

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

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Seizure Of 3836 Vehicles In 1 Year Signifies Extent Of Illegal Riverbed Mining In Valley

Parvaiz Bhat

Within a year, the Geology & Mining Department has seized 3,836 vehicles and 339 illegal mineral dumps besides imposing fines to the tune of Rs 7.80 crore against those involved in illegal extraction and transportation of river-bed minerals in various districts of Kashmir valley.

The action against the people involved in illegal river-bed mineral mining has been taken in accordance with the provisions of Jammu & Kashmir

Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules 2016.

In its annual report 2022-23, the Department of Environment Ecology and Remote Sensing (DEERS) has revealed that the highest number of vehicles (655 vehicles), involved in transportation of illegally mined river-bed material, have been seized from south Kashmir's Pulwama district wherein a fine of Rs 1.64 crore has also been imposed on those involved in illegal mineral mining. Budgam



with 557 and Kupwara with 483 vehicles figure at number 2nd and 3rd with a fine collection of Rs 1.4 and 1.45 crore respectively. Extraction of river bed

material (boulder, bajri and sand) for infrastructural development projects and construction industry is an important economic activity in Kashmir region, says the report, adding

“THE WAY THESE PEOPLE CARRY OUT EXTRACTION of sand, gravel and boulders from the rivers, the day is not far when it would deprive us from cultivating our agricultural land altogether.”

that the exploitation of these and other available minerals in the region has resulted in formation of about 09 cement plants, 07 POP units, 297 brick kilns, 416 crusher/hot wet mix

plants and 07 stone cutting/polishing units which sustain on the locally available major as well as minor minerals.

“During the financial year 2022-23, the Kashmir Valley registered mineral production to the tune of about 121 lac metric tonnes with a collection of Rs 51.45 crore as revenue. The current direct and indirect employment generated by the mining activity in Kashmir region stands at about 1.30 lacs persons,” the report says.

While exploitation of the minerals and their end utilisation helps **➔ More On P10**

Woman, Her Children Charred To Death

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A woman and her two children were killed in a fire that engulfed three huts in a village in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Wednesday, a police official said.

The woman's husband and mother-in-law suffered injuries in the incident in Hummar Gali in the upper reaches of Pogal Paristan, he said.

The huts belonged to members of the Gujjar community and according to preliminary information, Najma Begum (25) and her daughters Asma Bano (6) and Iqra Bano (2) were killed in the fire, the official said. Najma's husband **➔ More On P10**

China Building Bunkers, Tunnels In Aksai Chin: Reports



Observer News Service

Barely two days after China released its official “standard map,” including state of Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin region as part of its territory, satellite images have shown that Beijing is building tunnels and reinforced bunkers for soldiers and weaponry in the contested Aksai Chin region claimed by India as part of Ladakh, reports said Wednesday.

According to a report by Hindustan Times, the tunnels and bunkers are coming up in the area which is about 70km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Constructions seem to have started post 2021.

Giving reference to the satellite images by Maxar Technologies, the report said that personnel bunkers seem to be designed to protect soldiers from aerial attacks. Earth-moving machinery, new roads and multiple

entrances for the tunnels are also visible in the images at six locations within an area of roughly 15 sq km in Aksai Chin.

“Analysts believe the underground facilities are meant to protect sensitive equipment, ammunition and command posts from air or missile strikes during potential hostilities,” the report added.

The reports of ramping up construction activity along the disputed area comes at a time when India registered strong protest against China's 2023 edition of its “standard map” that claimed Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as its territory.

The “map” also showed the entire South China Sea as part of China as it featured in the previous editions of the ‘map’.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar rejected China's “standard map” on Tuesday, stating that Beijing had even put out such maps in the **➔ More On P10**

HC Quashes 4 PSA Orders

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against four detainees and ordered their release from preventive detention if not needed in any other case. “It needs no emphasis that the detenu cannot be expected to make an effective and purposeful representation which is his constitutional right guaranteed under Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India,



unless and until the material, on which the detention is based, is supplied to the detenu,” a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said while quashing detention order against Imran Ahmad Ganie, ordered to be detained under PSA by District Magistrate Baramulla on 9 April 2022.

“The failure on the part of detaining authority to supply the material renders the detention order illegal and unsustainable in law.” The court also **➔ More On P10**

Govt Announces ‘Bhrashtachaar Mukht J&K’ Week From Sept 4-10

Observer News Service

Srinagar: With an aim to reiterate its resolve to ensure a corruption free Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration on Wednesday announced to observe ‘Bhrashtachaar Mukht J&K’ week from September 4-10 across all the 20 districts.

The directions to launch “Brashtachar Mukht J&K campaign” throughout the Union Territory were passed by the Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday while reviewing public service oriented Jal Shakti Department, Power Development Department and Revenue



Department with all Deputy Commissioners, an official spokesperson said.

Mehta, he said, stressed upon the transparent and accountable governance while issuing directions for the

launch of “Brashtachar Mukht J&K campaign” that aims at reiterating the government's resolve to ensure a corruption free Jammu and Kashmir.

The campaign, he said, is primarily meant to focus on

the hassle free delivery of services related to water and electricity, besides addressing matters pertaining to land.

The CS emphasized on active participation of all the concerned officials/officers along with PRIs and public during the campaign.

“All Prabhari Officers shall ensure that the matters of public importance pertaining to their Panchayats/wards/areas are flagged and appropriately addressed during the week,” Mehta said, as per the spokesperson.

The CS, he said, further directed the IT department to institute feedback mechanism using **➔ More On P10**

Searches Launched Around LoC Villages

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Security forces on Wednesday conducted searches at over half a dozen villages near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The searches were carried out jointly by the police and the Army in Gursai and Mendhar areas of the border district following information about the movement of suspected persons, they said.

However, no one was apprehended during the operation, which lasted several hours, the officials said.

They said the security checkpoints on Poonch-Mendhar road were also strengthened and all incoming and **➔ More On P10**

Amarnath Yatra Concludes Today Record 4.5 Lakh Yatris Visit Cave Shrine

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chhari Mubarak (the holy mace) reached Panchtarni and will proceed towards the holy cave shrine on Thursday for the final puja to make the formal end of the 62-day-long Amarnath Yatra 2023.

The last batch of yatris left for the cave shrine on August 23 and since then, the pilgrimage has remained suspended, an official said.

He said that during the beginning of the yatra this year, there was a good rush of pilgrims; however, later it started declining with each passing day, forcing the authorities to suspend the yatra a week before its scheduled time.

This year, the overall flow was good after several years as around 4.5 lakh yatris visited the cave shrine, he said.

Over the last several years, Amarnath Yatra has been witnessing fewer footfalls. Compared to over 6 lakh pilgrims who visited the cave shrine in 2012, the number has come down to over 3 lakh in 2022 and 4.5 lakh this year. The 62-day-long pilgrimage commenced on July 1 this year and will culminate with the event of ‘Chhari Mubarak’ on August 31.

The official said that a group of sages led by custodian of the holy mace Mahant Deependra Giri carrying Chhari Mubarak will reach the Amarnath cave on Thursday and will spend the night at Panchtarni.

The 145-kilometre Chhari Mubarak yatra starts from Dashnami Akhara in Srinagar and during the route, the sages perform hawans at Pampore, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Mattan, Aishmuqam and **➔ More On P10**



A security personnel regulates crowd of devotees that thronged Shankar Acharya temple in Srinagar on Wednesday on the eve of Raksha Bandhan. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Kargil Hill Council Polls: 89 Candidates in Fray for 26 Seats

Agencies

Srinagar: With barely 10 days left for 5th Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council elections in Kargil, a total of 89 candidates are contesting for 26 seats while authorities have conducted the assessment of the constituencies and polling booths based on hard, soft and normal zones.

The election campaign is underway and the union territory is expected to witness a direct contest between the National Conference-Congress alliance and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). All three parties have announced their candidates. The elections are scheduled to be held on 10th September. According to **➔ More On P10**

ADGP Calls For Precision-Based Ops

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Wednesday called for precision-based operations with special teams besides introducing innovative and handpicked mechanisms to ensure the neutralization of terrorists in the Valley.

Kumar, who was accompanied by GoC Victor Force, passed these **➔ More On P10**

73,000 Visit Shankaracharya Temple

In a first, the hilltop Shankaracharya temple in Srinagar has recorded the footfall of around 73,000 devotees on the eve of Raksha Bandhan, the festival that was celebrated with religious fervor across Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday. According to the Kashmir News Observer the special prayers were held at the temple on the festival where a huge rush of devotees was witnessed at 4:00 AM in the morning. Devotees from different parts of the country were seen waiting in long queues at hilltop temple. J L Singh, a head preacher and a caretaker at Shankaracharya temple said that the rush of devotees has been increasing with each passing year, but for the first time, the number of devotees visiting the temple has surpassed the previous figures. **➔ More On P10**

S H O R T T A K E S

SRK Prays at Vaishno Devi Shrine

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan offered prayers at the revered shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, ahead of the release of his much-anticipated film “Jawan”. According to an official, the 58-year-old actor reached the shrine late Tuesday night to pay his obeisance. “The superstar reached base camp Katra on Tuesday evening and used the new Tarakote route to reach the shrine around 11.40 pm. He offered prayers and left immediately,” the official said. A brief video showing the actor at the shrine, **➔ More On P10**

Mehbooba Picks Iltija As Advisor

Iltija Mufti was on Wednesday appointed media advisor to People's Democratic Party (PDP) president and her mother Mehbooba Mufti, a senior party leader said. The decision to appoint 35-year-old Iltija Mufti, who takes a plunge into politics with this move, as media advisor to the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister was taken by the party high command, the leader said. Iltija Mufti has been in charge of Mehbooba Mufti's social media handles since 2019, when Jammu and Kashmir's mainstream leaders were under arrest.

Girl Injured In Kupwara Blast

A minor girl was on Wednesday injured in a mysterious low intensity blast at TeePee in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. The minor girl, who hails from Zunreshi Karpora was injured in a low-intensity mysterious blast at TeePee, a police official said. The girl, he said, was shifted to a hospital for treatment. “Nature of the blast is being confirmed. Prima facie looks like an old driven explosive substance,” police said. Meanwhile, the health officials at Kralpora Hospital said that the girl was referred to Srinagar for further treatment—(KNO)

Man Charged In Job Fraud Case

Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against a man for allegedly duping another of Rs 12 lakh on the pretext of arranging jobs for the latter's sons by posing as a government official, police said. This was the second chargesheet filed against Ashiq Hussain, a resident of Barthi village in Gandoh tehsil of Doda district, in the past 12 days. He was also chargesheeted in a separate case on August 18. Jammu Crime Branch filed the chargesheet against Hussain in a case registered **➔ More On P10**

School After Kuka Parry's Guard

The Union Territory administration on Wednesday named a Primary School in North Kashmir's Bandipora district after the security guard of government gunman-turned politician Kuka Parry. The school located at Bonikhan Hajin was named as ‘Martry Shri Zahoor Ahmed Government Primary School’ during a function that was presided over by the Naib Tehsildar, Altaf Hussain, a local news agency KNT reported. Besides Naib Tehsildar, the rechristening ceremony was attended by Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora **➔ More On P10**

Nine Gamblers Arrested In Pulwama

Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested nine gamblers in two separate raids in South Kashmir's Pulwama district. The raids on gambling sites at Newa and Pichoo areas were carried out on the basis of specific information, a police spokesperson said. The accused gamblers have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Hilal Ahmad Sheikh, Fayaz Ahmad Wani, Javid Ahmad Mir, Nisar Ahmad Sheikh, all residents of Newa Pulwama, and Tariq Ahmad Sheikh and Bashir Ah Sheikh of Chatapora, Hilal Ahmad Zargar of Malikpora and Haris Bhat of Pichoo. **➔ More On P10**

Women Suffer Worse Heart Disease Outcomes Than Men: Study

Press Trust Of India

Women suffer worse outcomes when diagnosed with and treated for cardiac issues, according to the results of fifteen studies from 50 countries, including India.

The researchers noted that the discrepancy is the result of women presenting with additional non-traditional chest pain symptoms including vomiting, jaw pain and abdominal pain.

If and when these symptoms are missed by doctors, or by the patients themselves, diagnosis and treatments are delayed, they said.

"We found stunning differences between men and women in the diagnosing of cardiovascular disease, treatment and symptoms," said Mahdi O. Garelnabi, Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, US.

"Women tend to go to the hospital later than men after the onset of symptoms and physicians are not admitting women to the hospital at the same rates as men," Garelnabi said.

The analysis, published in the journal Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology, also points out that heart



attack rates among younger women are climbing. Heart attacks among women aged 35 to 54 increased from 21 per cent to 31 per cent between 1995 and 2014, the study shows.

During the same period, the rate for men rose only slightly, from 30 to 33 per cent, according to the researchers.

"It's alarming that heart attack rates are increasing in younger women," said Garelnabi.

"Risk factors that are unique to women include premature menopause, endometriosis and hypertension disorders during pregnancy," the researcher said.

The findings are based on the results of fifteen studies from 50 countries, including Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Arabian Gulf countries and the US among others.

Srinagar
 UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office Of The Chief Engineer Srinagar Smart City Ltd
 (A J&K Government Undertaking)
 Email:-tenders.ssc@gmail.com Tel.No:0194-2455370
 (CIN:U70200JK20175G6C010107)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
 E-NIT.No:23-SSCL of 08/2023-24, DT: 29-08-2023

The Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) (hereinafter referred to as "SSCL" / "Employer" in this document) is executing SMART CITY MISSION (SCM) in Srinagar. Chief Engineer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), invites bids and Monthly License Fee (MLF) basis, from Agencies/Entities/Companies/Firms having experience in the Hospitality and Hotel sector/Transportation Sector mentioned in the RFP for the works detailed in the table below:

S. No	Name of Work	Cost of tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Head of Account	Class of Contract	Contract Duration
1	Operation of Cruise Services on River Jhelum in Srinagar City	Rs.5,000/-	Rs.3,000/-	SSCL	Agencies/Entities/Companies/Firms having experience in the Hospitality and Hotel sector/Transportation Sector	2 Years

Critical Dates:

S. No	Particulars	Schedule
1	Date of Issue of Bid	Date: 29/08/2023
2	Availability of Bid Document on e-procurement portal	Date: 29/08/2023 Time: 16:00 Hrs.
3	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	Date: 08/09/2023 at 14:00 Hrs.
4	Deadline for Submission of bids	Date: 13/09/2023 at 16:00 Hrs.
5	Last Date of receipt of physical instruments of Cost of Bid Document and Security Deposit	Date: 13/09/2023
6	Opening of Technical Bids	Date: 14/09/2023 at 14:00 Hrs.
7	Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed separately

- The Cost of Bid Document is non-refundable and is to be paid through VAD/NEFT/RTGS in favour of 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: 19029002
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) document, consisting of bidding information, eligibility criteria, terms of reference, conditions of contract and other details, can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement portal of J&K Govt. <https://jktenders.gov.in> from 29/08/2023.
- 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 the Bid Document Cost.
- The eligible bidders registered as Micro and Small Enterprises shall be provided bid-amount free of cost subject to furnishing of relevant valid certificate/documents for claiming such exemption.
- Bids are invited for the Project on the basis of the highest quoted Monthly License Fee (MLF), offered by a Bidder for undertaking the Project. The Contract period is pre-determined, as indicated in the RFP document. However, the Authority reserves the right to extend the Contract Period as indicated in the contract agreement. The Monthly License Fee (MLF) shall be payable by the Selected Bidder as per the terms of the Contract Agreement. The quoted Monthly License Fee (MLF) shall constitute the sole criteria for evaluation of Bids; the Project will be awarded to the Bidder quoting the highest quoted Monthly License Fee (MLF) to the Authority.
- In this RFP, the term "Highest Bidder" shall mean the Bidder who is offering the highest quoted Monthly License Fee (MLF).
- Right to revise or amend this notice and / or the Bid Document, fully or partially, prior to the last date notified for submission of offer or 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 they assume no responsibility for incurring any liability to the affected applicants.
 No:SSCL/CEO/23-24/4361-64
 DPK-NB-2930/23 Dated:30/08/2023

Sd/-Chief Engineer
Srinagar Smart City Limited.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir
 e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Subject:- Change of title in the Registration Certificate of the Travel Unit running under the name & style of "M/s Indian Travel Consultant.

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Feroz Ahmad Baktoo S/o Late Mr. Ali Mohammad Baktoo R/o Saderbal Srinagar, proprietor of the said Travel unit namely M/s Indian Travel Consultant at Gulmarg Shopping Complex Boulevard Srinagar, has approached this office for change of title of his Travel Agency from M/s Indian Travel Consultant to M/s Exotrip under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, the unit is registered with this office vide Registration No. JKEA00001034 dated 31.08.2009 in the name of Mr. Feroz Ahmad Baktoo and is valid upto 31-12-2023.

Before the request for change of title is considered in favour of M/s Indian Travel Consultant, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc. for objection, if any. The same should reach this office within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the local newspaper. Objections received beyond a period of 7 days will not be entertained and changes in the Registration/ records shall be made under rules.

Sd/-
Asstt. Director Tourism,
Registration (Kashmir)

No: Reg/T/571/DTK/249
 DIPK-7993/23 Dt: 30.08.2023

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
 NIT No: 47 of 2023-24 DATED: - 30-08-2023 (Re-Tender)
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the Lt.. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on PERCENTAGE BASIS from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works under SBM (G) Grants.

S. No	Name of work	Adv Cost Rs in Lacs	Cost of tender Docume nts	Earnest Money	Time of completion	Class of contractor	Head of Account	Treasury challan account head
1	Construction of Community Soak Pit near Spring at Syedpora	1.22	200	2440	20 Days	DEE	SBM (G)	0515
2	Construction of Community Compost Pit near PMGSY road at Syedpora	0.694	200	1388	10 Days	DEE	SBM (G)	0515
3	Construction of Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) Gujjar Pati Takiya Sangreshi Ward No 9	2.97	200	5940	30 Days	DEE	SBM (G)	0515
4	Construction of Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) near Health Center/ Anganwardi Center at Saidpora	2.97	200	5940	30 Days	DEE	SBM (G)	0515

- (I) Position of AAA: -Accorded (ii) Position of funds: Demanded
- The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

A	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30.08.2023
B	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.08.2023
C	Bid submission Start Date	30.08.2023
D	Bid Submission End Date	05.09.2023 at 4.00PM
E	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	06.09.2023 at 11 A.M in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Srinagar
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0515 REW) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR @ 2% OF THE ADVERTISED COST in favour of Executive Engineer REW Srinagar failing which the tender will be rejected outrightly. The issuing date of Treasury Challan and CDR uploaded must be between issuing date to Bid Submission end date of NIT. CDR (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents in Original shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract
- Bidders quoted rates below more than 15% needs to upload Additional Security Deposit.
- Unbalanced Bid: - In case bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, the successful bidder shall have to produce additional performance security in shape of CDR/ FDR within (Two) days after opening of price bids, as per following break-up:

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz., advertised cost on account of Low rates	Additional Performance Security
1	Up to and including 15% Below	Nil
2	>15% upto and including 20% Below	5% of advertised cost
3	>20% upto and including 25% Below	10% of advertised cost
4	>25% upto and including 30% Below	15% of advertised cost
5	> 30% Below	20% of advertised cost
- The date and time of opening of Bids will be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders will be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work will remain valid for a period of 100 days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The work will be put to fresh tenders in case of:
 a. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
 b. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form
- 6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- 6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically / by registered post / through courier before the date.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid. Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Rural Engineering wing Srinagar must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.
- The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document) and relevant bid documents will be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and Taxes:-The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes will be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on REW e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required
- In case of CRF and any other specified project. The relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB)
- All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/qualification information with their bids:-
 a) Copies of original documents defining constitution/Legal status, place or registration and principal place of Business with Cell and Correspondence address.
 b) Treasury Challan.
 c) Valid GST No. with latest return, and PAN Card.
 d) Card verification issued by the card issuing Authority
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Extension of time will be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- The works are approved under District Capex Budget -2022-23
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

Sd/
Executive Engineer (REW)
SRINAGAR

No. Xen/REW/SGR/3294-3310
 DIPK-8039/23 Dated: -30-08-2023

G20 **NORTHERN RAILWAY** **75**
E-AUCTION NOTICE
 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction for various lots over Firozpur Division as per detail given below:-

Auction Catalogue No.	EAFZR-CTG23-4 Dated 30.08.2023			
Auction Start	15.09.2023 at 11:30 A.M.			
Name of work	Allotment of catering stall at Railway Stations			
Railway Station	GMU/ SMU	Stall No.	Location	Reserved for
DAV College Jalandhar	GMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1	All
Mukatsar	GMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1	All
Makhu	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	All
Gangsar Jaiton	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	All
Firozpur City	GMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	Women
Lohian Khas	SMU	Stall No. 2	PF No. 1	Other Backward Class (Women)
Lohian Khas	SMU	Stall No. 3	PF No. 2/3	Schedule Caste (SC)
Kapurthala	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	Minorities(Women)
Kot Kapura	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	Minorities (Freedom Fighters & War Widows & Widows of Railway Employees)
DVA College Jalandhar	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	Schedule Caste (SC)
Sultanpur Lodhi	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	Other Backward Class (OBC)
Dhandari Kalan	SMU	Stall No. 1	PF No. 1	Minorities

For other details please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE **2697/2023**

Before The Hon'ble Court
Of Sub Judge At Chadoora
From the office of Advocate Jehangir Ganee
LIC.NO 719/2010.

In the case of:
 Mohammad Shafi Dar
 S/O Gh Nabl Dar
 R/O Pahroo, Mustafabad
 Tehsil BK Pora District Budgam

(Caveator)

V/S
 Public at large
 (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition under section 14B-A CPC.
 The Caveator has reason to believe / apprehension of non caveators may file suit or any other type of proceedings before the honble court on the grounds and distorted facts / misrepresentation and cooked story may succeed in obtaining some relief / order at irreparable loss and in convenience of caveator. It would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Honble court before passing any order.

nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

The names of my wards have been mistakenly recorded as Syed Huzaf Ali Shah and Syed Syed Jasir Ali Shah in school records instead of Syed Humzah Shah and Syed Haider Ali Shah respectively. Now I want to correct the same. If anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of principal Delhi Public School Baramulla within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Abbas Shah
 F/o Syed Humzah Shah & Syed Haider Ali Shah
 R/o Malmooz, Pattan

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the tourism dept, we Mufti Hamid Maqbool and Sajjad Hussain Shah intend to run paying guest at our residential property situated at Iqbal colony Somwar, the establishment will be named 'Royal Woods'

We have initiated the necessary procedure to register this accommodation facility with the tourism dept, ensuring that it complies with all relevant regulations and standards. As responsible property owners, we are committed to provide a comfortable and hospitable environment for guests visiting the scenic city of Srinagar.

We hereby invite any individual who may have objections or concern regarding the running paying guest accommodation in our residential property, to kindly get in touch with tourism department within weeks time from the date of publication of this notice.

Sincerely
 Mufti Hamid Maqbool
 Sajjad Hussain Shah

mtz

اطلاع عام

برخاص واما کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ میری نقلی تشکیل زیر نمبر 0212010003818 جو 22/08/2023ء کو دی گئی تھی وہ درج ذیل رہنمائی کے ساتھ منسوخ ہو رہی ہے جس کا وہ منسوخ ہونا اور اس کے بجائے دی گئی رہنمائی کے مطابق جاری کیا جائے گا۔
 اگر کوئی شخص کوئی غلطی یا اعتراض ہے تو وہ اس کے اندر درج ذیل پتے پر یا درج ذیل پتے پر جاکر اسے اطلاع دے گا کہ اسے اس کی غلطی سے مراد ہے۔
 اگر کوئی شخص کوئی غلطی یا اعتراض ہے تو وہ اس کے اندر درج ذیل پتے پر یا درج ذیل پتے پر جاکر اسے اطلاع دے گا کہ اسے اس کی غلطی سے مراد ہے۔
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از عدالت سبج میونسپل کونسل سربنگہ
 با اجلاس مہرین مشتاق

Waheeda بیٹم
 Ws 15-سی-سرینگر (بیول)

سائل اسامہ
 درخواست بفرق اندراج تاریخ پیدائش
 نام: Waheeda
 تاریخ: 11-11-1993
 مقام مندرجہ ذیل صدر میں سائل اسامہ نے عدالت سے درخواست کی کہ اس کی پیدائش کا تاریخ 11-11-1993 سے 23-08-2023 کے ساتھ کر دیا جائے اور اس کا پیدائش کا مقام مندرجہ ذیل میں اس کے والدین کی ہوتی ہے۔
 تاریخ پیدائش: Waheeda D/o Mohammad Ramzan Bhat
 Ws 19-سی-سرینگر (بیول)
 تاریخ: 23-08-2023
 اگر کوئی شخص کوئی غلطی یا اعتراض ہے تو وہ اس کے اندر درج ذیل پتے پر یا درج ذیل پتے پر جاکر اسے اطلاع دے گا کہ اسے اس کی غلطی سے مراد ہے۔
 اگر کوئی شخص کوئی غلطی یا اعتراض ہے تو وہ اس کے اندر درج ذیل پتے پر یا درج ذیل پتے پر جاکر اسے اطلاع دے گا کہ اسے اس کی غلطی سے مراد ہے۔

سبج میونسپل کونسل سربنگہ
 nj

73,000 Devotees Participate In Special Prayers At Shankaracharya Temple

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a first, the Shankaracharya temple situated on the banks of world famous Dal Lake has recorded the footfall of around 73,000 devotees on the eve of Raksha Bandhan, the festival that was celebrated with religious fervor across Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday.

Special prayers were also organized at the temple where a huge rush of devotees was witnessed at 4:00 AM in the morning.

Devotees from different parts of the country were seen waiting in long queues at Srinagar's famous Shankaracharya Temple.

"I am very happy to be here on Raksha Bandhan. The administration here is very helpful as they had made elaborate arrangements for the devotees today at the temple.

The transportation facility was also made available for us," said Sushma Devi, a devotee from Uttar Pradesh.

"Every year, I visit Kashmir for this festival, but this year, the devotees have come in huge numbers," said Pandit Arun Kumar from Assam.

"I sell jewelry items here and I visit the temple every year. I always find peace whenever I visit Shankaracharya temple here," said Manoj, another devotee.

J L Singh, a head preacher and a caretaker at Shankaracharya temple, said the rush of devotees increases with each passing year. He said nearly 73,000 devotees visited the temple to attend the special prayers from 4:00 AM till late evening hours today.

"Adequate arrangements were put in place by the administration," he said.



Hindu devotees queuing up outside Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar to participate in special prayers on the eve of Raksha Bandhan on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Woman Dies, Another Injured In Tragic Road Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A woman died while another sustained injuries after being hit by a vehicle in Khawaja Bazar area of Srinagar's downtown on Wednesday.

An official said two women were hit by a car,

resulting in on spot death to one among them and injuries to the other. He said that soon after the incident, police and locals rushed to the spot and shifted the injured woman to a nearby hospital for treatment. Meanwhile, the police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Cylinder Blast Brings Down Residential House In Khanyar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A residential house was damaged in a massive blaze that broke out as a result of a blast in a domestic LPG cylinder at Khanyar area in the old city on Wednesday.

The incident, officials said, took place at Mirza Bagh area in Khanyar, leaving a residential house comprising two shops damaged. He said that a man running one of the shops as a tenant was also injured in the incident.

Smart Parking Burns A Hole In Car Owners Pockets, Authorities Numb

MOHUA Assures Action Against Private Agency If Found To Be At Fault

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: In what could be defined as burning a hole in gullible people's pockets, parking their vehicles at spaces designated under Srinagar Smart City Ltd, employees of a private agency, overseeing parking sites in parts of the city, levy parking charges from individuals at their own free will.

The practice of random charging has led to the parking woes in Srinagar with people blaming the authorities concerned for the mess.

It is worth mentioning that an individual intending to park his car at a designated smart parking lot under a new arrangement has to pay Rs 20 for under

30 minute parking, Rs 40 for under one hour, Rs 70 for 89 minutes, Rs 100 for 119 minutes, Rs 140 for 149 minutes, Rs 180 for 179 minutes, Rs 230 for 209 minutes, Rs 280 for 239 minutes and Rs 340 for 269 minutes.

However, the workers assigned by a private agency for the job in addition to swindling customers, at times resort to manhandling.

Those who leave their cars in designated parking spots are not provided invoices and are instead asked for 10 times the amount of the prescribed rates when they return.

"These employees not only overcharge, but also mistreat consumers who muster courage to object to their conduct. I have also been the victim of random charging. They don't provide

invoices to people at the time of parking their vehicles and are instead asked for 10 times the amount of the prescribed rate when they return," Syed Ishafqul-Lah, a businessman from Srinagar said.

The authorities, he said, instead of taking punitive action against the agency, have maintained silence over the illegal practice, which he claimed was burning holes in the pockets of naive individuals.

Assuring action, Additional Director General, Media, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Rajiv Jain told Kashmir Observer that the matter will be taken up with the concerned agency and that action warranted under law will be taken against it, if found to be at fault.

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

AIRPORTS
 SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:36
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:10
Magrib	7:03
ISHA	8:27

HIJRI CALENDAR
 13 Safar
 1445

This Day In History

- 1900 - British troops over run Johannesburg
- 1907 - Britain & Russia sign treaty with Afghanistan, Persia & Tibet
- 1907 - Britain, Russia & France form Triple Entente
- 1914 - German troops reconquer Soldau/Neidenburg East-Prussia
- 1915 - Brazil becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.
- 1917 - In China, Sun Yat-sen and his supporters' 'rump' parliament establishes a military government and elects Sun Yat-sen as commander-in-Chief
- 1923 - Mussolini orders the Greek Government to apologize for the deaths of an Italian general and his staff on the Greco-Albanian border
- 1929 - Committee chaired by Owen D. Young finalizes the "Young Plan" to reduce German reparations from World War I to 112 billion Gold Marks (\$USB billion) paid over 59 years
- 1942 - Battle at Alam Halfa: German & Italians assault
- 1943 - Japanese occupiers intern Jewish Congregation of Sorabaja
- 1944 - Allied offensive at "Gothen-line" Italy
- 1944 - French provisional government moves from Algiers to Paris
- 1944 - French troops liberate Bordeaux
- 1944 - Soviet & Romanian troops march into Bucharest
- 1957 - Federation of Malaya gains independence from Great Britain
- 1962 - Trinidad & Tobago gain independence from Britain (National Day)
- 1966 - "The Battle of Algiers", directed by Gillo Pontecorvo, starring Jean Martin, Saadi Yacef, premieres at the Vienna International Film Festival
- 1968 - 12,000 die in 7.8 quake destroys 60,000 buildings in NE Iran
- 1968 - Garfield Sobers becomes the first cricketer to hit 6 sixes in one over.
- 1976 - Trinidad & Tobago adopts constitution
- 1978 - Constitution adopted by Sri Lanka

From KO Archives

India Launching Global Media Blitz On Kashmir

WASHINGTON: India is launching what has been described as "a global-scale media blitz" against Pakistan projecting the Indian interpretation of the 'reality' in Kashmir.

The multi-pronged campaign launched through print, electronic and cyberspace media in some 20 languages will coincide with the UN's millennium session. The idea is to embarrass Pakistan during General Musharraf's visit to New York and to help Indian PM Vajpayee plead India's case.

Full-page colour advertisements are being sought to be published in leading publications like The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Tribune, The Times (London), The Straits Times (Singapore), The Bangkok Post, The Jerusalem Post, The Japan Times, The Sunday Times (London), The International Herald Tribune, The Economist, Time, Newsweek, The Financial Times and BusinessWeek, says a report in rediff, an online newspaper. It claims that funds for the campaign are being raised from Indians the world over through contributions.

However, a multi-million dollar campaign at this level cannot be launched without the support of the India government, say observers.

The campaign is likely to accelerate the ongoing India-Pakistan conflict to feverish heights, extending it to cyber warfare. The advertisements will project the theme 'Jehad' for Pakistan, agony for India' and portray 'peace-loving' India's patience even in the face of increasing casualties on its side in J&K, says report.

Also in the pipeline are advertisements in French, German, Swedish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish/Finnish/Turkish, Malay, Bahasa Indonesia, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Bengali, Korean, Norwegian/Thai, Sinhalese and Arabic. The report says this will be complemented with campaigns in cyberspace via an exclusive Web site, agonyofindia.com & e-mails.

The full-page advertisements quote the utterances of Pakistan's Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf to prove Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir insurgency.

Reportedly, The financial Times has expressed reservations about publishing the advertisement. It is claimed that leading ad agencies have been hired in New York and other major cities of the world to handle the latest campaign in multiple languages.

(Kashmir Observer, August 31, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender No: 05-2023-24 DEMU_BDGM	Dated: 30.08.2023
For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DMU CAR SHED JALANDHAR CITY invites open Tender through e-tendering system from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work	
Name of Work	Conversion of DEMU Coaches with water heating arrangement and other systems at DEMU Car Shed Budgam
Estimated Cost of Work (Approximate)	Rs.3,96,51,202.87 (Rs. Three Crore, Ninety Six Lakh, Fifty One Thousand, Two Hundred Two and Paise Eighty Seven only)
Tender Security Amount Earnest Money Deposit)	Rs. 3,48,300/- (Three lakh Forty Eight Thousand and Three Hundred Only)
Tender document available for sale on website	30.08.2023
E-Tender closing Date & Time	20.09.2023 at 15.00 Hrs
Date and time of opening of E-Tender on IREPS website	20.09.2023 at 15.15 Hrs
Validity of Tender	45 Days from the last date of submission of tender
Type of Tender	Open Tender (Single Packet System)
Contract Period	06 Months
Website	www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2702/23

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama
 Ph. No. 01933-241215 Fax phone: 01933241215 E-Mail ID: dshopulwama@gmail.com

TECHNICAL SECTION

Subject: Selection of beneficiaries for applications received under various departmental Schemes for the year 2023-24.

Reference:
 1. This Office Advertisement No. 03 of 2023 Dated: 05/06/2023
 2. This Office Advertisement No. 04 of 2023 Dated: 21/06/2023
 3. This Office Advertisement No. 05 of 2023 Dated: 26/06/2023.
 4. This Office order No DSHOP/Tech/2023-24/ 1153-58 Dated: 23/08/2023

Notification No. 09 of 2023

All the applicants who have applied in response to this office Notifications Vide above cited references are hereby informed that the selection of the beneficiaries for the notified income generating departmental schemes shall be carried on 06/09/2023 at 11:00 AM through designated committee under the chairmanship of the undersigned in District Sheep Husbandry Office Pulwama along with other members of the designated committee. All the interested applicants are requested to participate on the scheduled date and time at the aforementioned Venue.

**Sd/-
 District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama**

**DIPK-8016/23
 dated: 30-08-2023**

ACCOUNTS MANAGER REQUIRED

- References Required For An Accounts Manager For A Reputed Firm In Srinagar.
- Candidate must be experienced and well versed in accountancy.
- Eligible candidate must be proficient in accounting, tally and GST filing.
- Salary negotiable for deserving candidate.

**Candidates are requested to call on
 +91 88265 81348**

"Faith Lux"
**Office of the Principal
 Govt. Higher Secondary School
 Jawahir Nagar, Srinagar, Kashmir**

No. HSII/2023/JN/195 DATED: 30-08-2023

Attention All Parents

Academic Session 2023-24 Is in full swing at Boys Higer Secondary Institution Jawaharnagar Srinagar. All the parents / Guardians are hereby informed to visit the institution in order to check the daily attendance, conduct and performance of their wards enrolled here. The parents can visit the Institution after 1 PM only.

**Principal
 Govt. Boys. Hr. Sec. School
 Jawahara Nagar Srinagar**

**DIPK-8034/23
 DATED: 30-08-2023**

Pakistan Ex-Pm Imran Khan's Custody Extended By Two Weeks In 'Cypher' Case

Agencies

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has been sent to judicial remand for two weeks on charges of leaking state secrets, his lawyer says.



Khan's custody was extended till September 13 to investigate him in the so-called "cypher" case after a special court held the proceedings on the jail premises in Attock city on Wednesday.

Khan's judicial remand comes a day after the Islamabad High Court suspended his conviction and three-year jail sentence on corruption charges.

The former prime minister is charged with making public the contents of a confidential cable sent by Pakistan's ambassador to the United States and using it for political gain.

"We have filed a bail petition in the court and it will be heard

on Saturday," Khan's lawyer Salman Safdar told Al Jazeera after the court heard the "cypher" case under the country's Official Secrets Act.

"We have also filed another appeal challenging the jail trial and have demanded that the case be heard in an open court and not in camera," he said.

What is the 'cypher' case?

The "cypher" case relates to a diplomatic cable that Khan had touted as proof that he was removed in April last year as part of a US conspiracy backed by the "establishment" - a euphemism for Pakistan's powerful military.

Khan alleges the cable proves his removal was at the behest of the US which he said pressed Pakistan's army to topple his government because he had visited Russia shortly before its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The US and the Pakistani government and military have rejected the allegation.

The vice chairman of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, also a former foreign minister, has also been arrested in the same case.

While Khan was imprisoned this month, Pakistan's parliament was dissolved at the request of his successor Shehbaz Sharif and a caretaker government was formed to hold national elections.

Over 15,000 Indian Tech Workers Moved To Canada In 12 Months: Report



Agencies

OTTAWA: Over 15,000 Indian tech workers have moved to Canada in the span of just 12 months, from April 2022 to March 2023, indicating that the country has emerged as a global magnet for tech industry talent, according to Khalsa Vox.

This surge in migration positions India as the largest contributor to Canada's expanding tech workforce, as highlighted by a recent joint report from The Technology Councils of North America (TECNA) and Canada's Tech Network (CTN).

Of the more than 32,000 tech professionals who sought greener pastures, 15,097 chose Canada as their new home, underscoring the nation's allure in the tech industry.

Following India on the list of contributors was Nigeria, with 1,808 tech workers making their journey to Canada. Experts attribute this phenom-

enon to Canada's immigration-friendly policies and its competitive edge in terms of labour costs, as per Khalsa Vox.

Khalsa Vox is an online digest that brings the latest in Punjab politics, history, culture, heritage and more.

Mississauga and Montreal are the two Canadian cities that stand out as the prime beneficiaries of this influx of global tech talent.

Mississauga which boasts a robust community of nearly 1,000 IT firms and an impressive workforce of over 300,000 tech experts, has become a hub for tech innovation. Meanwhile, Montreal has witnessed a remarkable 31 per cent growth in its tech ecosystem between 2015 and 2020.

The report, titled 'Tech Workforce Trends: The Migration of Tech Workers and Tech Jobs Since the Pandemic', sheds light on the significance of this surge in tech migration. It posits that the substantial migra-

tion of tech workers fulfils the critical demand for skilled professionals, a need that has become even more pronounced amid the ongoing global talent scarcity. This influx of tech talent is seen as a promising indicator of a prosperous future for Canada's tech industry, according to Khalsa Vox.

The migration data further reveals intriguing details about the tech worker flow. Mississauga welcomed 1,900 tech professionals from across the world, while Montreal witnessed the arrival of 959 tech experts during the specified period from April 2022 to March 2023.

Although the majority of the influx is attributed to India, Nigeria, and Brazil, the report also highlights the growing attraction of Canadian tech opportunities for American talent. Notably, Canada is drawing tech professionals from major US cities such as Washington DC, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia.



Netanyahu Thanks Saudis For 'Warm' Treatment Of Israeli Passengers

Agencies

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Saudi officials for "warmly treating" Israeli passengers aboard an Air Seychelles flight that unexpectedly landed in Jeddah on 28 August.

In a televised clip published by Netanyahu's office on social media, the prime minister stated, "I greatly appreciate the warm attitude of the Saudi authorities to the Israeli passengers whose plane got into trouble and had to make an emergency landing in Jeddah. I'm glad everyone's coming home. I really appreciate the good neighbourliness."

The flight carried 128 Israelis from Seychelles to Tel Aviv but landed in Jeddah allegedly due to a technical problem one and a half hours before reaching its destination. However, the plane landed without using emergency procedures.

The Israeli passengers stayed in Jeddah overnight at a hotel before being transferred to a new plane and returning to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv the following day.

This is the first time a commercial plane has traveled between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Passengers said they were nervous landing in a country

that has traditionally been hostile to Israel but were warmly welcomed.

"The reception we got from the Saudis was very surprising," Emmanuelle Arbel, one of the passengers, told Radio 103FM. "They said to us, 'You are most welcome' and were smiling. In truth, we were not expecting this."

"We made history, maybe we will also bring peace," said another passenger, Shai Kalm- onowitz.

Israel's Channel 12 reported that Israeli security officials happened to be aboard, claiming they had been on vacation. The Kan public broadcaster also said that the brother of far-right Otzma Yehudit lawmaker Almog Cohen was on the flight.

The Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said that Jeddah Airport had previously been identified as an alternative airport for flight paths to Israel and that Tel Aviv had gained approval for planes carrying Israeli passengers crossing Saudi air space to land there in emergencies.

In July 2022, Saudi Arabia announced that it would allow all airlines "that meet the conditions" to cross its airspace, including Israeli companies that do not necessarily fly to the Gulf states.

80% Indians Have A Favourable View Of PM Modi: Pew Research Survey

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: About 80 per cent of Indians have a favourable view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and around seven in 10 Indians believe their country has recently become more influential, according to a survey by the PEW Research Center.



The survey, released ahead of the G20 Summit, also noted that public opinion of India was generally positive across the world with a median of 46 per cent reporting favourable views of India as compared to 34 per cent unfavourable views. Sixteen per cent did not share an opinion at all.

Views of India are most positive in Israel, where 71 per cent say they have a favourable view of the country, the report said.

Pew said the survey was conducted from February 20 to May 22, among 30,861 adults in 24 countries, including 2,611 from India, to examine global views of Prime Minister Modi, the scope of India's global power and Indians' views of other countries.

About eight in 10 Indians report "favourable" views of PM Modi, including a majority (55 per cent) with a "very favourable" view, according to the survey result released on Tuesday. This is Narendra Modi's second term as Prime Minister and he is

also seeking a third term in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Only a fifth of Indians expressed an unfavourable opinion of PM Modi in 2023, the Pew survey found.

Responding to the results of the Pew survey, the BJP said the popularity of Prime Minister Modi remained intact.

"The popularity of Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi certainly remains intact! Majority of people in India and across the world believe that India's global influence is getting stronger!" the official handle of BJP said in a post on platform X, formerly Twitter.

It added that the Pew survey "stands as a testament to the above statements." "Indian adults are more likely to believe India's power is on the rise. Around seven in ten Indians believe their country has recently become more influential. This stands in comparison with a 2022 survey conducted across 19 countries, where a median of only 28 per cent said the same," Pew said.

Uttar Pradesh: Bus Conductor Sacked For Halting Vehicle To Allow Passengers To Offer Namaz Found Dead

Press Trust of India

MAINPURI: The bus conductor, who was dismissed from service for allegedly halting the vehicle to allow two Muslim passengers to offer namaz on the road, was found dead on a railway track in the Ghiror area here, police said on Wednesday.

The body of Mohit Yadav (30) of Khushal village was found lying on a railway track at Kosma station Sunday night by the rail staff, they said.

Yadav's family members said he was under "acute depression" after his dismissal from service and might have ended his life by jumping before a train.

Yadav, who was a contractual employee with the Uttar



Pradesh Roadways, along with the bus driver, was sacked for stopping the vehicle in the middle of the night on June 3 to allow two passengers to offer namaz on the road.

Officials had said the action was taken as stopping the bus at a secluded place could have led to an untoward incident like loot and put at risk the lives of passengers who included women.

We received a call about

Mohit's body being found late Sunday night, Rohit Yadav, the younger brother of the deceased, told PTI.

He said his brother might have taken the extreme step by jumping in front of the train as he was "under depression".

Rohit also showed a video conversation with his deceased brother in which he is heard saying that the bus was stopped at the request of some passengers for urinating. He is heard saying that some passengers got down and two of them offered namaz during the halting time.

Passengers had raised objection for allowing two men to offer namaz and had made a video of the incident and made it public.

NEWS MAKERS

Iran Bans Weightlifter For Life After He Shakes Israeli's Hand On Podium

Agencies

TEHRAN: Iran has banned a weightlifter from sports for life and dissolved a sports committee after the athlete greeted an Israeli counterpart on a podium.

Mostafa Rajaei, a veteran weightlifter, finished second in his category in the 2023 World Master Weightlifting Championships in Poland and stood on a podium with an Iranian flag wrapped around him on Saturday.

On another step of the podium stood Maksim Sivryskiy from Israel, who finished third.

The two athletes shook hands and took a picture together, which led to the Iran Weightlifting Federation banning Rajaei from all sports for life due to what it called an "unforgivable" transgression.

"The positions of the federation are aligned with the positions of the holy establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran," it said, adding that Rajaei has been



banned from entering "all sports facilities" for the rest of his life.

Hamid Salehinia, who headed the weightlifting team, was also removed from his post, and the federation said a committee formed to represent veteran weightlifters has been dissolved as well.

"In addition to apologising to the leader of the revolution, the families of martyrs and all the people of Iran, I promise we will certainly never witness incidents like this in the weightlifting family," federation chief Sajjad Anoushiravani said in a statement.

More than 1,000 athletes from 47 countries participated in the weightlifting championships in Krakow,

according to organisers.

Iran does not recognise Israel as a country and strictly forbids any contact between Iranian and Israeli athletes.

For years, Iranian athletes have refused to face Israelis in competitions and many times have been disqualified from tournaments or have bowed out of competitions on medical grounds.

The country has also faced criticism and some bans over its refusal to allow its athletes to compete against Israelis.

Judo's world governing body in 2021 imposed a four-year suspension on Iran over the issue. A number of Iranian athletes have defected over pressure from the authorities.

Among them was Alireza Firouzja, a chess prodigy who left Iran after the sports federation banned him from playing in the 2019 world championship due to concerns that he could face an Israeli opponent. Firouzja now plays under the French flag.

Nuh Violence Accused Bittu Bajrangji Gets Bail

Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM: Bittu Bajrangji, arrested in connection with communal clashes in Nuh earlier this month, was granted bail by a court on Wednesday, police said.

Bajrangji was produced in the Nuh court on August 17 from where he was sent to a 14-day judicial custody in Neemka jail of Faridabad district.

After hearing Bajrangji's bail application on Wednesday, the court of judicial magistrate first class Sandeep Kumar granted him bail, Nuh police said.

Bajrangji alias Raj Kumar was arrested from Faridabad on August 15 after a fresh FIR was registered against him at Nuh's Sadar Police Station on a complaint of Assistant Superintendent of Police Usha Kundu.

According to the FIR, Bajrangji, who was identified through social media posts, along with some of his unidentified supporters, had allegedly misbehaved with and threatened an ASP Kundu-led police team which had stopped them while they were carrying swords and 'trishuls' to Nalhar temple.

Kundu said when the mob was challenged to stop, it started raising slogans against police, manhandled them, and even snatched back their weapons from police vehicles.



Gujarat Man Poses As Scientist Who Designed Chandrayaan-3 Lander, Arrested

Press Trust of India

SURAT: The police in Gujarat's Surat city on Tuesday arrested a man who allegedly posed as a scientist with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and gave interviews to local media outlets claiming that he designed the lander module for the Chandrayaan-3 moon mission, an official said.

A complaint was lodged against the accused, Mitul Trivedi, after he was seen giving interviews after the Vikram lander successfully made a soft-landing on August 23, claiming to have designed the lander module of Chandrayaan-3, the official said.

Trivedi allegedly posed as the "assistant chairman" of ISRO's "Ancient Science Application department" and even produced a fake appointment letter dated February 26, 2022, he said.

"A thorough investigation revealed that the man was in no way connected to ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission and had made false claims of being an ISRO employee," the police said in a statement.

He even produced a fake letter about being the "space research

member" for ISRO's next project called "mercury force in space", it said.

He spread fake messages regarding ISRO despite not having contributed to the ambitious project, thereby



harming the reputation of the institution, the statement read.

The Surat city crime branch lodged an FIR against the accused under sections 419 (cheating by impersonation), 465 (forgery), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), and 471 (using forged document as genuine) of the Indian Penal Code.

How To Win 2024 Poll Agenda Of INDIA Alliance Meeting: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said the most important item on the agenda of the opposition INDIA alliance's meeting here will be how to win the 2024 elections and the plank on which the elections will be contested.

Talking to reporters after landing in Mumbai, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said a final roadmap for taking on the BJP has to be prepared.

He also said that it should be clear by September 1 who will be the convener of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) or whether a convener was needed in

the first place. The Panthers Party from Jammu will also attend the alliance meetings on August 31 and September 1 here, he informed.

"The foremost agenda would be how to win polls, what will be our main plank on which we will contest elections. Discussions will also take place about how to save the Constitution, the feeling of brotherhood in the country, and how to bridge the rift created on religious lines," Abdullah said.

He parried a question on whether there would be talks on seat-sharing.

Asked about the Centre's decision to slash LPG cylinder rates by Rs 200, Abdullah said they should be reduced further.



Mehbooba Calls For Return Of Kashmiri Pandits

Press Trust Of India

ANANTNAG: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti Wednesday called for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley, saying the atmosphere of gloom in the union territory will end only after that.

"The atmosphere of gloom will not end in the Kashmir Valley until Kashmiri Pandits return to their homes and live with dignity and joy," Mufti told reporters at Thajiwarra in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

She attended a special prayer meet at the temple here in which scores of Kashmiri Pandits participated.

Mufti, a former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said she prayed for the return of the Pandits to the valley.

"I wish and pray to God, and I prayed here as well, to end our miseries and bring a day when, like today we see Kashmiri Pan-

dit and Muslims brothers and sisters enjoying here, our Kashmiri pandit brethren who are in Jammu or Delhi or anywhere else, return to their homes and live their life with dignity like the yesteryears," she said.

Meanwhile, Mehbooba's daughter Iltija Mufti accused the BJP of spreading venom in the minds of children.

"It is very unfortunate that they are trying to spread this venom among the children now. I have seen many videos on social media where children are shouting disgusting slogans," Iltija told reporters at Thajiwarra in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

She was reacting to a question about a social media video that showed a teacher asking Class 2 students to slap a classmate in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar.

She accused the BJP of "plunging the whole country into darkness."



Azad, Lone Seek Probe Into Engineer's Mysterious Death

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad and Peoples Conference (PC) President Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday urged LG administration to expedite the probe into the mysterious death of AEE Gurmeet Singh and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family in Baramulla.

In a statement, Azad described Assistant Executive Engineer Gurmeet Singh as dedicated and honest officer who always served people selflessly. Urging Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to intervene, the former chief minister demanded speedy probe into the death of AEE and ascertain the facts and details regarding Gurmeet's death.

"I spoke to Deputy Commissioner Baramulla who assured me that justice would be done in the case as I sought speedy probe into the mysterious death of Gurmeet Singh," Azad said and urged people to maintain harmony which is the hallmark of Kashmiriyat.

Peoples Conference (PC) President Sajad Gani Lone also expressed deep condolences

over the untimely and unfortunate demise of Engineer Gurmeet Singh.

He also urged the authorities to initiate a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

"Engineer Gurmeet Singh's sudden and mysterious death has left us all in shock and sorrow. His contributions as a dedicated professional and his presence in the community will be deeply missed. Our thoughts remain with his family, and we share their grief during this painful time. May his soul rest in peace", PC President said in a statement.

Lone urged the authorities to initiate a thorough and impartial investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

"We stand in solidarity with Engineer Gurmeet Singh's family and friends and demand that every effort be made to uncover the truth. It is imperative that the investigation is transparent and expeditious, ensuring that all aspects are carefully examined to bring clarity to this unfortunate event. The community and the family deserve to know the truth behind this tragedy," he added



WOMEN IN QUEUE WAIT FOR their turn to pay obeisance at the Shankaracharya temple in Srinagar on the eve of Raksha Bandhan on Wednesday. **KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT**

Over 50 Percent Work On AIIMS Awantipora Completed

Efforts On To Complete The Project By 2024 End: Official Agencies

SRINAGAR: The construction of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the Awantipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district is going on in full swing and every effort is being made to complete the project by the end of 2024, officials said on Wednesday.

The work is going on at "very full speed" and if it continues at this pace, the project will be completed on time, an official said.

He said that earlier there was a legal dispute over the acquisition of land needed for the access road essential for transporting construction material, followed by a clampdown after the abrogation of Article 370, and then issues with a nearby army base. The winter season and COVID-19 were also the reasons behind the slow execution of work on this mega project, he added.

The official said the work has been going on at full pace for the last several months now and the same pace should continue for around the next one and half years so as to complete the hospital by December 2024.



A top official working on the project said that in the last few years, there were some issues due to which the work was going on at a sluggish pace; however, all issues were resolved and currently, the work is going on at full pace.

As of now, only construction work is going on and the installation of machinery process will be taken up later, he said, adding that around 50 percent of work has been already completed and every effort is being made to complete the project before the deadline.

The government has set December 31, 2024, as the deadline for completion of this mega project. The AIIMS was approved by the Central government in 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,828 crore. The project entails the construction of approximately 57 buildings, including a hospital, hostels, residential quarters, a football ground, tennis courts, and gardens with medicinal plants, among other facilities. The institute will add 1,000 beds to its current capacity in Kashmir, including 300 super-specialty beds. The ambitious project also includes a Medical College with a capacity of 100 students and a Nursing College with a capacity of 60 students—(KNO)

Man Held For Beating Villager, Making Casteist Remarks

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A man was arrested for allegedly beating a villager and making casteist remarks against him in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on

Tuesday, police said. "A complaint was lodged by Sahil Kumar of Dassal village accusing Bunty Saryal of blocking his way, beating and abusing him. Saryal also passed casteist remarks against Kumar, hurting the sentiments of a particular

community," a police spokesperson said.

A case has been registered against Saryal for wrongful restraint, causing hurt, insulting intentionally, and criminal intimidation. He has also been booked under the SC/ST Act, police said.

J&K Harmed By Dynastic Politics In Last 7 Decades: Bukhari

'I Am Proud That I Do Not Belong To Any Political Family'

Observer News Service

URI: Taking a dig at traditional political parties, particularly those rooted in dynastic legacies, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said on Wednesday that "these parties and their leaders have always misled the people through deceptive political maneuvers."

He emphasized that "political families have always believed they were entitled to rule, treating the common populace as their subjects within Jammu and Kashmir".

He expressed pride in not belonging to any political family and thus not being involved in deceiving his own people.

Bukhari made these remarks during an event in north Kashmir's Uri, wherein a number of respectable citizens and notable young activists joined the party in the distinguished presence of the party's president.

Speaking at the event, Bukhari underscored how dynasties have harmed the interests of the people of J&K through their deceptive politics.

He said, "As the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we have suffered hugely over the past seven decades because our leaders kept us busy with their deceptive political narratives and never told us the truth. Even Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the tallest leader of his times, used to change his stances time and again and did not tell the people the truth, despite being privy to the truth, as suggested by his famous Lal Chowk speech; he refrained from openly acknowledging it."

Schoolgirls, Women Celebrate Raksha Bandhan With Troops At LoC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Army and paramilitary personnel stationed far away from home along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu region on Wednesday celebrated Raksha Bandhan as hundreds of schoolgirls and women tied them rakhis to mark the festival.

Several security installations and camps along the LoC, IB and in Samba, Kathua, Jammu, Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur districts organized events to celebrate the day, with schoolgirls and local women tying rakhis on the wrists of Army, paramilitary, and police personnel.

In Samba, girl students drawn from Samba and Beingallar areas thronged various border outposts along IB in the district and tied rakhis on wrists of BSF personnel.

"As they are miles away from their homes, serving and defending the nation on the border, it is our duty to reach out to them as sisters and tie rakhis on their wrists. It is a great feeling to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with them," Sunita Devi, a student, said.

Like her, Anita from Ashoka Model School Raipur said that the motive of tying rakhis on these personnel's wrists is that they do not feel that their sisters are not with them as they ensure safety and security of the borders of our nation.



In Jammu, a function was organised at Oterio border outposts along IB in R S Pura sector, where students of Sewa Bharti-ran schools reached out to border guards and tied rakhis on their

wrists and prayed for their long life. In Udhampur, hundreds of students adorned CRPF jawans with rakhis. The fervour of Raksha Bandhan was evident as schoolgirls in Udhampur tied rakhis to

CRPF jawans. "We are happy to receive them (girl students) here for the special day. Jawans who are deployed on Amarnath duty here know well that they won't get leave for Raksha Bandhan. When these girls tie rakhis on their wrists, they forget everything and are very happy," a CRPF officer said.

In Akhnoor and Mendhar areas of Jammu and Poonch districts, students tied rakhis on the wrists of Army jawans and prayed for their long life.

In Kishtwar district, members of the BJP Mahila Morcha celebrated Raksha Bandhan with auto and bus drivers and tied rakhis on their wrists.

Illicit Traffic Of Narcotics Threat To Society's Health, Welfare: HC

M Ahmad

SRINAGAR: Underlining that the illicit traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances poses threat to the health and welfare of every citizen in the world, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday dismissed a plea by a Punjab resident, challenging his detention under PITNDPS.

On 27 December 2022, authorities had detained Happy Singh of Mehtabgarh, Kapurthala, Punjab under the According to authorities, Happy Singh was involved in trafficking 52.424 Kgs of heroin and was also caught in possession of 100 grams of it.

In the grounds of detentions, the authorities said Singh was actively involved in trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

"The Court must be conscious that the satisfaction of the detaining authority is "subjective" in nature and the Court cannot substitute its opinion for the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority and interfere with the order of detention," a bench of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal said, adding, "It does not mean that the subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority is immune from judicial reviewability. By various decisions, the Supreme

Court has carved out areas within which the validity of subjective satisfaction can be tested."

In the present case, the court said, the detenu was involved in trafficking of huge amount of heroine and was also caught in possession of the same.

"The detaining authority recorded finding that this has serious impact on the economy of the nation and is also satisfied that the detenu has propensity to indulge in the same act of smuggling and passed the order of preventive detention, which is a preventive measure," the court said, adding, "Based on the documents and the materials placed before the detaining authority and considering the individual role of the detenu, the detaining authority satisfied itself as to the detenu continued propensity and his inclination to indulge in acts of prejudicial activities of illicit traffic of narcotics and psychotropic substances which poses threat to the health and welfare not only to the citizens of this country but to every citizen in the world."

The offences committed by the detenu are so interlinked and continues in character and are of such nature that these affect security and health of the nation, the court said and dismissed his plea.

Special Prayers Mark 38th Foundation Day Of SMVDSB

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Special prayers on Wednesday marked the celebrations of 38th foundation day of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) at Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the famous shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Anshul Garg along with other officials attended the special prayers and yagya, and reiterated his commitment to ensure best possible facilities for the pilgrims.

He recalled the contributions made for the facilitation of the pilgrims throughout the journey and lauded the tireless efforts of each and every foot soldier.

"With Mata's blessings, we have emerged as one of the most visited shrines in the country and our collective efforts have been recognized at the national level in the form of national water award and national e-governance award which indicates our steadfast pursuit of the mandate entrusted to us by the board," Garg said. The shrine board CEO extended

ed his gratitude to the chairman of the board Lt Governor Manoj Sinha for his continuous support and guidance under which a plethora of initiatives for facilitation of pilgrims and welfare of staff are being undertaken by the board relatively in a short span of time.

Besides, creation, upgradation and expansion of perceptible improvements in infrastructure both for pilgrims and staff, state-of-the-art initiatives such as RFID-based yatra access cards, "panchmeva prasad/prasad counters" and new online portals have been launched, he said.

Garg also enumerated various significant measures for the general welfare of the board employees which include promotion of several stagnant employees and increased allowances, among others.

At Katra, the main function was held at Niharika Complex where special prayers were performed by organizing 'havan'. The religious ceremonies were also organized at Bhanu, Adhkuwari and Jammu in which the staff of the shrine board and the pilgrims participated, an official said.

Kashmir Is Regaining Its Pristine Glory: Social Worker Nagi

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Acknowledging a positive change in Kashmir over the past couple of years, social activist Rouble Nagi on Tuesday said the lost paradise is fast regaining its pristine glory and all stakeholders should come forward to strengthen the gains.

Nagi, the chairperson of a Mumbai-based organisation engaged in women empowerment, was in Kashmir recently in connection with the one-day tour of Miss world Karolina Bielawska and other pageant winners.

"Being myself from J&K, I have been working in the region since 2017 and I am proud to witness a positive change in the valley over the past several years. The (Srinagar's city centre) Lal Chowk is abuzz with activities and people can be seen clicking selfies at 11 pm.

"The positivity is back in Jammu and Kashmir and people are feeling a sense of pride. We have a G20 working group meeting and now the visit of Miss world while many more international and national events are in pipeline," Nagi told PTI here.

FROM THE OFFICE OF
ADVOCATE NASIR AHMAD SHALA.
TOP FLOOR, A-3, POLO VIEW, SRINAGAR.

In the Case of:-
1. Syed Tajamul Hussain Rufai S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Rufai R/o Habib Colony, Baghat, Barzulla, Srinagar.
2. Rabia Nazir W/o Syed Tajamul Hussain Rufai R/o Habib Colony, Baghat, Barzulla, Srinagar.

Caveators

Versus
PUBLIC AT LARGE
Non-Caveators

In the matter of:- Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of CPC.
The caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that non-caveators may file a suit or any other type of proceedings before the Hon'ble High Court on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at his back/exparte against the caveators and in such, eventuality the caveators will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble High Court before passing any order.

Sd/
INT. ADS. Advocate Nasir Ahmad Shala

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 31-08-2023

SC's Pitch For J&K Statehood

The Supreme Court on Tuesday was informed by the central government that the union territory status of Jammu and Kashmir is not a permanent arrangement and that a statement on this issue would be made in court on August 31. This announcement comes in the midst of hearings on petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, a move that led to the region losing its special status. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the government in the case, however, said that the union territory status of Ladakh will persist for some time.

The central government's decision to revoke Article 370 and bifurcate the state into union territories in 2019 was met with both support and opposition. Proponents of the move argued that it would pave the way for greater integration of the region with the rest of India and spur economic development. Critics, however, contended that the decision was taken without proper consultation with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, thereby undermining the principles of democracy.

The apex court acknowledged the importance of democracy while also recognizing the complexities posed by national security considerations. This balance between democratic ideals and security imperatives highlights the need for a measured and well-defined approach to the region's political future. However, the court expressed its reservations about the indefinite continuation of the absence of electoral democracy. It stressed the necessity of establishing a clear timeline for the restoration of full-fledged democracy in the union territory.

The government's willingness to engage in a discourse on the union territory status of Jammu and Kashmir suggests a recognition of the complexities involved and a commitment to finding a balanced solution that respects both the region's historical legacy and contemporary realities.

Meanwhile, people in Kashmir are eagerly waiting for the elections, as the exercise is expected to lead to the restoration of statehood. No less than the union home minister has made it clear that the statehood of J&K would be restored only after elections are held and a representative government is formed.

There have so far been no signs that the centre is reviewing its policy. The return of statehood also makes eminent sense from the centre's point of view. It seems that the union government wants to first see how the future elected government would look and what its political and governance priorities would be including its approach to the issue of the revocation of Article 370. Also, it is as yet unclear if the centre would be inclined to restore complete statehood or a truncated one on the pattern of New Delhi. All we can hope for now is that the elections are announced earlier than later.

OTHER OPINION

A Fresh Start

The island nation had been sustained by donor support and 17 IMF programmes despite deficits in both budget and current account of balance of payments, with high inflation, high nominal interest rate and over-valued currency, even while subsidising foreign producers at the expense of domestic ones. Inevitably, over time, concessional assistance was phased out and the country became increasingly exposed to discipline imposed by international capital markets and rating agencies. The immediate causes of the 2022 crisis included wide-ranging tax cuts, the ban on chemical fertiliser, the pandemic and the effects of the Ukraine war. The poverty level, which was 6% before the pandemic, rose to 25% last year.

To their credit, the prime minister Narendra Modi, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and the foreign minister, S. Jaishankar, responded swiftly, extending emergency assistance of \$4 billion, delivering food, fuel and medicine, and joining Japan and other creditor countries to negotiate the restructuring of Sri Lanka's external debt. From the 1980s, due to the ill-advised deployment of the Indian Peace Keeping Force, Sri Lankans have viewed India negatively. But that sentiment has now changed.

Thanks to the timely help mainly from India, along with other donors and the International Monetary Fund, which approved a programme of \$3 billion, considerable progress was made in stabilising Sri Lanka before Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi last month. Macroeconomic indicators improved and the mass protests subsided. Aggressive monetary tightening has been pursued by the Central Bank and inflation has declined from about 70% in September 2022 to 12% in June 2023. It should decline to 4%-6% by the end of this year. Fiscal outcomes have improved with a small primary surplus being achieved in the government budget in the first five months of this year. Tight monetary and fiscal policies, import and capital restrictions, and declining commodity prices have contributed to improvement in the balance of payments, the import bill has declined sharply, tourism is recovering and inward remittances are stable. With positive movements in government securities and share markets and \$2 billion in reserves as of last June, the shortages in fuel, food, pharmaceuticals and fertiliser have eased significantly. The government has given the Central Bank greater autonomy while increasing its accountability, seven parastatal organisations are to be disinvested, and the dominance of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation and the Ceylon Electricity Board diluted. However, addressing the scourge of corruption is essential, including during the presidential and parliamentary elections that are due to be held separately within the next two years.

Telegraph India



Feature Image Credits: In Picture: Team Jaggery Bags. Gautam running his business with his mother and wife

Bagtivism: Making a Case for Being Environmentally Conscious

Fusion of fashion and activism aiming to address social and environmental issues is a welcome and much needed trend

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

“By preventing metric tons of waste going into landfills, Jaggery group is committed to building a more sustainable future. Driven by his belief in the power of design and creative innovation, Gautam is striving to bring together environmental consciousness and social responsibility and is redefining the boundaries of sustainable design, offering unique products that are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally conscious

As we face environmental challenges across the world especially when our waste is choking the landfills we have many companies, social enterprises and even individuals who are upcycling different waste material into sustainable products. Recently, I got a chance to meet Gautam Malik, a Gurgaon based social entrepreneur who launched a startup “Jaggery Bags” which uses old car seat belts to make beautiful bags. I met Gautam during a regional huddle of Acumen Fellows in New Delhi recently. I am myself an Acumen Fellow from the 2017 cohort and Gautam joined last year.

Gautam's tryst with upcycling plastic bags began in New York where he was studying film and media in 2001. After almost 13 years, Gautam decided to start social enterprise Jaggery Bags with the active support of his wife, a conservation architect and mother who is a retired Physics professor. Jaggery Bags is converting old car seat belts into bags as they have a team of dedicated workers who do this work. Seat belt material in spite of being very strong, used to go to landfills. However, Gautam's intervention has changed this; he has converted almost 10,000 meters of seat belts into bags which are selling in the market efficiently.

During my long conversation with Gautam on the sidelines of the Acumen fellows meeting, he informed me that while people were recycling plastic waste and other waste materials. He could identify a gap in the survey here and decided to use the material for seat belts, a stronger material, which was not being recycled and was instead dumped in landfills. This was a Eureka moment for him and he decided to utilise this material for making bags.

Gautam also wants to use old army truck material, canvas and parachute material to make some good products. Infact he has already used canvas, parachute and other material used by defence forces to make bags but now Jaggery Bags wants to use this material on a large scale and he is now exploring to reach out to Indian Army and Airforce for the same. He is exploring that idea and we had a long discussion on that as well and we even decided to collaborate for starting this work in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir as well.

Gautam's social enterprise Jaggery Bags, has recycled more than 10,000 meters car seat belts and 6000 plus meters of cargo belts from landfills in Delhi/NCR. This project has international customers in US, Australia, Japan, Italy, France and Switzerland. It has already been accepted to the World Economic Forum's Catalyst 2030 for being a prominent part of the modern-day online community of impact makers. Gautam's Dr. Usha Malik and wife, Bhavna have been his great supporters, he told me.

Empowering marginalized
The Jaggery Bags is not only

making consumers aware about sustainability but his work is also empowering marginalized and disadvantaged communities as well. Women and men from low income groups are involved with Jaggery Bags who manufacture sustainable bags and other accessories. This work not only transforms fashion into activism by making individuals change their lifestyle and living. Through Jaggery, Gautam is fully dedicated to create a positive change by generating circular jobs and empowering underserved communities in India.

Recycled material used by car industry

The awareness to use non-biodegradable waste and recycled material is gaining momentum across the world. The car manufacturers are making efforts to include more recycled materials in the construction of their new models. Czech car manufacturing company Skoda has recently introduced seat covers made from wool and recycled disposable bottles. The company is working with suppliers and the scientific community on various innovative materials that will then be used in mass production. The company has combined wool with recycled polyester from disposable polyethylene

This helps to save energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping to tackle climate change. Recycling helps reduce pressure on landfills.

Recycling is good for earth, as we use old and waste products that are of no use and then convert them back into useful and sustainable products. Since we are saving resources and are sending less trash to the landfills, it helps in reducing air and water pollution as well.

As the population is increasing with each passing day the amount of waste produced is increasing in huge numbers. The more the waste production, the more is the amount of space required to dump it in landfills. We need to understand that the space available on earth is very limited, and we cannot afford to send our waste to landfills in huge numbers. Our only landfill site in Srinagar at Achan Saidapora is choked and the government is facing challenges even to acquire 50 acres of land to set up a sanitary landfill site.

All of Downtown is stinking as bad smell emitting from Achan Saidapora has made lives of people miserable not only in Saidapora or Eid Gah areas but also in adjoining areas of Buchpora and Lalbazar in Srinagar.

Recycling is the only way out

“Our only landfill site in Srinagar at Achan Saidapora is choked and the government is facing challenges even to acquire 50 acres of land to set up a sanitary landfill site. All of Downtown is stinking as bad smell emitting from Achan Saidapora has made lives of people miserable, Recycling is the only way out

terephthalate (PET) bottles. To create the fabric, bottles are crushed, melted and then turned into granules. These granules are then used to make a yarn, which is the basis for this particularly strong fabric. Skoda worked jointly with its Czech supplier Sage Automotive Interiors on this project and developed innovative materials that are then used in car production. This includes the material made from plastic bottles. The same company, in collaboration with the Technical University of Liberec (TUL), is also developing fabrics with special fibers that function as seat heaters and improve comfort, as well as special reflective threads. In the future, the brand wants to boost its investment in recyclable materials, in accordance with its suppliers. Skoda's raw material procurement processes will place even more emphasis on the circular economy.

Recycle and reduce pressure on landfills

More and more companies are using recycled goods now. This helps to reduce the need for landfill and more costly forms of disposal. Recycling also reduces the need for extracting (mining, quarrying and logging), refining and processing raw materials all of which create substantial air and water pollution.

as it solves this problem as a lesser amount of wastes is dumped in landfills and some valuable space is saved. During the last decade or more, the incinerators are now being used to reduce the waste in landfills, but most of these incinerators work by waste burning and during this process we are also causing severe air pollution as well.

Conclusion

By preventing metric tons of waste going into landfills, Jaggery group is committed to building a more sustainable future. Driven by his belief in the power of design and creative innovation, Gautam is striving to bring together environmental consciousness and social responsibility and is redefining the boundaries of sustainable design, offering unique products that are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally conscious.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is also an Anant Fellow for Climate Action

Latest Issues in School Education: Challenges and Innovations

Shahnawaz Malik

School education is a fundamental cornerstone of society, shaping young minds, fostering growth, and providing essential knowledge and skills for future success. However, the field of education is not immune to challenges and constantly evolves to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world. This article delves into some of the latest issues and innovations in school education, shedding light on the transformative shifts occurring within our classrooms.

The Digital Divide:

As technology becomes increasingly pervasive, the digital divide becomes a critical issue. Access to technology and connectivity varies vastly between regions and socio-economic backgrounds, impacting students' ability to participate in online learning and digital platforms. Bridging this gap requires policy interventions, investment in infrastructure, and equitable distribution of resources to provide equal opportunities for all.

Mental Health:

The mental health crisis among students has gained significant attention in recent years. Academic pressure, social isolation, and the rise of technology contribute to increased stress, anxiety, and depression. Schools are actively working on incorporating mental health and wellness programs to support students, creating safe spaces, and promoting self-care practices.

Inclusive Education:

Ensuring an inclusive education system



TRADITIONAL ASSESSMENT METHODS ARE WITNESSING a transformation as educators recognize the limitations of standardized tests. Schools are increasingly adopting authentic assessment methods that evaluate critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities.

that accommodates diverse learners is essential. Schools are addressing the needs of students with disabilities, English language learners, and those from diverse cultural backgrounds. This includes employing specialized teachers and implementing personalized learning plans, ensuring that no student is left behind.

Skills:

Recognizing the importance of preparing students for an uncertain future, schools are increasingly emphasizing vocational education and real-world skills. This shift aims to equip students with practical knowledge, critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and entrepreneurial skills to thrive in the job

market.

Teacher Shortages and Professional Development:

A shortage of qualified teachers has become a persistent issue in many educational systems. Schools are focusing on attracting and retaining competent educators by offering competitive

salaries, professional development opportunities, and supportive work environments. Encouraging lifelong learning among teachers is paramount to keep up with new pedagogical approaches and technological advancements.

Curriculum Relevance:

Traditional curriculum structures are being reevaluated to make them more relevant and engaging for students. The integration of project-based learning, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary approaches are gaining momentum, encouraging students to connect academic concepts with real-world scenarios.

Assessment Methods:

Traditional assessment methods are witnessing a transformation as educators recognize the limitations of standardized tests. Schools are increasingly adopting authentic assessment methods that evaluate critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities. This shift promotes a holistic evaluation of students' capabilities.

School education faces numerous challenges in today's dynamic world, but with challenges come opportunities for growth and innovation. By addressing these issues head-on, schools can pave the way for an inclusive, technologically-driven, and adaptable education system. Collaborative efforts between policymakers, educators, and parents are crucial to ensure that all students receive a quality education that equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive in an ever-evolving society.

The author is a Senior Lecturer

Advancing Environmental Justice With AI

Justina Nixon-Saintil

Climate change is undoubtedly the defining challenge of our time, but its effects are not equally distributed. In both developed and developing countries, environmental degradation disproportionately affects communities marginalized because of race, ethnicity, religion, and poverty. More often than not, these communities are already confronting systemic inequalities such as water scarcity and greater exposure to pollution and extreme weather events – all of which are exacerbated by the climate crisis.

It is a reality with which I am intimately familiar. As a child, my family had a farm on Dominica, a small Caribbean island state that faces the threat of hurricanes each year. One tropical storm could knock out power grids and wipe out entire harvests, destroying local livelihoods.

According to the World Bank, climate-related disasters push 26 million people into poverty annually. And because the world's poorest people often depend on agriculture – a sector highly dependent on favourable weather conditions – to support themselves, they urgently need access to technical, financial, and institutional resources to prepare for and respond to ever more frequent and intense extreme weather events.

Given its capacity to innovate climate solutions, the technology sector could provide the tools we need to understand, mitigate, and even reverse the damaging effects of global warming. In fact, addressing longstanding environmental injustices requires these companies to put the newest and most effective technologies into the hands of those on the front lines of the climate crisis.

Tools that harness the power of artificial intelligence, in particular, could offer unprecedented access to accurate



information and prediction, enabling communities to learn from and adapt to climate challenges in real time. The IBM Sustainability Accelerator, which we launched in 2022, is at the forefront of this effort, supporting the development and scaling of projects such as the Deltares Aquality App, an AI-powered tool that helps farmers assess and improve water quality. As a result, farmers can grow crops more sustainably, prevent runoff pollution, and protect biodiversity.

Consider also the challenges that smallholder farmers face, such as rising costs, the difficulty of competing with larger producers that have better tools and technology, and, of course, the

devastating effects of climate change on biodiversity and weather patterns. Accurate information, especially about soil conditions and water availability, can help them address these issues, but has historically been hard to obtain.

One could imagine regional officials in a developing country deploying a machine learning algorithm to forecast future population growth and corresponding change in energy demand using temporal and spatial data. With this forecasting model, policymakers could optimize the country's energy network, redirecting supply to where it will be needed most. That is also something that we are supporting today.

Developing AI-powered mobile

apps and virtual assistants, and making them widely available, promotes equitable access to data and technical insights. With highly accurate weather forecasting, advanced agronomy techniques, and carbon-footprint calculations, as well as other predictions generated by AI, smallholder farmers can build greater climate resilience and boost both production and income by adapting to changing conditions more quickly and managing crops more sustainably.

At the same time, simply handing over these tools to disadvantaged communities will not solve the problem – apps alone are not an antidote to climate injustice. To implement AI-based

technology successfully, tech companies must be willing to share knowledge with users, including instructions on how to take measurements that will yield data. They must build in the ability for users to collaborate independently with one another, and solicit feedback from farmers and other users. To that end, an AI chatbot that automates question-and-answer exchanges could help minimize user-training challenges while democratizing access to information. As companies develop AI solutions, we also need to support local tech firms and app developers, as they are best positioned to put these tools to use.

Beyond increasing access to new AI-powered tools, the tech community, together with NGOs, governments, and international agencies, can help build an equitable, resilient future for disenfranchised communities by providing training in the technical skills and knowledge required for green jobs. As the transition to a low-carbon global economy accelerates, demand for so-called "green skills" is projected to outstrip supply. Preparing workers for the jobs of the future, in combination with the widespread adoption of new technologies, will strengthen climate resilience, especially in developing economies.

All of us – individuals, corporations, organizations, and governments – share the responsibility to address growing environmental threats. Tech firms, in particular, must channel more resources to combat global warming. That means investing in the development and implementation of AI tools and ensuring that those in the greatest need can access them. Finding climate solutions – and achieving environmental justice – depends on the private sector mobilizing its expertise for the greater good. – Project Syndicate

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

Unveiling The Microscopic World Through Revolutionary Imaging Techniques

The Conversation

The microscope is an iconic symbol of the life sciences and for good reason. From the discovery of the existence of cells to the structure of DNA, microscopy has been a quintessential tool of the field, unlocking new dimensions of the living world not only for scientists but also for the general public.

For the life sciences, where understanding the function of a living thing often requires interpreting its form, imaging is vital to confirming theories and revealing what is yet unknown.

This selection of stories from The Conversation's archive presents a few ways in which microscopy has contributed to different forms of scientific knowledge, including techniques that take visualization beyond sight altogether.

1. Seeing as identifying

Over the past few centuries, the microscope has undergone a gradual but significant evolution. Each advance has allowed researchers to see increasingly smaller and more fragile structures and biomolecules at increasingly higher resolution from cells, to the structures within cells, to the structures within cells, down to atoms.

But there is still a resolution gap between the smallest and largest structures of the cell. Biophysicist Jeremy Berg drew an analogy to Google Maps: Though scientists could see the city as a whole and individual houses, they couldn't make out the neighborhoods.

Seeing these neighbourhood-level details is essential to being able to understand how individual components work together in the environment of a cell, he writes.

Scientists are working to bridge that resolution gap. Improvements to the 2014 Nobel Prize-winning superresolution microscopy, for example, have enhanced the study of lengthy processes like cell division by capturing images across a range of size and time scales simultaneously, bringing clarity to details traditional microscopes tend to blur.

Another technique, cryo-electron microscopy, or cryo-EM, won a Nobel Prize in 2017 for bringing even more complex, dynamic molecules into view by flash-freezing them. This creates a protective glasslike shell around samples as they're bombarded by a beam of electrons to create their photo op. Cryo-ET, a specialized type of cryo-EM, can construct 3D images of molecular structures within their natural environments.

These techniques not only generate images at or near atomic resolution but also preserve the natural shape of difficult-to-capture biomolecules of interest. Researchers were able to use cryo-EM, for instance, to capture the elusive structure of the protein on the surface of the shape-shifting hepatitis C virus, providing key information for a future vaccine.



Further enhancements to science's visual acuity will reveal more of the fine details of the building blocks of life.

I anticipate seeing new theories on how we understand cells, moving from disorganized bags of molecules to intricately organized and dynamic systems, writes Berg.

2. Seeing as scoping

Microscopy images are often framed as snapshots circumscribed parts of a whole that have been magnified to reveal their hidden features. But nothing in an organism works in isolation. After discerning individual components, scientists are tasked with charting how they interact with each other in the macrosystem of the body. Figuring this out requires not only identifying every component that makes up a particular cell, tissue and organ but also placing them in relation to each other in other words, making a map.

Researchers have been charting the brain by stitching together multiple snapshots like a photo mosaic. They use different techniques to label a specific cell type and then image the whole brain at high resolution. Layer by layer, each run-through creates an increasingly detailed and more complete model. Neuroscientist Yongsoo Kim likens the process to a satellite image of the brain. Combining millions of these photos allows researchers to zoom into the weeds and zoom out to a bird's-eye view.

But building a map of a city, however detailed, is not the same as understanding its rhythm and atmosphere. Likewise, knowing where every cell is located relative

to each other doesn't necessarily tell researchers why they function or interact. Just as important as charting out the landscape of an organ is coming up with a working theory of how it all fits together and performs as a whole. Right now, Kim notes, analysis lags behind technical advances in data collection.

Incredibly rich, high-resolution brain mapping presents a great opportunity for neuroscientists to deeply ponder what this new data says about how the brain works, Kim writes. Though there are still many unknowns about the brain, these new tools and techniques could help bring them to light.

3. Seeing as recognising

Every improvement in technology brings a parallel improvement in the data it collects, both in quality and in quantity. But that data is only useful insofar as researchers are able to analyse it high granularity isn't helpful if those details aren't appreciable, and high output isn't beneficial if it's too overwhelming to organize.

Automated microscopes, for example, have made it possible to take time-lapse images of cells, resulting in massive amounts of data that require manual sifting. Neuroscientist Jeremy Linsley and his team encountered this dilemma in their own work on neurodegenerative disease. They've been relying on an army of interns to scour hundreds of thousands of images of neurons and tally each death a slow and expensive process.

So they turned to artificial intelligence. Researchers can train an AI model to recognize specific patterns by feeding it many sample images, pointing out structures of

interest and extrapolating the algorithm to new contexts. Linsley and his team developed a model to distinguish between living and dead neurons with greater speed and accuracy than people trained to do the same task.

They also opened the black box of the model to figure out how it was finding dead cells, revealing new signals of neuron death that researchers previously weren't aware of because they weren't obvious to the human eye.

By taking out human guesswork, (AI models) increase the reproducibility and speed of research and can help researchers discover new phenomena in images that they would otherwise not have been able to easily recognize, writes Linsley.

4. Seeing as appreciating

Even before they had the instruments to zoom in on samples, researchers had a tool in their arsenal to study the living world that they still use today: art.

Centuries ago, scientists and artists examined plants, animals and anatomy through illustration. Sketches of unfamiliar species in their natural environments aided in their classification, and drawings of the human body advanced study of its structure and function. With the help of the printing press, these artistic renderings which later included the view under the lenses of early microscopes popularised scientific knowledge about the natural world.

Though hand drawings have since given way to advanced imaging techniques and computer models, the legacy of communicating science through art continues. Scientific publications and BioArt competitions highlight laboratory images and videos to share the awe and wonder of studying the natural world with the general public. Using visualizations in classrooms and art museums can also promote science literacy by giving students a chance to look through the eye of the microscope as a scientist would.

Biologist and BioArt Awards judge Chris Curran believes that making visible the processes and concepts of science can grant a greater depth of understanding of the natural world necessary to being an informed citizen.

That those images and videos are often beautiful is an added benefit, she writes.

And the abstract qualities of science can be made tangible in ways that don't involve sight. Proteins, for instance, can be translated into music by mapping their physical properties into sound: amino acids turn into notes, while structural loops become tempos and motifs. Computational biologist Peng Zhang and Yuzong Chen enhanced the musicality of these mapping techniques by basing them on different music styles, such as that of Chopin. Consequently, a protein that prevents cancer formation, p53, sounds toccata-like, and the protein that binds to the hormone and neurotransmitter oxytocin flutters with recurring motifs.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pulwama

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No: 140 /EEP/RNB of 2023-24/8040-50 Dated: 30/08/2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an **item rate basis/percentage age basis** (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	EMD in shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	AAA No:
1.	Repair/Restoration of Astan mohalla kangara road.	14.00	600.-	2% of Adv cost	05 (Working Days)	Reves Budget 2023-24	DEE,CEE,BEE	
2.	Repair/Restoration of Arabal Rajpora road incl approaches of Rajpora Bridge.	17.47	800.-	2% of Adv cost	05 (Working Days)	Reves Budget 2023-24	CEE,BEE	
3.	Macadamization of upper mohalla of village Gudoor road BWO P/L G III.	10.00	600.-	2% of Adv cost	05 (Working Days)	Reves Budget 2023-24	DEE,CEE	
4.	Repair/Restoration of link road at Gulshabad from H/O syed riyaz khawar to masjid sharif astan mohalla.	10.00	600.-	2% of Adv cost	05 (Working Days)	Reves Budget 2023-24	DEE,CEE	
5.	Macadamization of road from primary school gate to higher secondary Achan with allied links	13.60	600.-	2% of Adv cost	05 (Working Days)	Reves Budget 2023-24	DEE,CEE,BEE	
6.	Repair/Restoration of interior roads pulwama.	2.21	600.-	2% of Adv cost	05 (Working Days)	Reves Budget 2023-24	DEE,CEE	

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below: -

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30/08/2023
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30/08/2023 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	30/08/2023 from 10.00 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	06/09/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08 /09/2023 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

- Bids must be accompanied by a **Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059** in the name of **Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama** (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.**

All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

Head Draftsman DIPK-8019/23 Technical Officer dated: 30-08-2023 Executive Engineer, R&B Division Pulwama

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.
Office of the Executive Engineer, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar
Near Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar
e-mail: xened2nd@gmail.com Tel/Fax : 01942311374

e-NIT No: ED-II/15 of 2023-24 Notice Inviting e-Tender Dated : 28/08/23

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) e-bids are invited from reputed Contractors having Valid A-Class Electrical Contractor License or equivalent license issued by Chief Electrical Inspector of J&K PDD/ Relevant issuing authority/ registered Firms/Bidders enlisted with CPWD/ MES/Railways, for "Installation of Streetlights (LED) at various locations at Chanapora Constituency under MPLAD grants of Hon'ble MP Jenab Dr. Farooq Abdullah (17th Lok Sabha) during Current FY 2023-24"

1.	Name of the Work	Installation of Streetlights (LED) at various locations at Chanapora Constituency under MPLAD grants of Hon'ble MP Jenab Dr. Farooq Abdullah (17th Lok Sabha) during Current FY 2023-24
2.	Position of Funds	Available
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs.1.97 Lacs
4.	Administrative Approval (AA)	Accorded by District Development Commissioner, Srinagar vide Order No. 65-DDCS of 2023, Dated : 20/06/23
5.	Work Completion Period	30 days

The tender document is available on website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below :

A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 29/08/23, 04:50 PM
B	Clarifications Start Date	29/08/23, 04:55 PM
C	Clarifications End Date	31/08/23, 04:00 PM
D	e-Bid Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	31/08/23, 04:05 PM
E	e-Bid Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	14/09/23, 04:30 PM
F	Online e-Bid Opening Date & Time	15/09/23, 12:30 PM
G	Venue of Opening of Technical & Financial e-Bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar
H	Cost of e-Bid Document (e-challan/TR)	Rs. 200/- (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-Refundable)
I	Amount of EMD/Performance Security	EMD for Rs 3900/- (Rupees Three Thousand and Nine Hundred Only) to be furnished and uploaded by all bidders for tender participation (Exemption allowed only for MSME /Start-Ups having eligible NIC code) and Performance Security for an amount equal to 5% of the value of contract (to be furnished by LI only)

- The bidders need to submit the proof/Cost of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through e-Challan/Treasury Receipt pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar to be Credited to M.H-0801-Power payable at Srinagar. The scanned copy of the e-Challan/Treasury Receipt must be enclosed along with the e-Bids. No Demand Draft shall be accepted.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee for tender participation by all bidders (Exemption allowed only for MSME/Start-Ups having eligible NIC code), pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. No interest would be payable on EMD/Performance Security deposited with the Department.
- The e-Bids of the bidders not submitting the certified copies of above mentioned documents at S.No. (1) and (2) in scanned form shall liable to be rejected.
3. Hard Copy of original Instrument of EMD needs to be submitted only by the lowest tenderer instantly after opening of e-NIT and must be pledged to the Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar. The same must be submitted to this office within 3 days positively for award of contract.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the identified venue on indicated date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday/closed day for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD. Also, Signed and Stamped Copy of SBD is required to be uploaded.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate' (DSC) Class-III (b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- Hard Copy of requisite documents shall be required to be submitted only by the Lowest Tenderer with original Performance Security and e-Challan/Treasury Receipt instantly after opening of e-NIT pledged to Executive Engineer, KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
- The Name of the Work/Job along with e-NIT reference should be superscripted in Bold letters on the envelope and the Name/Firm of the Lowest Bidder should be clearly written on the cover.
- It may be noted that the hard copy should be an exact replica of the uploaded offer documents by the Lowest Tenderer.
- Documents uploaded on the website shall be treated as final.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
KPDCL, ED-2nd, Rajbagh
Srinagar

No: ED-II/3579-86/TS Dated: 30/08/23
DIPK-NB-2937/23

GI Tags For J&K's Rajmash, Sulai Honey

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Local specialties Bhaderwah Rajmash, a variety of Rajma, and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.



Union Minister of State for PMO Jitendra Singh hailed the decision saying it signifies a great leap forward in promoting these exceptionally popular products of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Laurels continue to pour in for #Udhampur-#Kathua-#Doda Lok Sabha constituency. After famous #Basohli paintings, #Bhaderwah Rajma and #Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted geographical Indication (GI) Tag which signifies a great leap forward in promoting these exceptionally popular products of #JammuAndKashmir," he wrote in 'X'.

Singh represents the Udhampur-Kathua-Doda constituency in Lok Sabha. Officials said the development signifies a great leap in promoting these exceptionally popular items of the region at the international level.

Jammu-based organisations had applied for a GI tag for eight different traditional items from various districts of the Jammu region last year. "Doda and Ramban districts have got two GI tags today. One is Bhaderwah Rajmash, which

is called red beans and another is for honey. It is the honey of Sulai in Ramban district. These are two important products of Chenab Valley," Director of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu K K Sharma told PTI.

It is a tool for the socio-economic growth of the region and its farming community. "It will double their income", he said.

In 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had gifted organic Sulai honey to Queen Elizabeth during his visit to Britain. The director also said the process for GI tagging of these products was initiated by the department and finally, it was granted on Tuesday.

"A geographical indication or geographical indication tag is a trade name or label applied to a particular product that designates a particular geographic region or country of origin. The GI tag's primary feature is its uniqueness, which guards against any form of third-party misuse," he said.

According to him, the GI tag is a form of intellectual property right that identifies goods originating from a specific geographical location and having distinct nature, quality and characteristics linked to that location.

"Now, only an authorised user has the exclusive rights to use the geographical indication in relation to these products," the director said.

Further, he said, "No person can copy it from beyond their geographical areas. This will prevent unauthorised use of these registered Geographical Indication goods by third parties and will boost exports and promote their brands at the international level".

106% Rise In Foreign Tourist Arrivals In India In 2023 For Jan-June Period



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The number of foreign tourists who arrived in India this year during January-June is 106 per cent more than the figure for the corresponding period in 2022, official sources said.

Also, according to data shared by them, there has been a growth in foreign exchange earnings for this period in 2023 compared to the corresponding figures last year.

India has been making sustained efforts to boost tourism in the country, seeking a rise in footfall of both domestic and international tourists, after the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Officials earlier said after the coronavirus pandemic, foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India have increased.

"The number of foreign tourists who arrived in India this year during January-June stood at 43.80 lakh, which is 106 per cent higher than the figure (21.24 lakh) for the corresponding period in 2022," a source said on Tuesday.

As far as domestic tourism is concerned, the figure stood at 677 million in 2021 and grew to 1,731 million in 2022, the sources added.

Sharing data on the rise in tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir, the source said in 2022, the figures stood at over 1.8 crore while the figures for the period January-June in 2023, were pegged at 1.09 crore.

They said the construction of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Varanasi has contributed to the growth in tourism in the temple town.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on December 13, 2021, inaugurated the first phase of the corridor christened Kashi Vishwanath Dham, a project that is spread over 500,000 square feet and connects the temple premises to the Ganga river.

Modi, in a recent Mann Ki Baat address, said the recent jump in the number of tourists in Varanasi, reflects a "cultural reawakening." Sources on Tuesday added that 7.16 crore people visited the temple in 2022 and 2.29 crore in 2023 (January-May), adding the number of visitors to the holy shrine has grown manifold since the construction of the corridor.

Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust's CEO, Sunil Verma, recently said that about 10 crore devotees have visited the temple since the inauguration of the corridor.

In 10 Years Uber Drivers Earned Over Rs 50,000 Cr in India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Uber, on Tuesday, said drivers have earned over Rs 50,000 crore through its platform since 2013, as the ride-hailing app completed a 10-year milestone in India.

Uber drivers have driven 3,300 crore kilometres here during this period "equivalent to travelling from Earth to the Moon about 86,000 times", according to a company release.

Uber India and South Asia President, Prabhjeet Singh said with a vibrant demography and expanding digital economy, "the future is exciting" and added that the company is looking forward to doing its bit to accelerate progress towards India's envisioned techade.

In a release marking the completion of the decade-long journey in India, Uber noted that the total number of trips taken on Uber in India stands at 300 crore.

"Over the last 10 years in India...over Rs 50,000 crore - that is the amount of money drivers have earned through the Uber platform since 2013," the release said. Giving another statistics, it said "30 lakh - that is the number of drivers who have earned via the Uber app

as a driver partner..."

Starting with a few cities, Uber currently operates in over 125 cities across India, making it possible for millions of people to book a ride within minutes and helping over 8,00,000 drivers earn a sustainable income.



Recounting its journey, Uber said it introduced several India-first innovations, tailored to meet the specific demands of Indian riders and drivers.

"From the introduction of cash payments and regional language support to the implementation of several industry-first safety features, Uber has consistently strived to provide a seamless experience for its users," Uber said.

YouTube Removed 1.9 Million Videos In Jan-Mar 2023 In India For Community Norm Violation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Over 1.9 million videos were removed between January and March 2023 in India for violating YouTube's community guidelines, marking the highest removals among nations, according to a report released by the popular video streaming platform.

During the same period, globally, YouTube removed over 6.48 million videos for violating community guidelines.

The Community Guidelines Enforcement report provides global data on the flags YouTube receives and how YouTube enforces policies.

Between January and



March 2023, in India, over 1.9 million videos were removed for violating YouTube's Community Guidelines. In comparison, in the US, 6,54,968 videos were removed, Russia (4,91,933), and Brazil (4,49,759).

"Since the earliest days as

a company, our Community Guidelines have protected the YouTube community from harmful content. We enforce our policies using a combination of machine learning and human reviewers," YouTube said.

Rs 200 LPG Price Cut On Oil Cos, Govt Unlikely To Give Subsidy

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Bumper earnings in the first five months of the current fiscal and international benchmark coming off its highs will help state-owned oil companies absorb the Rs 200 per cylinder cut in cooking gas LPG prices, sources said indicating there may be no government compensation for that.

On Tuesday, the government announced a Rs 200 per cylinder cut in prices of domestic cooking gas to soften the impact of rising inflation on households as well as counter the promise of cheaper LPG made by the Congress party in upcoming assembly elections.

This resulted in the price of a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in the national capital coming down to Rs 903 from Rs 1,103 earlier. For Ujjwala beneficiaries, the price will be Rs 703 after considering the continuing Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) posted bumper earnings in the April-June quarter and the trend is continuing in thereafter, government and industry sources said.

Also, Saudi CP - the price to which domestic LPG rates are benchmarked due to high import dependence - declined from USD 732 per tonne in March 2023 to USD 385 in July. Rates have gone up in August to USD 464 per tonne but still provide enough cushion for oil companies to cut LPG prices, they said.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in television interviews on Wednesday said the three oil marketing companies cut the prices as "good corporate citizens" and the extension of "very healthy profits" of April-June



(the first quarter of the current fiscal) in the following months will help their decision.

He however did not give a direct reply to questions on the government providing subsidy support for the decision.

Sources said the price cut is on oil companies and the government has so far not indicated any intention to provide for those.

The three firms booked under-recoveries or losses when Saudi CP had shot up in March/April. The losses are yet to be recovered, they said.

What may have compounded their woes is the rise in rates in August. Saudi CP for propane has gone up to USD 470 per tonne in August and that for butane to USD 460. This compares to USD 400 per tonne rate for propane and USD 375 for butane in July.

A mix of propane and butane results in the creation of LPG. An industry source said if the reduction in benchmark rate was the only criterion for deciding the price cut, LPG rates should have then been cut in July.

But the decision is political. Cooking gas prices have shot up in the last couple of years and have become a major election issue. The Congress party used the high LPG prices, which had burnt a hole in the budgets of households already reeling under high inflation, effectively in the recently concluded assembly elections in Karnataka.

Apple Confirms 'Wonderlust' Event, Iphone 15 Series To Be Out On This Date

ANI

WASHINGTON: Apple has sent out invitations for its eagerly awaited "Wonderlust" event and formally revealed the date for the release of its iPhone 15 series, according to the Mashable website.

The Cupertino-based tech giant will hold its next important hardware announcement on September 12. The most anticipated iPhone 15 will finally be released, and the entire world will be able to see it.

Along with a number of other goods and services, the iPhone 15 lineup will be unveiled at this event. It will start at 1 PM ET, which for fans in India translates to 10:30 pm IST.

The predicted iPhone 15 series has been the subject of numerous leaks and reports, which have shown some significant design modifications, reported Mashable.

The removal of the lightning port in favour of a USB-C port looks to be the most important change among these.



It's important to note, though, that the iPhone 15 series is not likely to see an improvement in charging speeds. Additionally, Apple might supply colourful USB-C connections that match the model's colour scheme.

The normal iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus devices may eventually ditch the notch in favour of Dynamic Island technology, which would be a huge change. Apple may perhaps release a special Green hue variant of the iPhone 15 as well.

While it is predicted that the iPhone 15 variants will go on sale on September 22, Apple will only formally confirm the exact release date during the event scheduled for September 12.

Int'l Scientific Team Explores Bio-Fertilizer Impact on Saffron Growth in Kishtwar

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: A distinguished team of scientists from the University of Jammu, led by Dr. Jyoti Vakhlu, Professor & Former Director, Dr. Nancy Bhagat, Research Associate and Nikita Sharma, PhD Scholar, School of Biotechnology, along with Dr. Micha Horacek from the Austrian Agency of Food Safety (Austria), embarked on a significant expedition to District Kishtwar.

During this insightful interaction, the scientific team exchanged valuable insights and knowledge with local saffron cultivators. The discussions centered around the application and utilization of a bio-fertilizer developed at the University of Jammu. The team, acknowledging the significance of saffron cultivation, initiated demonstration trials at the Saffron Development Farm in Berwar Kishtwar. These trials aim to study the potential impact of the bio-fertilizer on saffron growth before the transplanting phase.

As part of their comprehensive exploration, the team also ventured into the saffron growing belts to visit the fields of dedicated farmers. This immersive experience provided them with a practical understanding of the local saffron cultivation practices and challenges.

Throughout their visit, the Department of Agriculture extended wholehearted support and cooperation to the scientific team. Recognizing the vital role of saffron in the district's agricultural landscape, officials encouraged the continuation of research efforts that could enhance the crop's productivity. Additionally, the research insights have the potential to create new marketing opportunities for the saffron produce, benefiting both the local community and the broader economy.

The collaborative endeavor between the University of Jammu's scientific team and the local agricultural authorities demonstrates a shared commitment to fostering innovation and sustainable practices in saffron cultivation.

The visit not only underlines the importance of cross-border scientific collaboration but also highlights the potential for cutting-edge research to positively impact traditional agricultural sectors. Through such endeavors, Kishtwar Dis-

J&K Bank Commissions ATM In Shopian



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Extending basic banking services to the people, J&K Bank Wednesday dedicated an ATM for people at Memander in district Shopian.

Deputy commissioner Shopian Fazlul Haseeb (IAS) inaugurated the Automated Teller Machine in presence of Bank's Zonal Head (pulwama) Tariq Ali, Cluster Head Bashir Ahmed amid gathering of valuable customers and other officials

of the Bank. While lauding the contribution of the Bank in the economic development of J&K, Deputy Commissioner said that the installation of ATM will bring ease for the people availing basic banking services even after the banking hours.

Urging the people to avail the facility as per their convenience, Zonal Head reiterated the Bank's commitment to ensure ease-of-banking across its areas of operation.

Agri Dept Organizes Two-Day Seminar On Transformation Of Beekeeping

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Kupwara Wednesday organized a Seminar on the title 'Transformation of Bee Keeping', at Town Hall, here.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Altaf Ahmad Khan was chief guest on the occasion while Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal was guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADCDC said that district Kupwara has been endowed with the huge natural resources like forests which offer an ample scope for agriculture, allied activities especially Beekeeping. He asked the farmers to take maximum benefit under the programme

by getting training and awareness of different Government schemes to establish their income generating units under the Apiculture sector.

Director Agriculture welcomed the farmer participants for taking part in the Seminar despite the ongoing cropping season. He asked the Officers and Resource Persons to guide the farmers in local language so that they could easily understand the procedure and technicalities involved in the process of beekeeping.

He said that there are numerous success stories on ground regarding Apiculture development in the valley which needs to be shared with the aspiring bee keepers which will help them in developing their bee colonies on commercial lines.

On the occasion, Chief

Agriculture Officer Kupwara informed that the Seminar which will last for 2 days is aimed at to develop the Apiculture Sector in the district on a commercial scale by involving educated unemployed youth to generate their livelihood. He also highlighted the progress and achievements of the department under the Apiculture Sector in the district.

KVK Head Kupwara also spoke and highlighted the importance of Beekeeping for income generation and other health benefits. He assured the farmers of every possible support from the KVK in establishing their Bee colonies smoothly.

On the occasion, a Souvenir about the Transformation of Beekeeping in District Kupwara was also released.

PM Modi Greets People On Raksha Bandhan, Celebrates With Schoolchildren

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan on Wednesday and was joined by girl students from different schools at his residence to celebrate the festival.

Dedicated to the unbreakable trust and immense love between sister and brother, this auspicious festival is a "sacred reflection of our culture", he said on X and wished that it strengthens the feelings of affection and harmony in people's lives.

Students tied rakhi on Modi's wrist with the prime minister interacting with them on various issues. "The children shared their positive feelings on the recent success of Chandrayaan-3 mission and expressed their enthusiasm about the upcoming Aditya L-1 mission," a PMO statement said.

They also recited poems and



sang songs during the interaction. Impressed by their articulation, Modi encouraged them to explore writing poems on different topics including government schemes for the benefit of the public, it said.

Explaining the importance of self-reliance, Modi also advised the children to use Made-in-India products.

Various students, accompanied by their teachers, participated in the celebration. Representatives of NGOs, widows from Vrindavan, as well as other individuals were also present, it said.

Queen Camilla unveils portrait of British Indian spy Noor Inayat Khan in London

Press Trust Of India

London: Britain's Queen Camilla has unveiled a new portrait of the Indian-origin spy and descendent of Tipu Sultan, Noor Inayat Khan, at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Club here to honour her sacrifice as an undercover agent for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during the World War II.

The 76-year-old senior royal on Tuesday also formally named a room at the RAF Club as "Noor Inayat Khan Room", where the portrait hangs opposite a stained-glass window celebrating women in the RAF which was inaugurated by her late mother-in-law Queen Elizabeth II in 2018.

Noor was a member of RAF's Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) when she was recruited to the SOE in 1942 and went on to become one of only two members of the WAAF to be awarded the George Cross (GC) the highest award bestowed for acts of the greatest heroism,

or for the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger.

"It was a proud moment to have the Queen unveil the portrait of Noor Inayat Khan at the RAF Club," said British Indian author Shrabani Basu, who presented a copy of her biography of Noor 'Spy Princess: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan' to the Queen at the unveiling ceremony.

"For me, it has been a privilege to tell her story. This wonderful portrait will now be seen by many young men and women for generations. Noor's story will never be forgotten," she said.

Born Noor-un-Nisa Inayat Khan in Moscow in 1914 to an Indian sufi saint father and American mother, Noor moved to London at a young age before settling in Paris for her school years. Following the fall of France during the Second World War, she escaped to England and joined the WAAF.

In late 1942, she was

recruited into the SOE created to conduct espionage, sabotage, and reconnaissance in occupied territories during the war.

Her new portrait at the RAF Club was unveiled in the presence of her relatives, including 95-year-old cousin Shaikh Mahmood and nephew Pir Zia Inayat Khan.

The portrait has been created by celebrated British artist Paul Brason, a former President of the Society of Portrait Painters. He based his creation on the few available images of Noor Inayat Khan to capture her steely resolve as an undercover agent, who refused to crack under brutal Nazi interrogation before being shot by the Gestapo at Dachau concentration camp in Germany in 1944 with the word "liberty" on her lips.

"Noor was the first woman SOE operator to be infiltrated into France, and was landed by Lysander aircraft on 16 June 1943. During the following weeks, the Gestapo arrested most of the Paris Resistance

Group in which she worked. Despite the danger, Noor refused to return to England because she did not wish to leave her French comrades without communications and she hoped also to rebuild the Group," the RAF Club said in a statement.

"The Gestapo had a full description of Noor, who they knew only by her code name Madeleine", and in October 1943 she was captured by them. Despite brutal interrogation she refused to give any information, either as to her work or her colleagues. She was imprisoned in Gestapo HQ during which time she made two unsuccessful attempts at escape, and was then sent to Germany for so called safe custody. She was considered to be a particularly dangerous and uncooperative prisoner," it noted.

Noor was awarded the GC posthumously for displaying the most conspicuous courage, both moral and physical, over a period of more than 12 months.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Seizure Of 3836 Vehicles

in infrastructural development and provides employment to thousands of families and revenue to the government exchequer, the illegal extraction of river-bed material, according to residents of various areas of Kashmir and government's own appraisal committees have highlighted the environmental degradation caused by illegal mining across Kashmir.

Seizure of thousands of vehicles and hundreds of mineral dumps, as revealed by the report, shines a spotlight on the extent of illegal river-bed mining being carried out across Kashmir. "...the unregulated activity as a whole is seen to have significant adverse impacts on environment and fluvial physical habitat characteristics," observes the DEERS report.

In recent years, Jammu and Kashmir Expert Appraisal Committee (JKEAC), an eight-member committee of different subject experts constituted by the central government, has highlighted the negative impacts of illegal river-bed mineral mining several times. "The JKEAC has taken note of the news items circulating in the print and social media over the last fortnight relating to large scale illegal exploitation of river bed material in different streams of the Union Territory reportedly going on unchecked without any Environmental Clearance," JKEAC had noted in one of its meetings, minutes of which were available on the government website. It had also expressed concern on the non-availability of any authentic replenishment data, sketchy district survey reports as well as various other issues.

According to the DEERS report, out of the 72 Minor Mineral Blocks identified in River Jhelum, 58 e-auctioned mineral blocks were cancelled by J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority vide its circular no. JKEIAA/2020/2018/106/1697-98 dated: 18.12.2021 as it did not consider the Environmental Clearances for River Jhelum mining projects for being an in-stream mining.

Residents living alongside rivers and streams in various areas of the valley have also been complaining about illegal river-bed mineral mining and are expressing their concerns about the harmful impacts of illegal mineral mining.

"The way these people carry out extraction of sand, gravel and boulders from the rivers, the day is not far when it would deprive us from cultivating our agricultural land altogether," said Mohammad Maqbool, a resident of Pulwama district, adding that large scale mining of river-beds is changing the courses of rivers and streams thereby making it difficult for farmers to irrigate their rice farms.

Abdul Majeed, a farmer in Kupwara district's Lolab area also expressed similar concerns. "Continuous mining in the Warnow Nallah has deepened its bed to such an extent that farmers have to struggle every year for diverting the water to the canals leading to rice farms," Majeed told Kashmir Observer.

According to research published by Centre of Mining Environment, Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad, the large-scale extraction of streambed materials, mining and dredging below the existing streambed, and the alteration of channel-bed form and shape leads to several impacts such as erosion of channel bed and banks, increase in channel slope, and change in channel morphology.

Besides causing losses to farmers and fishing communities, river-bed mining causes a number of other visible and invisible negative impacts. According to a report published by Wiley Online Library, river-bed mining is linked to many changes in ecological structure, processes, and biodiversity of freshwater systems, including habitat loss and degradation, reduction and changes to the diversity and abundance of macro invertebrate and fish populations, increased viability of invasive species, changes to food web dynamics, reductions in water quality and ground water levels, and alterations to riparian processes.

Prior to 2016, the extraction and transportation of river bed material (boulder, bajri and sand) was governed by J&K Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1962 under which Short Term Permits on advance payment of royalty were issued to local extractors for a

specific period of time. "However, in light of the Apex Court Judgment in the case titled Deepak Kumar Vs State of Haryana & Ors dated 12.02.2012 all the State Governments and Union Territories were directed to frame fresh rules in respect of Minor Minerals under Section 15 and 23(c) of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957," says the DEERS report.

The Government of J&K framed and notified the new rules titled as "The Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016" vide SRO-105 of 2016 dated 31.03.2016. Under these rules the main mode of the grant of Mineral Concessions/ Mining Leases/License for mining of minor minerals is by way of e-auction in respect of State land.

"Accordingly in a Pre-auction process, the Department of Geology & Mining, J&K took up the identification and preparation of Geo-referenced Minor Mineral Blocks with areas not exceeding 10 hectares in light of the provisions of the said rules read with Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines 2016, 247 numbers of Minor Mineral Blocks were prepared in various nallas/Rivers of Kashmir Province along with the minimum reserve bid and after approval of the State/UT Govt. were forwarded to concerned Deputy Commissioners, Chairman District Auction Committee constituted vide Govt. Order no. 175-GAD of 2016 Dated: 01-03-2016, in pursuance to Rule 53 of J&K Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016, for putting them to e-auction, besides some Minor Mineral Blocks prepared were reserved for JK Projects Construction Corporation (02 no.) and JK Minerals Limited (03 no.)," the DEERS report says.

As on date, it adds, 224 number of Minor Mineral Blocks have been e-auctioned through the District E-Auction Committees headed by concerned Deputy Commissioners in various Districts of Kashmir Province as per the terms and conditions of the approved E-auction Document and 203 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have been issued in favour of the successful bidders for completing the statutory formalities viz Approved Mining Plan, Environmental Clearances and Consent to Operate from the competent authorities before formal grant of mineral concessions.

Woman, Her

Ibrahim and mother-in-law Mirja Begum suffered serious burn injuries. They were admitted to a public health centre in Ukheral, he said.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, the official said.

Searches Launched

outgoing vehicles were being checked thoroughly. The identity cards of passengers are also being checked, the officials said, adding the step was taken to restrict the movement of suspected persons.

China Building

past claiming territories that are not theirs and that it is "an old habit" of China.

"China has even in the past put out maps which claimed the territories which are not China's, which belong to other countries. This is an old habit of theirs," Jaishankar said. He made the comments while replying to a question on the 'map' at an event hosted by the NDTV.

"It is not something which is new. It started in the 1950s. So just by putting out a map claiming territories some of which are part of India. I think this doesn't change (anything). These are very much part of India," he said. "We are very clear what our territories are. This government is very clear about what we need to do to defend our territory. You can see that on our borders. I think there should be no doubt about that," Jaishankar said.

"Just making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours. Let's be very clear on that," he added.

The ties between India and China came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border row 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.

India has been consistently maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC were key for the normalisation of overall ties.

China Defends New Map

Meanwhile Beijing on Wednesday defended its move to release a new "standard map" for 2023 showing Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as part of its territory, saying that it is a "routine practice" in accordance with its law and urged India to "stay objective and calm" and refrain from "over-interpreting" the issue.

India had lodged a strong protest with China over its so-called "standard map" laying claim over Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin, and asserted that such steps only complicate the resolution of the boundary question.

Asked for his reaction to India's diplomatic protest by a Chinese state-run outlet, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing in Beijing on Wednesday that "on August 23, the Ministry of National Resources of China released the 2023 edition of the standard map".

"It is a routine practice in China's exercise of sovereignty in accordance with the law. We hope relevant sides can stay objective and calm, and refrain from over-interpreting the issue," Wang said.

Govt Announces

Google form application, and to coordinate with the concerned departments to ensure proper record of grievances/complaints, if any.

"Furthermore, in order to dissuade frivolous complaints, action under relevant laws shall be undertaken. The Chief Secretary called upon people to participate actively in the process so that the goal of corruption free Governance can be achieved," the spokesperson said.

To ensure the success of the campaign, he said, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of feedback from all PRLs, Pani-Samitis etc with regard to certification, saturation of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), settlement of electricity meter related issues and resolution of land revenue matters.

Mehta, he said, advised all departments to be firm in resolve to make J&K corruption free as envisaged by the LG Administration. He reaffirmed that push towards digital Governance was a key element in providing the cleanest system ever in the UT.

During interaction with DCs, the spokesperson said, it was observed that although there were no complaints regarding the contract allocation under the scheme as these were allocated through e-tendering and no contracts have been awarded arbitrarily. This was confirmed by Principal Secretary Jal Shakti Department.

He said that it was also noted that there are only 4 complaints of very petty and local nature which have been received by ACB till date, one related to deployment of number of persons by a PSU, one without any specifics, another related to antecedent of some workers and last related to early completion.

According to the spokesperson, Principal Secretary, Jal Shakti further elaborated that all payments are made after proper physical verification and checks by third party exclusively through PFMS portal.

"Also, all the details about completed and ongoing projects are available on IMIS portal being monitored by Gol. The CS accordingly directed that all the completed and ongoing projects be put in public domain for their scrutiny as well in a simple manner at District level as well," he said.

Mehta, he said, further issued directions regarding resolving issues raised against the installation of Smart Meters.

"He underscored the importance of massive campaigns along with public outreach for awareness regarding Smart meters and steps to address any concerns related to readings," the spokesperson added.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Home; ACS, Jal Shakti Department; Principal Secretary, Power; Director ACB, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary IT, besides, all Deputy Commissioners and District Superintendents of Police.

HC Quashes

quashed detention orders against Sakib Akbar Waza son of Mohammad Akbar Waza of Khulbagh Gulshanpora Tral Pulwama (ordered to be detained by DM Pulwama on 16 December 2021) and Shakir Bashir Kumar of Shopian (ordered to be detained under PSA on 28.06.2022).

Also, a bench of Justice M A Chowdhary quashed detention, passed by District DM Kulgam on 27.08.2022 against Manzoor Ahmad Wani of Gratbal Qaimoh Kulgam.

Kargil Hill Council

Kashmir News Observer a total of 89 candidates are in the poll fray. "Of 89 candidates 17 belong to the National Conference, 9 to Indian National Congress (INC), 17 from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), 4 from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and 42 are independent candidates," the officials said.

They said that for the first time, the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is being used for the LAHDC Kargil elections. "In the previous LAHDC elections, Ballot Boxes were used, now EVMs shall be used on polling day. They were checked in presence of the political parties and engineers will also be present here during polling," officials said.

They said that an assessment of the constituencies was conducted by the concerned departments. "On the basis of hard, soft, and normal zones the assessment was done. Things including all the arrangements shall be put in place accordingly."

Political parties and independent candidates have started door-to-door campaigning. They have also come up with their separate agenda for the election.

According to National Conference district unit Kargil president Haji Hanifa Jan they have already begun the preparations for the elections. "Our alliance has announced candidates, of which 17 belong to NC and 9 to INC. Our candidates are contesting on all 26 seats. We will win with an absolute majority," he claimed.

Jan said that both INC and NC are busy with the preparations to ensure all candidates win. Nasir Munshi, INC Spokesperson who is also in the fray said that all of them are busy with the campaign.

"All of us are on the ground. Busy with door-to-door campaigns. We are ensuring that all our candidates win," he said.

ADGP Calls For

directions while chairing security review meetings with officers of Police and Army in Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian and Budgam districts of the Valley, a police spokesperson said Wednesday.

At the onset of these meetings, he said, SSsP of these respective districts briefed the chair about the prevailing security scenario of the districts and steps being taken towards anti-terrorism preparedness & maintenance of law and order- to further ameliorate the security situation in the area.

Kumar, the spokesperson said, acknowledged the determined efforts of J&K Police and security forces in upholding law and order within these districts. He said these meetings provided a platform for an insightful assessment of the prevailing security environment, counter-insurgency operations, and the strategies in place to sustain the atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

"Special focuses were given on actual numbers of FTs, their movements patterns and gathering of Humint and launching joint operations," he added.

According to the spokesperson, GOC Victor force directed all Sector commanders and COs to dominate the area at night and conduct operations along with JKP, besides stressing upon greater synergy amongst field officers.

"Later on all field officers shared the actual number and identification of hybrid terrorists. These meetings further accentuated the importance of fostering robust police-public relations and adopting a service-oriented approach to policing," he said.

ADGP Kashmir, the spokesperson said, directed the officers to conduct precision based operations with special teams and introduce innovative & handpicked mechanisms to ensure the neutralization of terrorists.

He said that an adumbrated overview of

the districts was taken, and specific guidelines were issued to officers to achieve targeted outcomes.

He further said that SSP Pulwama was specifically directed to identify and take strict action against Over Ground Workers (OGWs) involved in the recent recruitment of two new individuals into terror ranks in the district.

During these meetings, the spokesperson said, Kumar directed them to implement additional security measures in order to prevent terror incidents.

Besides, he said, the process for identifying hybrid terrorists and taking appropriate actions were also discussed in these meetings.

"ADGP also laid stress on strengthening the police-public relations, service-oriented policing which will help in gaining the confidence and trust of the general public," the spokesperson added.

Amarnath Yatra

finally at Pahalgam where the procession takes rest for two days before proceeding to Amarnath cave.

The sages along with Chhari Mubarak usually spend two nights at Pahalgam – one at Chandanwari and another at Sheshnag.

The puja of the mace was again held early on Wednesday morning before leaving for Panchnarni, he said.

On August 31, on the occasion of Shravan-Punima, Chhari Mubarak will be taken to the holy shrine of Amarnath to reach it before sunrise, and the puja shall begin with the rising sun, the official said—(KNO)

73,000 Visit

He said nearly 73,000 devotees visited the temple to attend the special prayers from 4:00 Am till late evening hours Wednesday.

SRK Prays at

dressed in a hooded blue jacket and his face fully covered, is circulating on social media.

Officials of the Vaishno Devi shrine board, some policemen and personal staff of the superstar could be seen in the clip.

The is Shah Rukh's second visit to Vaishno Devi in nine months. The actor previously visited the shrine in December 2022, over a month before the release of his blockbuster hit "Pathaan".

"Jawan", a high-octane action thriller, is directed by Tamil filmmaker Atlee. It is set to arrive in theatres on September 7.

The film also stars Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra. Deepika Padukone is making a special appearance. (PTI)

Man Charged In

last year on the complaint of city resident Ranjeet Singh Manhas.

The complainant claimed that Hussain introduced himself as deputy secretary at the Civil Secretariat and duped him of Rs 12 lakh on the pretext of arranging government jobs for his two sons in the tourism department, a spokesperson of the agency said.

Hussain, who is a class IV employee in the Gandoh special division, Power Development Department (PDD), had earlier also lured and duped unemployed youth on the pretext of arranging a job for him as a probationary officer in J&K bank, also by impersonation, the spokesman said.

The police spokesperson said the offences for cheating and impersonation have been established against the fraudster.

School After Kuka

Muhammad Amin, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Hajin Abdul Rahim Lone and the family member of the slain cop, the report said.

Constable Zahoer Ahmed Parray was killed in 2003 when terrorists carried out an attack on the vehicle of Kuka Parray when he was on his way to inaugurate a cricket match in Sonawari area of Sumbal.

Nine Gamblers

Besides playing cards, the spokesperson said, an amount of Rs 72,160 was recovered from the gambling sites.

"They have been shifted to the police station where they remain in custody. Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at Police Station Pulwama and investigation has been initiated," he added.

Test Of Character & Personality: Pandya On Indo-Pak Clash

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: The multiple battles against Pakistan in Asia Cup will test the character and personality of the players in the Indian team, feels all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

India gets their Asia Cup campaign underway against arch-rivals Pakistan in Pallekele on Sunday. Both teams can play each other as many as three times if they reach the final.

Ahead of India's opening game, Pandya spoke about the intensity of an Indo-Pak clash.

"It's an event which I've seen how it checks your character and personality, and at the same point in time, you can see in how deep waters you can swim. So, for me, all these factors excite me a lot," he told Star Sports.

"A lot of emotions are attached by fans. For us, it is about playing a good team, playing a match against a very good side who has done very well in the recent past." Pandya also men-



tioned that fixtures against teams like Pakistan involve making calculated decisions and not getting carried away by emotions.

"We try to keep the outside

noise outside and focus on how we can play good cricket. We can't get too emotional about it because then, certain decisions can be reckless, which I don't believe in. But, at the same

point in time, it's a mega event."

The Asia Cup is being played in the ODI format as a dress rehearsal for the ICC World Cup to be played in October-November in India.

Pakistan Crush Nepal By 238 Runs In Asia Cup Opener



Press Trust of India

MULTAN: Skipper Babar Azam hit a delightful 151 while Iftikhar Ahmed smashed his maiden ODI century as Pakistan thrashed minnows Nepal by 238 runs in the opening match of the Asia Cup, here on Wednesday. Babar and Iftikhar played pivotal roles in powering Pakistan to 342 for six after opting to bat.

Babar (151 off 130) was involved in two crucial partnerships after a sedate start — first stitching 86 runs with Mohammad Rizwan (44 off

50) and then sharing a whirlwind 214 runs for the fifth wicket with Iftikhar (109 not out off 71 balls) — to take Pakistan to an imposing total. Babar decorated his knock with 14 fours and four sixes, while Iftikhar, who was at his destructive best, struck 11 boundaries and four hits over the fence.

This was after Pakistan made an unimpressive start to their innings as they lost both the openers early.

It was always going to be a Herculean task for Nepal and it turned out to be so. Kushal Bhurtel made a

brave start to Nepal's chase with consecutive boundaries off Shaheen Shah Afridi on the opening two balls, but it was shortlived as the ace left-arm made a superb comeback to dismiss him and Nepal skipper Rohit Paudel in the last two balls of the over.

Brief scores: Pakistan 342 for 6 in 50 overs (Babar Azam 151, Mohammad Rizwan 44, Iftikhar Ahmed 109 not out; Sompal Kami 2/85) beat Nepal 104 in 23.4 overs (Sompal Kami 28; Shaheen Shah Afridi 2/27, Haris Rauf 2/16, Shadab Khan 4/27) by 238 runs.

SRINAGAR PREMIER LEAGUE

Moomin Scores 6 As Downtown Heroes Win 7-0



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Organised by District Football Association Srinagar, the 2023 Srinagar Premier League witnessed two exciting Round 12 matches at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

Crowd favourites Downtown Heroes FC took on Iqbal Sports FC in the first game of the day. The 4 p.m. kickoff saw some early action, as Moomin slotted home the opener in 8th minute for Downtown. Hafiz then doubled the lead for the Heroes in the 17th minute. Moomin got his second goal of the day in the 33rd minute to give Downtown Heroes a commanding 3-0 lead

at half time.

The Heroes' onslaught continued in the second half as Moomin completed his hat trick in the 55th minute. The charismatic forward scored his fourth goal in the 88th minute, before slotting in a penalty in the 90th to make it five. Moomin then completed his double hat trick in the 92nd minute, as Downtown Heroes won the game 7-0. In the second contest on Wednesday's schedule STFC Natipora played J&K United FC. Syed Tajuddin FC took an early lead after Raja Musharaf scored in the 15th minute. Khoargam made it 2-0 to seal the tie in the 89th minute.



DPS Srinagar Students Shine In MMA Tournaments

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: DPS Srinagar students secured a rich haul of medals winning two golds and two bronze in recently held Mixed Martial Arts tournaments at both national and UT level.

Mohammad Gasiq (Grade 11) and Mohammad Zahir Thakur (Grade 9th) secured gold and bronze respectively at the 3rd Indian Open Amateur National Championship held from August 25th to 27th at the prestigious Tanya Tope Stadium in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

The medallists pipped more than 300 athletes from various regions of the country to a place on the podium. The medallists displayed an immense grip on the fighting

techniques, dazzling speed, and incisive strategizing to impress both their opponents in the ring and the audiences alike.

Similarly, Mysha Bilal and Alishba Jee-lani (Grade 9th) secured a gold and bronze each in the 1st Khelo India Penchak Silat Women's League held from August 26th to August 27th at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Sports Complex (SKISC) in Srinagar.

The performance of the medallists was uniformly acknowledged to be nothing short of spectacular, as they demonstrated impeccable technique and a warrior's spirit throughout the competition.

DPS Srinagar Chairman Mr. Vijay Dhar and Principal Ms. Shafaq Afshan congratulated the medallists and expressed their delight at the success of the students.

AIFF D License Course From September 2 At Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Football Association on Wednesday announced that AIFF 'D' License Course from September 2 at Synthetic Turf TRC here. The course, however, is "open exclusively to candidates hailing from Srinagar, Budgam and Pampore," per an JKFA statement.

The FA said it's a "remarkable opportunity for aspiring young coaches to

shape their coaching journey."

The coaching course will be held in collaboration with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and J&K Sports Council.

"For all registered candidates, please reach out to Mr. Faisal (Course Coordinator) at 7006081857 to inquire about the status of your application. Kindly note that this course is open exclusively to candidates hailing from Srinagar, Budgam, and Pampore," the statement said.

R.P. School Holds Field Archery Coaching Camp



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A coaching camp in Field Archery was kickstarted on Wednesday at R. P. School Malla Bagh. Girl students from 3rd to 5th standard are taking part in the camp, which

was inaugurated by the school's principal Mr. Sajid Ahmad.

The coaching camp is being conducted by Field Archery Association of J&K in collaboration with R. P. School Malla Bagh under the aegis of Field Archery Association of India.

Inter-District Taekwondo Competitions Begin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Director Department of Youth Services & Sports J&K Subash C Chhibber on Wednesday declared Inter-District Provincial Level tournament open at Indoor Stadium Polo Ground here. He was accompanied by Joint Director Kashmir of the Department Waseem Raja and District Youth Services & Sports Officer Srinagar Ghulam Hassan Lone.

Speaking on the occasion, Director YSS stated that our youth have achieved many laurels in the sport of Taekwondo and we expect that the final team from J&K would perform to the best of their talent and capabilities in the forthcoming National Level event in the game.



About 140 young student players from different schools of Kashmir are taking part in the two-day event which shall conclude on the August 31. These competitions are being organized by the Department of Youth Services Sports J&K for boys of all age groups.

Injuries Can't Be Stopped: SL Captain Dasun Shanaka

Agencies

PALLEKELE: Ahead of his side's Asia Cup 2023 clash with Bangladesh, Sri Lankan captain Dasun Shanaka expressed confidence that his team will be able to go far in the tournament despite injuries and consequent pressure. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will lock horns in their Asia Cup 2023 clash at Pallekele on Thursday.

Sri Lanka has been stripped of its entire first-choice bowling attack due to injuries. While Maheesh Theekshana is still here, he does not have the company of his spin partner Wanindu Hasaranga, who is out due to a thigh strain. Pacers Dushmantha Chameera (pectoral tear), Dilshan Madushanka (tear in obliques) and Lahiru Kumara (side strain) are also big misses for

Lankan Lions.

"We cannot stop injuries from happening. Unfortunately, it is something that has been happening to our team repeatedly. I do not think there is anything wrong with the way we train or in our efforts. But I think we perform well under pressure. We have the team to be able to do that, particularly on the batting front. We have experienced players. I think we will be able to go far despite that pressure," said Shanaka in a pre-match press conference as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka fixtures have been marked by emotions and tensions over the last few years. Even last year, Sri Lankan players were captured doing the 'Naagin Dance' (snake dance), a dance often done by Bangladesh players/fans, after they defeated Bangladesh in one of the encounters.

But Shanaka made it clear that there is appreciation among both teams and they share immense respect. There is no ill will, rather "good brotherhood," free of outside noise.

"The noise is outside," Shanaka said when asked how teams felt about each other. "Between the teams, there's a good relationship. We cannot control the outside noise. It is a good brotherhood. We have that respect," he added. (ANI)



Absence Of Senior Players Big Miss: Shakib Al Hasan

Press Trust of India

PALLEKELE: Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan on Wednesday rued the absence of experienced players like Liton Das, but said they have enough quality in their ranks to paper over their unavailability in the Asia Cup. Bangladesh will face six-time and defending champion Sri Lanka on Thursday. But they will be without veterans like Das, Tamim Iqbal and Ebadot Hossain, all ruled out due to different reasons. While Das could not recover in time from viral fever, Iqbal and Hossain are injured.

"Of course, it (absence of veteran players) is a big miss. If you talk about Liton, he has been part of the team for the last four or five years, and he was doing consistently well for Bangladesh. "But having said that this will give an opportunity to someone else and I hope they make full use of this opportunity," Shakib said here during the pre-match press conference.

Shakib hoped that young players like Towhit Hridoy, who was a part of Bangladesh's U-19 World Cup winning side in 2020, will put their hands up in the Asia Cup.

"As far as Towhit is concerned he is really playing well for us this year. He

has done well in the recent LPL (Lanka Premier League) and that should give him a lot of confidence going into the Asia Cup. He is going to play for Bangladesh for a long time," said Shakib.

Over the years, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have constructed a heated rivalry between them, and instances like 'Nagin Dance' added colour to it.

In 2018, Bangladesh bowler Nazmul Islam celebrated the Lankan wickets with 'Nagin Dance' and later it became a flash point between the two teams and the fans.

However, Shakib was focusing more on the match and giving a good account of themselves in the Asia Cup.



PAINTING TOWN RED

Revellers Hurl Tomatoes At Each Other At Spain's Annual Tomatina Party

Agenceis

Bunol (Spain): Some 15,000 people, including many tourists, pasted each other with tomatoes Wednesday as Spain's annual "Tomatina" street battle took place in the eastern town of Bunol.

Workers on trucks tipped 120 tons of overripe tomatoes into the main street of the town for participants to throw.

The street fight leaves both the street, its houses and participants drenched in red pulp.

Tickets for the festival start at 12 euros (USD 13).

The town hoses down the area and the revellers shower

off within minutes of the hour-long noon battle finishing.

The festival, held on the last Wednesday of August, was inspired by a food fight between local children in 1945 in the town, located in a tomato-producing region.

Media attention in the 1980s turned it into a national and international event, drawing participants from every corner of the world.

Participants use swimming goggles to protect their eyes and usually dress in T-shirts and shorts.

The party is ranked by Spain as an international tourism attraction. AP



Mamata Banerjee Visits Mumbai, Ties Rakhi to Amitabh Bachchan



Agenceis

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday met Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan at the latter's residence in Mumbai.

Soon after arrival at Mumbai airport for attending the two-day meeting of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) on August 31 and September 1, Banerjee drove to Bachchan's residence in suburban Juhu.

Bachchan had attended

the inaugural function of last year's Kolkata International Film Festival, where Banerjee demanded that he be accorded the country's highest civilian honour Bharat Ratna for his contribution to Indian cinema.

Talking to reporters after meeting Bachchan and his family members, Banerjee said she has invited the actor to visit Kolkata.

"Amit ji is our Bharat Ratna. His family has also made a big contribution to the film industry. They are the No.1 Indian

family. If it were in my hands, I would have given him Bharat Ratna long back. But I am giving him the title of Bharat Ratna on behalf of people," she said.

"Today I tied rakhi to Amit ji. Today is a big day," Banerjee said.

To a query on who will be INDIA alliance PM candidate, Banerjee said, "India will be our PM face." "Our primary concern is to save the country," he said.

She also greeted ISRO scientists on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

UK air traffic control chaos caused by 'incorrect' flight data

Press Trust of India

London: The UK's air traffic control chief has said that "incorrect" flight data was the cause of the massive disruption that affected thousands of passengers stuck in planes and at airports as hundreds of flights to and from the country were cancelled, with knock-on effects continuing on Wednesday.

Martin Rolfe, the chief executive of National Air Traffic Services (NATS) which had faced the "technical issue" that triggered the chaos on Monday, said an initial investigation had found the failure was caused by flight data which its system could not interpret.

He also reiterated the government's previous statement that it was not caused by a cyber-attack.

"Initial investigations into the problem show it relates to some of the flight data we received," said Rolfe.

"Our systems, both primary and the back-ups, responded by suspending automatic processing to ensure that no incorrect safety-related information could be presented to an air traffic controller or impact the rest of the air traffic system. There are no indications that this was a cyber-attack," he said.

The air traffic chief reassured passengers that since Monday afternoon all NATS systems have been running "normally" but acknowledged that the "knock-on effects" continue to be felt at a particularly busy travel time of the year over the summer holidays.

Some reports have suggested the chaos may have been caused after a French airline misfiled its flight plan. Without confirming or denying the reports, Rolfe told broadcasters in interviews that the issue could be related to a single flight plan.

"We know it is something in the flight data and we will get to the bottom of it and understand why. We are conducting an investigation, we will conduct it incredibly thoroughly," he added. NATS - which is in charge of handling 2 million flights a year to and from the UK - said it has identified the issue around the way the system and "several levels of backups" reacted to the incorrect data, which should prevent similar delays in future.

It is, meanwhile, working with the UK's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on the investigation and said the conclusions of that report will be made public. As a result of the incorrect data, flight plans had to be uploaded to systems manually, slowing or cancelling air traffic across the UK. Thousands of passengers were affected, with many forced to spend the night at airports around the world and several still waiting for re-scheduled flights.

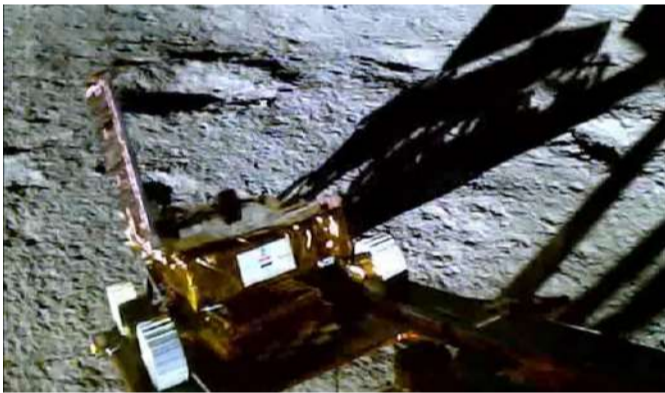
Analysis of flight data found around 281 flights, including departures and arrivals, were cancelled on Tuesday at the UK's six busiest airports - 75 at Gatwick, 74 at Heathrow, 63 at Manchester, 28 at Stansted, 23 at Luton and 18 at Edinburgh.

Chandrayan-3 Confirms Sulfur, Other Elements Near Lunar South Pole

NEW DELHI: India's moon rover confirmed the presence of sulfur and detected several other elements near the lunar south pole as it searches for signs of frozen water nearly a week after its historic moon landing. India's space agency said Tuesday.

The rover's laser-induced spectroscope instrument also detected aluminum, iron, calcium, chromium, titanium, manganese, oxygen and silicon on the lunar surface, the Indian Space Research Organization, or ISRO, said in a post on its website.

The lunar rover had come down a ramp from the lander of India's spacecraft after last Wednesday's touch-down near the moon's south pole. The Chandrayan-3 Rover is expected to conduct experiments over 14



days, the ISRO has said.

The rover "unambiguously confirms the presence of sulfur," ISRO said. It also is searching for signs of frozen water that could help future astronaut missions, as a potential source of drinking

water or to make rocket fuel.

The rover also will study the moon's atmosphere and seismic activity, ISRO Chairman S. Somnath said.

On Monday, the rover's route was reprogrammed when it came

close to a 4-meter-wide (13-foot-wide) crater. "It's now safely heading on a new path," the ISRO said.

The craft moves at a slow speed of around 10 centimeters (4 inches) per second to minimize shock and damage to the vehicle from the moon's rough terrain.

After a failed attempt to land on the moon in 2019, India last week joined the United States, the Soviet Union and China as only the fourth country to achieve this milestone.

The successful mission showcases India's rising standing as a technology and space powerhouse and dovetails with the image that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to project: an ascendant country asserting its place among the global elite.

Sick Leopard's Ordeal: Villagers Take Selfies, Try To Ride Animal In MP

Agenceis

Shocking videos of an ailing wild leopard being surrounded by a group of villagers, who are taking selfies with him and even trying to ride him, have emerged from Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh.

The incident occurred in Iklera village in Dewas on Tuesday, 29 August, following which the forest department rescued the leopard. The animal, suspected to be suffering from a brain disorder, was admitted to a zoo in Indore city on Wednesday in critical condition, an official said. The official also expressed surprise that the male leopard neither attacked the group of people surrounding him, nor roared at them.



"The leopard was rescued on Tuesday from Iklera village, about 80 km from Indore," said Vikas Mahore, superintendent of the forest department's Kheoni sanctuary in Dewas. He said that villagers will be warned not to go near any sick wild animal in future for their own safety.

In the videos that have surfaced

on social media, a group of men, some of them holding sticks, are seen either sitting or standing near the leopard. Some of them try to click pictures with the spotted feline, while some others touch the animal, which is not resisting their attempts. One video shows a man trying to ride the animal when the latter is walking.

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