K Praveen Kumar who galvanized the small band of professionals into a powerful force that delivered timely results."

The 3 million tonne per

annum capacity steel plant has been built at a cost of approximately Rs. 24000 crores. The Plant is set to establish its mark in the Hot Rolled market with its repertoire of high grade Hot Rolled steel that is slated to meet the requirements of several key consuming sectors on the strength of its technology that includes its most modern Mill. Nagarnar Steel Plant's competitive advantage also stems from its iron ore supply linkage with Bailadila mines, barely 100 kms. from Nagarnar.

The product mix of Nagarnar Steel Plant consists of low carbon steel, HSLA & Dual Phase Steel and API quality steel that can be rolled in to thickness range from 1mm to 16 mm. With its capability to roll 1650mm wide HR, the Thin Slab caster at Nagarnar Steel Plant is the widest Mill in the public sector. HR Coils, Sheets and Plates coming off India's latest and most modern mill are expected to meet the growing demand for quality HR required in the manufacture

of LPG cylinders, bridges, steel structures, ships, large diameter pipes, storage tanks, boilers, railway wagons and pressure vessels and in construction of tanks, railway cars, bicycle frames, engineering and military equipment and automobile and truck wheels, frames and body parts. The plant will also be producing special type of steels to be used in manufacture of generators, motors, transformers and automobiles at a later stage.

Today's historic event unfolded in the presence of K Praveen Kumar, Executive Director & Head of Nagarnar Steel Plant, Sanjay Kumar Verma, Director (Comm.) & Adl. Charge Director (Technical) of MECON, Neeraj Kumar, Executive Director MECON, senior officials and trade union representatives. Domestic Steel Industry Calls It an Unprecedented Achievement.

Nagarnar Steel Plant has the unique distinction internationally of being the only steel plant to be set up by a mining company. With the roll out of the first Hot

rolled coil today, 9 days after hot metal production began on 15th August, Nagarnar steel plant has managed to set another unmatchable precedence, feel industry veterans.

Technocrats who have been associated with the steel industry for decades aver that this is the result of a well-planned sequencing schedule that has been executed brilliantly to achieve this unprecedented feat.

It may be recalled that Nagarnar Steel Plant had conducted cold trials of its Steel Melting Shop months before initiating blast furnace commissioning. Though there have been instances of faster steel making, Nagarnar Steel Plant's production of HR Coil within nine days of hot metal production is unusual. This was made possible by testing the capability of the Mills by rolling slabs and producing HR Coil even as preparations were underway for commissioning of blast furnace. This prior planning paid rich dividends.

Generally it takes a couple of weeks for the functioning of the blast furnace itself to stabilize. This is followed by synchronization of blast furnace production with the working of the Steel Melting Shop. This being a very dangerous zone it is approached with extra caution after which production process at the Mills is stabilized. That this was successfully accomplished in such a short duration attests to the latest equipment and technology used, as also the expertise of involved professionals.

With production of HR Coil initiated today, the Plant is engaged in stabilization of the production process to ensure that its produce is commercialized at the earliest. It is felt that the rapid commercialization of the Plant's produce is expected to greatly minimize, or even offset the losses that a green-field steel plant generally suffers in the first year of its commissioning.

Delhi-based HCMCT Manipal Hospital organizes OPD for urological problems in Srinagar

Srinagar: In a continuous effort to provide quality healthcare services, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, Dwarka will be conducting an OPD on 26th August in Srinagar for people suffering from urological problems.

In association with Florence Hospital, Dr. Vikram Batra, Consultant – Urology at HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, Dwarka will be available from 10 AM to 1 PM to provide expert consultation to the people of Srinagar.

Urological problems have significantly increased in India in recent years. The trend is believed to be caused by the nation's rapidly growing population, additional geriatric aged population.

Additionally, poor quality of diet, physical inactivity, obesity, smoking and alcohol contribute to the problem. While preventative measures like regular exercise, screening for Urological problems like PSA, Ultrasound and Physical examination might be helpful, there is also a growing need for specialized urological care and surgery, underscoring the significance of having access to high-quality healthcare in India.

Addressing this issue, Dr. Vikram Batra, Consultant – Urology HCMCT Manipal Hospitals, Delhi said, "We are witnessing a constant rise in urological problems especially among youngsters. Conditions like UTIs, kidney

stones, prostate and bladder cancers and Sexual health problems are now being diagnosed more frequently. In majority of the cases, the symptoms are very mild, and people generally ignore them. Therefore, it is always recommended to get routine checkups done to detect any persisting symptoms. Regular visits to a healthcare professional for urological screenings and examinations can help detect issues early on, allowing for timely intervention and improved outcomes. This includes PSA, Ultrasound and Uroflowmetry.

Additionally, it is also recommended to maintain a balanced diet low in salt and high in hydration, exercise regularly, quit smoking to safeguard blood vessels, and practice proper hygiene. Avoid excessive alcohol and caffeine intake, manage stress, and adopt safe sexual practices."

With regular OPDs in Srinagar, HCMCT Manipal Hospitals aims to provide quality healthcare services to the people so that they will not have to travel to distant places for quality healthcare facilities.

Manipal Hospitals has a center of excellence in healthcare services. It provides cutting-edge facilities for those suffering from severe health conditions and requiring advanced treatment and surgery.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's Warming

of Geo informatics, University of Kashmir, told Kashmir Observer.

Seasons in Flux

Farmers in Kashmir had always relied on the predictable rhythm of the seasons, the gentle touch of the monsoon rains, and the perfect balance of sunlight and warmth to bring forth bountiful harvests. But now, the delicate equilibrium of nature is teetering on the edge. The rising temperatures have become merciless, searing the once-fertile lands and causing crops to wither under the unrelenting heat.

"The surging temperatures would affect the soil water content which has direct implications for crop production. Additionally, it might cause pest outbreaks in agricultural fields and also reduce the shelf life of crops," Dr. Irfan said.

Dr. Irfan went on to emphasise that water scarcity presents another critical issue affecting agricultural productivity. "While Kashmir experienced limited snowfall during the winter, early spring conditions were relatively better. However, the elevated temperatures this year have accelerated the melting of snow across the landscapes. Any instances of water scarcity could adversely affect the availability of irrigation resources for agricultural fields, consequently leading to a decline in crop production," he cautioned.

According to a research titled "Climate Change and its Effects on Horticulture and Agriculture Crops in J&K" published in JK policy institute, the high temperature in Kashmir and the mid-temperature in Jammu have affected the horticulture crops. "J&K horticulture production has been facing the brunt of climate change. Its effect can be seen in the decrease in crop production, quality of specific crops, and their market in recent years. Walnut, saffron, and apple are some of the horticulture crops in the Kashmir valley that have declined rapidly due to change in climate, imports of a cheaper variety of crops, and poor irrigation," the paper reads. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) also states that no other sector is more sensitive to climate change than agriculture.

Muhammad Ashraf Lone, a seasoned fruit-grower from South Kashmir, who has devoted a lifetime to apple growing, expressed that the dramatically changing climate over the years pose unprecedented challenges for fruit cultivation. Despite years of knowledge and expertise, he said that they find themselves navigating unfamiliar territory due to the changing weather conditions impacting their beloved apple orchards.

"Rising temperatures have affected the timing of various agricultural activities," Lone said, adding that spring arrives earlier, causing plants to bud and bloom sooner. "This shift in the timing of growing seasons can disrupt the overall natural balance of plant growth."

Spurring Novel Cultivations

In the days of yore, who would have imagined that tropical fruits like lemon and oranges would find a home in the lush Kashmir valley? Yet, unexpectedly, the changing climate patterns have granted the zesty fruits a new territory to flourish. While the ability to grow lemon in a region known for its cooler climate might be due to advancements in agricultural practices and the use of protected cultivation methods, it can also be attributed, at least in part, to the effects of global warming.

Various studies also suggest that increasing temperatures could enable the cultivation of crops previously unsuited to cold regions, while traditional cold-adapted crops might struggle in less suitable climates. Certain plant varieties accustomed to warmer tropical conditions or extended growing seasons are now thriving in areas with more favourable temperatures. For instance, Kashmir that was historically too chilly for certain crops, like lemon or other tropical fruits, might now be able to support their growth due to the warmer temperatures.

However, Dr. Tariq Rasool, Senior Scientist and Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), pointed out that while certain individuals or small-scale gardens might endeavour to cultivate these fruits, achieving significant commercial success has proven to be a challenge.

"Some gardening enthusiasts may attempt to grow tropical fruit trees on a smaller scale, such as in home gardens or protected environments like playhouses, but despite these minor successes the survival and successful fruiting of these trees on a larger scale in Kashmir remain limited," Dr. Tariq told Kashmir Observer. It is true that global warming and climate change have contributed to shifts in weather patterns, but "it is important to consider other factors as well," he added.

Pest and disease pressure

"Insects are heat loving creatures," Dr. Tariq said while explaining that the abnormal temperature patterns create a more favourable environment for pathogens, pests, and diseases that affect apple trees.

According to the horticulture expert, the increasing temperatures have amplified the need to use insecticides in apple orchards. "In the past, within certain high-altitude regions of Kashmir, farmers typically employed just one or two types of insecticides annually due to the cooler climate. However, an upward temperature trend has compelled them to increase the frequency of spray applications, owing to the significant risk posed by pests and diseases in the orchards," the expert explained. Floriculture is also facing the heat.

The once chilly winters, adorned with blankets of snow, are yielding to milder temperatures and longer, temperate days. As a result, not only fruit production, climate warming

has also led to changes in the timing and patterns of flowering for various plant species in the region. Locals also said that over the years an unusual phenomenon has been observed as many flowers are wilting and withering earlier than usual.

A study conducted by the Department of Botany, University of Kashmir has reported the shifts in spring flowering phenology of model plant species, *Sterbergia vernalis* – commonly known as Gul-e-toor in Kashmir. It unveiled that these flowers are flowering a month earlier, in response to the changing climate in Kashmir Himalayas.

Another study by the same department also observed a phenological shift, which refers to the stages of events in a plant's life cycle, in selected plant species under experimental warming. As the temperature increased, the time during which flowers bloomed became shorter.

"Plants are highly sensitive to environmental changes including temperature. And the withering of flowers can't be ruled out given the prevalent heat wave that Kashmir is experiencing," Dr Irfan said.

Met Issues

spots at lower catchments areas," he said. From August 27-28, he said, weather is expected to be partly to generally cloudy.

Fake DoB: 8

420, 420/511, 202, 468 & 471 of RPC, an official spokesperson said.

The chargesheet was filed in the case FIR No. 28/2021 registered by police station Crime Branch Kashmir.

Giving details of the case, the spokesperson said that Crime Branch Kashmir had received a complaint from the Agriculture Production Department (on the basis of a report generated by Director Agriculture Kashmir) alleging therein that 12 officials of said department had submitted fake DOB certificates at the time of their initial appointment in Government service.

"Accordingly, the instant case was registered in P/S Crime Branch Kashmir in 2021 and investigation was started. During investigation, it has been established that 8 out of the 12 accused individuals have cheated the Department by submitting fake and forged DOB certificates at the time of their initial appointment, as a result of the deceit they continued to remain in service and unlawfully derived the benefits of employment beyond their actual age of retirement on superannuation," he said.

He added that the chargesheet has accordingly been presented against these eight accused persons in the court of competent jurisdiction for judicial determination.

India Showed Its

The prime minister invoked ancient ties between the civilisations of India and Greece, and praised the roles of Sikh gurus in strengthening their relations, he said. His government

had worked with dedication in commemorating events related to Sikhs, he added.

Mobile App Boosts

and stop the smuggling," said an official of the forest department.

He said various on spot registration of farmers and growers have been organized for mass cultivation of Medicinal Plants in the UT and training programs for 1500 persons have been done so far.

The government has launched the online application with a view to provide an online market portal for trade of medicinal plants. The online portal could be accessed either through an internet browser or the mobile app which could be downloaded in Google play store in any android mobile phone.

In this application and online platform, farmers and collectors could display their produce in possession & buyers like traders, manufacturers, exporters could look into their requirements. This application and online platform would create vivid transparent, workable trade linkages among the producers and purchasers.

"The creation of e-charak is a way forward of the Digital India Programme," said an official of the AYUSH.

For Junaid Aham Najar, the portal has revolutionized the medicinal farming sector and has made it easy for growers to sell their products online.

"Earlier it was very difficult to find the buyer and then you had to bargain on rates. Now the rates are fixed on websites and the buyers choose the product online," said Najar, a resident of North Kashmir's Gurez.

Waheed-ul-Hassan, technical officer at the J&K Medicinal Plants Board told Kashmir Observer that rates for the medicinal plants are provided by Regional Cum Facilitation Centres (RCFCs) to the growers, who put it on the web portal.

The RCFCs have been established by the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB).

He further said that the RCFC NR-II of SKUAST-Kashmir is exclusively looking after the medicinal plants sector in two UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

He said the department informs every grower how to use the application in every programme.

The demand for medicinal plants is increasing day by day and the government is encouraging more and more people to cultivate the plants in their land which will ultimately boost the economy of the region.

HC Permits Army

restraint orders passed by this Court and the application should be allowed to carry out the maintenance/repairing works as mentioned in the report."

Under the circumstances, the court held that the bar placed by it should not come in the way of Building Operations and Controlling Authority to consider and give permission to the army authorities to undertake maintenance and repair work as sought by them.

"Accordingly, we allow this application

by directing that the restraint order passed by this Court on various dates, including on 27.03.2023 will not come in the way of grant of permission by the Building Operations and Controlling Authority to the army authorities for carrying out necessary maintenance/repairing works in Sonmarg army installations/locations as sought by the army-applicant."

Earlier the army submitted that various structures require urgent maintenance and repairing before the onset of winter which otherwise will not be possible once winter sets in and that the "time window is very small."

Army submitted that the maintenance and repairing works are necessary to keep the Army Troops, engaged in counter insurgency operations and defence of the country in optimum preparedness.

As such, the army said, if these maintenance and repair works are not allowed to be undertaken immediately, it will seriously compromise with the preparedness of the Army troops stationed there and those who are in transit using these facilities.

Sonia Gandhi

leader said Rahul will be reaching Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district from Kargil in the afternoon before moving to Srinagar where he will be staying for two nights at a houseboat and a hotel.

Iltija Mufti Granted

"The regional passport officer called Iltija to his office and handed over a regular passport with 10-year validity to her," an official said. The 35-year-old Iltija, who wishes to pursue higher studies in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), had earlier been issued a country-specific passport valid from April 5, 2023 to April 4, 2025.

She had moved the high court in February for issuance of the passport after her application for the travel document was not cleared initially.

Her passport had expired on January 2 and she had applied for a fresh one in advance on June 8 last year.

"My passport was finally issued today. It took 18 months & a long-drawn legal fight. Indebted to my lawyer Jehangir Ganai sahab for his dogged determination & optimism. A battle worth fighting," Iltija said.

Mehbooba Mufti, the president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), is a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

PCI Extends Entry

their entries need not apply again. It adds that intending applicants may refer the Council's website www.presscouncil.nic.in for modalities and rules (including entry form).

Tyre Burst

prompt medical attention. The report quoted Medical authorities at GMC Hospital Handwara as saying that all the injured students were currently under medical care and were stable.

Ahead Of Asia Cup, Pakistan Need 1 Win To Claim No.1 ODI Spot



Agencies

DUBAI: Pakistan are just one win away from claiming the No.1 ODI team ranking ahead of the Asia Cup 2023 and ICC Cricket World Cup. Pakistan clinched an exciting one-wicket victory over Afghanistan in Hambantota on Thursday and in the process clinched an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-game series.

That improved Pakistan's ODI team rating just short of first-placed Australia and the Asian side could claim the premier position as the No.1 ranked one-day side as early

as Saturday with a victory over Afghanistan in the third and final match of their series. Meanwhile, India are at third position followed by New Zealand and England in the latest ICC ODI ranking.

Notably, India will clash with arch-rival Pakistan in Kandy on September 2. In 10 ODI matches this year Pakistan have lost just three - all against New Zealand - and their form with both bat and ball during the ongoing Afghanistan series has them on the cusp of claiming the top ranking from Australia, as per ICC.

Pakistan also boast some of the highest ranked ODI play-

ers, with Babar Azam leading the way in the ODI Batter rankings and teammates Imam-ul-Haq (third) and Fakhar Zaman (fifth) not far behind. Following the completion of the series against Afghanistan, Pakistan will take part in the 2023 Asia Cup and their first match in that six-team tournament comes against Nepal in Multan on August 30.

They then take on New Zealand and Australia in official warm-up fixtures for the World Cup, with their first clash at this year's tournament coming against the Netherlands in Hyderabad on October 6. (ANI)



ODI WORLD CUP TROPHY, as seen in space. Launched into the stratosphere, 120,000 feet above the earth, the trophy landed at the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad.

ODI World Cup Tickets App, Website Crash On Opening Day

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The much-delayed sale of tickets for the ODI World Cup began on Friday but fans had a tough time booking them with the official website not working for a good 35 to 40 minutes.

The opening day of ticket sales was reserved for non-India matches, including the warm-ups. However, the pro-

cess started at 8 pm local time and soon after fans complained of the 'Bookmyshow' application crashing amid a mad rush to book the tickets.

'Bookmyshow' is the ticketing partner for the World Cup beginning October 5.

Half hour into the ticket sales, the website started working but by then a chunk of the fans had lost their patience.

The ticket sales for India games in Chennai, Delhi and Pune will go live on August 31 while the coveted ones for the India-Pakistan blockbuster in Ahmedabad will be put up for sale on September 3.

The BCCI and ICC had opted for a staggered sale process to offer a smooth experience to the fans.

The fans have already criticised the organisers

for their handling of ticket sales and schedule for the first ODI World Cup in India since 2011.

Earlier this month, the BCCI and ICC revised the schedule of as many as nine games after announcing the full schedule in June.

In contrast, the schedule of the previous World Cup in England and even the 2011 edition in India was announced well in advance.

DPS Srinagar Wins 3 Gold In Inter-School Badminton



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Talha Nadeem (Doubles) and Abdur Raqeeb (Single and Doubles) - students of Delhi Public School Srinagar put on a stellar performance by securing three gold medals in the finals of the Under 19 Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Tournament for boys.

In the event, organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Amira Kadal, earlier this week at Girls Middle School Kothi Bagh, the school team beat SP Higher Secondary School in

singles and doubles finals with a score 2-0 in both categories. Congratulating the medalists, Principal Shafaq Afshan said, "It is a matter of great delight that our students are continuing a legacy of sporting excellence established by our students of yore. We cherish the success of our students no matter how great or small the achievement."

Chairman Vijay Dhar also congratulated the winners saying, "At DPS Srinagar excellence is a trait that is chiselled and encouraged and striven for at each step in every student. The medalists are but a continuation of this tradition of excellence. Congratulations to all."

5 Kashmir Judokas In J&K Team For Junior Nationals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Five talented young judokas hailing from Kashmir have been selected to represent Jammu and Kashmir team in the upcoming Junior National Judo Championship.

Among them four girls named Adn Arshad, Tazeem Fayaz, Tameek Shah and Shah Talha along with one boy named Mir Hijran have successfully secured their



place in their respective weight categories. A total of 16 athletes from J&K have been selected for this championship.

Following a rigorous selection

process conducted in both Kashmir and Jammu, these young judokas secured their place in their respective weight categories for participation in the Junior National Judo Championship scheduled to take place at I.G. Stadium Complex in New Delhi from 28th August to 1st September.

Abdul Hamid Khan, Vice President of J&K Judo Association along with Gowhar Khan, Joint Secretary, Senior Judo Coach Shafkat Shafi

and Kabra Altaf, Judo Coach extended their heartfelt congratulations to these players and wished the team success in the upcoming championship.

'Kashmir Mega Football Tournery' Concludes At Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The 9th edition of "Kashmir Mega Football Tournament" concluded on Friday at Indoor Stadium Sehpora here.

The final game of the tournament was witnessed by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri along with Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani.

The tournament is an annual sports event organised by 'Voice for Peace and Justice,' an NGO. A total of 32 football teams across Kashmir took part in the tourney. The final match was played be-

tween FC Sumbal and Arise FC Langate, in which Arise FC Langate emerged as winners in a penalty shoot-out.

Umar Khaja from FC Langate was declared Man of the Series.

Speaking on the occasion, the Div Com congratulated both the teams for putting up a splendid show in the final match. He urged the local youth to participate actively in such sports events and keep away from drug menace. The Div Com also distributed trophies and mementos among the players.

The final match was also witnessed by Dy. SP HQ, PRI members, sports loving persons, prominent citizens of the area.

Spain's Govt. Starts Proceedings To Suspend Soccer Chief Rubiales

Agencies

MADRID: Spain's government has started the legal proceedings seeking to suspend soccer federation chief Luis Rubiales for kissing World Cup star Jenni Hermoso on the lips after Spain's World Cup victory, an official said on Friday.

Rubiales refused to quit on Friday, fuelling anger among players and government ministers who decried his actions as unacceptable macho behaviour.

"The government starts today the procedure so that Mr Rubiales has to give explanations before the Sport Court and if the Sport Court agrees, I can announce that we will suspend Mr. Rubiales from his functions," Victor Francos, head of the state-run National Sports Council told a news conference on Friday.

Spanish football federation (RFEF) president Luis Rubiales said on Friday he would not step down in the face of pressure from politicians, players, unions and FIFA for kissing player Jenni Hermoso on the lips following Spain's World



Cup victory.

Speaking at an RFEF emergency assembly on Friday, Rubiales complained that "false feminists" were "trying to kill me". He described the kiss as a peck that was "free, mutual and consensual".

"Is a consensual peck going to take me out of here? I won't resign. I will fight until the end," Rubiales said, drawing applause from the predominantly male audience.

Condemnation has built throughout the week of the

incident which occurred while the players were being handed their medals after they beat England 1-0 in the World Cup final on Sunday. As players filed past, Rubiales grabbed Hermoso by the head and planted a kiss on her mouth.

It culminated with FIFA opening disciplinary procedures against him on Thursday after Hermoso said in a statement on Wednesday that her union was working to defend her interests and that such acts should "never go unpunished".

Klopp Says Mo Salah Not For Sale As Saudi Rumor Swirls

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has downplayed speculation that Mohamed Salah could move to Saudi Arabia.

Sections of the British media reported Thursday that Al-Ittihad wanted to buy the 31-year-old Salah, who has two years left on his deal at Liverpool.

"There's nothing to talk about from our point of view," Klopp said Friday. "Mo Salah is a Liverpool player. Obviously for the things we do, essential."

"There's nothing there. If there would be something, the answer would be no." Salah's agent, Rami Abbas Issa, has said this month the Egypt forward was committed to Liverpool.

According to reports, Al-Ittihad are trying to lure the Egyptian to the Gulf state with a huge salary offer that would rival the deals that enticed Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar to the Gulf kingdom. Salah signed a three-year contract extension at Anfield just



over 12 months ago and his agent has previously poured cold water on speculation of a move.

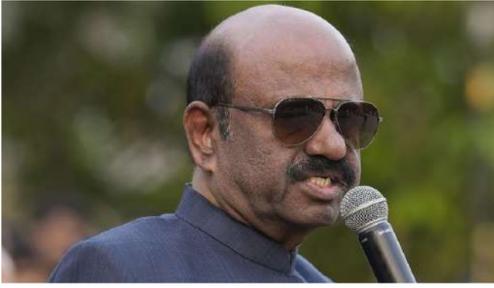
"If we considered leaving LFC this year, we wouldn't

have renewed the contract last summer. Mohamed remains committed to LFC," Rami Abbas posted on X, formerly Twitter, earlier this month. (AP)

FOOTBALL



Bengal Governor Approaches ISRO For Technology To Curb Ragging On Campuses



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Kolkata: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose has reached out to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for identifying an appropriate technology solution to curb the menace of ragging on college and university campuses, a statement issued by Raj Bhavan said.

A first-year undergraduate student died earlier this month after allegedly being ragged and sexually harassed in a hostel of Jadavpur University, sparking an outcry in West Bengal.

"CV Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of the universities contacted the Chairman of ISRO for identifying appropriate

technology to effectively contain and eliminate the menace of ragging in the university campuses," the statement said on Thursday night.

Mr Bose has also held discussions with a Hyderabad-based firm over the issue.

"They are trying to develop an appropriate technology solution using multiple sources such as video analytics, image matching automatic target recognition and remote sensing," the governor said in the statement.

A total of 13 people, including both current and former students, have been arrested in connection with the death of the undergraduate student in Jadavpur University.

“ THEY ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP AN APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION using multiple sources such as video analytics, image matching automatic target recognition and remote sensing,”

60% Bird Species in India Have Declined over 30 Years: Report

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Of the 338 bird species studied in India for changes in numbers over the last 30 years, 60 per cent have experienced a decline, says a new report based on data from about 30,000 bird-watchers across the country.

Also, 40 per cent (142) of the 359 species evaluated for change over the last seven years have declined, according to the report titled "State of India's Birds".

The assessments rely on three indices: two are related to the change in abundance -- long-term trend (change over 30 years) and current annual trend (change over the past seven years) -- and the third is a measure of distribution range size within India.

Of the total of 942 species evaluated, long-term trends could be determined for 338 species. Of these, 204 species have declined, 98 are stable and 36 have increased, says the report published by a group of 13 government and non-government institutions, including the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). Current annual trends could



be determined for 359 species, of which 142 have declined (64 rapidly), 189 are stable, and 28 have increased.

The report classifies 178 species, including Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Common Teal, Tufted Duck, Greater Flamingo, Sarus Crane, Indian Courser and Andaman Serpent Eagle, as "high conservation priority".

Fourteen species, including Indian Roller, Common Teal, Northern Shoveler and Common Sandpiper, have dropped by 30 per cent or more and have been recommended for IUCN Red List reassessment, the report says.

Generalist species like feral Rock Pigeon, Ashy Prinia, Asian Koel and Indian Peafowl are doing very well. Other common species like the Baya Weaver and Pied Bushchat are relatively stable, according to

the report prepared using the data uploaded to the online platform eBird. Habitat specialists -- particularly birds of grasslands and other open habitats, wetlands, and woodlands -- are declining rapidly.

In terms of diet, carnivores, insectivores, and granivores are declining more rapidly than omnivores or fruit-and-nectar eaters, the report shows.

Also, migratory species appear to be under greater threat than non-migrants while species endemic to the Western Ghats-Sri Lanka region are faring worse than others.

Certain groups of birds are faring particularly poorly, including open habitat species like bustards and coursers, riverine sandbar-nesting birds like skimmers and some terns, coastal shorebirds, open-country raptors, and a number of ducks.

Unveiling Dreams Beyond Earth: "Chandrayaan 3: Exploring the Moon's Mysteries"

Agenceis

Bangalore: Books Mantra Publications, a leading publisher of children's books, has launched a new book inspired by India's Chandrayaan 3 mission to the moon. The book, titled "Chandrayaan 3: Exploring the Moon's Mysteries" was launched on August 23, 2023 at 7 PM IST.

The book is authored by Ranjan Mohapatra, CEO of Books Mantra Publications and Clever Fox Publishing.

The book tells the story of the Chandrayaan 3 mission, from its conception to its successful launch and landing on the moon. It also highlights the challenges and triumphs of the mission and the dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible.

Chandrayaan 3: Exploring the Moon's Mysteries is more than just a children's book; it is a story of resilience, determination, and the power of unwavering hope. As India proudly celebrates ISRO's successful launch and landing of Chandrayaan 3, this heart-warming book serves as a tribute to the spirit of exploration and the unyielding pursuit of knowledge.

The journey unfolds through the lens of Chandrayaan 2, recounting its challenges and triumphs, and seamlessly transitions to Chandrayaan 3, highlighting the unwavering dedication of our space pioneers. Beyond the rockets and lunar landscapes, this story is a testament to the

strength of the human spirit and the limitless potential that lies within every young dreamer.

In a candid reflection, Mr. Ranjan Mohapatra, an accomplished author and visionary, shared, "As I watched ISRO's Chandrayaan 3 broadcast live, and our honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi proclaimed 'we are on the moon,' an exhilarating moment swept over me. It was the moment I had been eagerly awaiting—a moment to release my book. The narrative had been nurtured for a considerable time, and as the announcement echoed, I promptly unveiled the book on Amazon and Books Mantra Online Store. Countless efforts have gone into its creation, and I'm confident that children will glean invaluable lessons from its pages."

This beautifully illustrated book serves as a launchpad for imagination, encouraging children to dream big, be courageous, and pursue their aspirations fearlessly. As the world marvels at ISRO's achievements, Chandrayaan 3: Exploring the Moon's Mysteries stands as a beacon of the human spirit's indomitable will to explore the unknown.

Don't miss the opportunity to pre-order Chandrayaan 3: Exploring the Moon's Mysteries exclusively on Amazon and Books Mantra Online Store. Join us on this celestial journey and let courage be your guide as you embark on a literary adventure that mirrors ISRO's own voyage beyond Earth's boundaries.

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