

'Vision 2047'

'Naya Kashmir' To Have Flyovers, Expressways, 100 Ropeway Projects Airports To Be Upgraded To International Standards, Rail Service To The Last Corner Of UT

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The Union Territory administration has set an ambitious target to expand road connectivity across the erstwhile state by constructing expressways, thousands of new roads and over 100 ropeway projects across Jammu and Kashmir over the next two decades, official documents reveal.

According to UT administration's "Vision Document 2047-Jammu and Kashmir", for the five years from 2022-27,

the Public Work R&B department will construct 500 kilometer new expressways/Access Controlled Corridor (ACC)/national highways in J&K for faster communication in the Union Territory, exploring rich natural wealth, new markets for farmed products, development of indigenous industries and to promote tourism.

Over 2,265 kilometers of new expressways, 2,900 kilometers of major district roads and 14,150 kilometers of other district roads/village roads are



planned for construction in Jammu and Kashmir. During the same period, the department will construct

300-kilometer major district Roads to connect every village with the district headquarters and capital cities for their economic, social, and cultural development. The department will also construct 2500 km of roads in districts and villages to provide decent road connectivity to the Rural Population under the NABARD/PMGSY scheme.

The department will construct 300 km of major district roads to connect every village with the district headquarters and capital cities for their economic, social

and cultural development.

The department of central government announced "Parvatmala: national ropeway development programme" to be taken as a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative to conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.

"The aim is to improve connectivity and convenience for commuters, besides promoting tourism. This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not **More On P10**

CIVILIAN'S KILLING HC Upholds Life Sentence To Hizb Activist



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Wednesday upheld the life sentence awarded to a Hizb-ul-Mujahideen terrorist in connection with the murder of a 25-year-old civilian in Kulgam district of south Kashmir in 2002.

Abdul Hameed Teeli, son of Mohammad Ramzan Teeli of Kokerhama Kulgam, had filed an appeal against the conviction and life sentence awarded to him by Principal Sessions Judge Kulgam in 2016 for murder of one Nazir Ahmed Wagay (25) of Raghal D.H. Pora area of the district.

According to the prosecution, Wagay was killed inside his house on 22 February 2002.

Upholding the conviction and sentence order, a division bench of Justices Vinod Chatterji Koul and Mohan Lal observed that once the genesis of the occurrence has been proved by the prosecution evidence in the case, the defence evidence "which does not dispute the occurrence", would not be sufficient to dispel the entire prosecution case.

"After churning the entire prosecution evidence once again by us being the First Court of Appeal, we are of the considered view, that the prosecution has been able to prove the charges punishable u/s 302/452/34 RPC r/w 7/25 of Arms Act against appellant (Teeli) beyond any reasonable doubt, and therefore, his conviction for the charges deserves to be upheld," the court said, adding, "The net result now surfaces is, that instant appeal stands dismissed, while the conviction and sentence rendered by the trial court for commission of offence u/s 302/452/34 RPC r/w 7/25 of Arms act against **More On P10**

Ex Cop Gives Last Salute to Slain DySP Son

Himayun Became Father A Month Ago, Joy Turns Into Distress

Srinagar: Amid tears and sobs, Ghulam Hassan Bhat, who also served as a senior police officer in Jammu & Kashmir till 2018, gave a final salute to his slain son—Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Himayun Bhat, who was killed in a gunfight today in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

A fierce gun battle broke out in Kokernag village today in which three top officers including Army Colonel, Army Major and DySP of J&K Police were killed.

According to Kashmir News Observer, one among the slain in the Kokernag gunfight was the son of Ghulam Hassan Bhat, who served as Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) till 2018.



Bhat got superannuation in 2018. His son, Humayun, who was a 2018 batch JKAS officer lost his life during the gun battle today.

While the wreath laying ceremony took place and besides the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

Encounter In Anantnag: Army Colonel, 2 Soldiers; DySp Killed

LG Sinha, FM Sitharaman; Former J&K CM's Express Grief

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Three Army personnel, including a Colonel commanding a battalion and a Major, and a Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police were killed in a gunfight with terrorists in the higher reaches of Kokernag area in the valley while one soldier was missing, officials said here on Wednesday.

Colonel Manpreet Singh, Commanding Officer of 19 Rashtriya Rifles, Major Ashish Dhoneck, and Deputy Superintendent Humayun Bhat were critically injured in the gunfight with terrorists that ensued in the Garol area of Anantnag district in the morning hours of Wednesday. The officers succumbed to their injuries during the



treatment, the officials said, adding a jawan also died. The whereabouts of another soldier was not immediately known and it is feared he might have been seriously wounded. DGP Dilbag Singh condoled the death of the braveheart

officers of police and army.

In a message, he said every loss of life is unfortunate and asserted that the perpetrators of the crime would be brought to justice soon. He extended his sympathies to the

Second Terrorist Killed In Rajouri Encounter

A second terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces on Wednesday, raising the death toll during the ongoing three-day search operation in a remote village in Rajouri district to three, officials said. A suspected Pakistani terrorist was killed in an encounter in the remote Narla village on Tuesday. An Army personnel and Kent, a six-year-old female Labrador of the Army's dog unit, also died while three security personnel were injured in the gunfight.

Additional Director General of Police (Jammu Zone) Mukesh Singh said **More On P10**

Prez Murmu Launches 'Ayushman Bhav' Campaign

My First Duty Is Health Of Common Man: LG Says The Most Valuable Investment Is To Ensure Health For All



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that his first duty and highest obligation is the health of the common man, the Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that his administration is making earnest efforts to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign and launch of 'Ayushman Bhav' portal by President of India Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday, Sinha also observed that the most valuable investment is to ensure health for all.

In his virtual address from Raj

Bhawan here, the LG talked about the unprecedented progress registered by the country in the health sector over the last few years.

"Despite the challenges of Covid, Conflict and Climate Change, India has achieved several milestones in health parameters for all the citizens. The reflection of the country's achievements is also visible in the transformation taking place in the health sector of UT of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

"My first duty and highest obligation is the health of the common man", he added.

The LG said that his administration is making earnest efforts to provide accessible, affordable and quality **More On P10**

Pak Pushing Foreign Terrorists Into J&K: Army

Pakistan is making full efforts to infiltrate foreign terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir to hinder the progress being made in internal security conditions in the region, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi said on Wednesday. He said that the army has tried to neutralise foreign terrorists along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri and Poonch. "The biggest thing is that Pakistan is trying to make efforts from its side to send foreign terrorists here, despite the better internal conditions (security situation), so that they can create some kind of obstacle. "This is because of the progress that we are making in Jammu and Kashmir", Lt Gen Dwivedi told reporters on the sidelines of the North Tech Symposium at the IIT campus **More On P10**



Relatives mourn death of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Humayun Bhat, who was killed in an encounter with terrorists in the Garol area of Anantnag district on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

SI Recruitment Scam

HC Again Refuses Bail To Accused BSF Officer

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has rejected a fresh bail application of a BSF officer, who is alleged to be the main accused in a scam related to recruitment of police sub-inspectors, junior engineers and finance account assistants.

Fifty-eight-year-old Karnail Singh, Commandant (Medical) in the Border Security Force (BSF), was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in October last year. The alleged scam led to the cancellation of a list of candidates selected for the posts.

Singh, who was recently granted a short-term bail of one month by a sessions court, moved the high court, seeking bail on medical grounds.

"The bail application moved by the petitioner for grant of short bail for a period of two months on medical ground is found to be devoid of any merit and substance and is liable to be rejected," Justice M A Chowdhary said after hearing defence lawyer Sunil Sethi and senior CBI counsel Monika Kohli. "Bail application along with pending interim application(s) is thus dismissed," the judge said in his eight-page order.

Singh has moved about half-a-dozen bail applications since his arrest on October 18, 2022 by the CBI for allegedly using touts to get his son the question paper of the police sub-inspectors recruitment examination conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) in March that year. He was among 24 people **More On P10**

Traders Upset Over Relaxation Of Custom Duty On US Apples

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The decision of the Union government to relax 20% customs duty on apples imported from the United States has come as a shocker for the fruit traders in Jammu and Kashmir amidst the apple harvesting season in full swing.

In June, the US and India agreed to terminate six outstanding disputes at the World Trade Organization. Also, India agreed to reduce tariffs on certain US products, including chickpeas, lentils, almonds,

walnuts, apples, boric acid, and diagnostic reagents. The announcement was made by GOI a few days after the G-20 summit in the national capital.

The apple growers argue that they have faced a lot of problems due to the 2019 shutdown and the covid-19 lockdown, and now the further reduction of import duties from US products will hit their business hard.

The horticulture sector plays an important role in the Union Territory and contributes significantly to its economy. In 2019, Kashmir produced about



1.9 million metric tons of apples, the highest in the country.

According to government figures, horticulture is a source of

Growers Meet LG, Seek MIS Implementation

MAJID NABI

The valley based apple growers on Wednesday claimed that Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, **More On P10**

livelihood for 33 lakh people. About seven lakh families are

directly or indirectly involved and depend on this sector.

The UT has been declared as an Agri Export Zone for apples and walnuts.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, president of the All Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Association (AVFGDA), the leading association of apple growers and traders in Kashmir, told Kashmir Observer that the government needs to reconsider the decision taking into consideration the losses the farmers will suffer.

"This will not only hit apple growers of Kashmir but those

from Himachal, Uttarakhand and other states as well," Bashir said.

He further said "Allowing free entry for into the Indian market will be catastrophic for apple growers in Kashmir"

Earlier, the apple growers maintained that a large quantity of Iranian apples would flood Indian markets, which ultimately was hitting the Kashmiri apple's market share.

The growers claim that the free trade agreement (FTA) was being misused under the trade name of Afghan apple.

It may be **More On P10**

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

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Reconsider Apple Import Duty Cuts

The Union government's decision to relax 20% customs duty on apples imported from the United States threatens to drastically reduce the profitability of Kashmiri apple. The timing couldn't have been worse, as it coincides with a troubling dip in apple prices this year. The Kashmiri apple industry, already grappling with multiple challenges, now faces an additional hurdle.

Farmers in the region have long advocated for a 100 percent duty on apple imports to safeguard the interests of local growers. The higher import duties would ensure better returns for those who toil in Kashmir's orchards.

The predicament faced by apple growers in Kashmir is indeed dire. They have suffered substantial losses due to rising input costs while having to sell their produce at depressingly low rates. A significant portion of the apple crop, classified as C-grade fruit, is deemed unsuitable for the regular market and could potentially be diverted for juice production. However, this option has been hampered by the inactivity of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticulture Producing and Marketing Corporation in Sopore.

The opposition, comprising the National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the Congress, has promptly voiced their concerns and demanded a reversal of the government's decision. They assert that the move to appease international interests, particularly those of the United States, is putting the livelihoods of local Kashmiri apple growers at risk.

Omar Abdullah, the Vice President of the NC, has pointed out that the Centre should prioritize local producers' well-being over international trade considerations, stressing that there is no need for external imports when it comes to apples, walnuts, and almonds. Similarly, the PDP president Mehbooba Mufti expressed grave concerns over the potential devastating consequences for local growers already reeling from significant losses incurred since 2019. She urged the union government to reconsider the decision in light of its profound impact on the region.

Kashmir produces over 73 percent of the total apples grown in India. Official data reveals that apple production in the region exceeded 20 lakh tonnes in 2022 and is projected to reach 22 lakh tonnes in 2023. In Kashmir, horticulture is spread across 1.87 lakh acres of land and employs more than three million people, earning over Rs 10000 crore for the region. This is all in danger now if the authorities do nothing to protect the fruit from the imports made cheaper by the government. But the J&K administration and the central government should know that their responsibility is foremost to the fruit produced in our own country. So, it is time that they intervene before it is too late.

OTHER OPINION

The old and the young: at the US Open

The axiom that there are limits to human ability often faces its stiffest resistance in elite sport. Novak Djokovic's men's record-extending 24th Major singles title might set him on a path towards immortality. The straight-set victory over Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the US Open final drew him level with Margaret Court's all-time record of 24 crowns and made him the first man to win three Slams in a single year four times. Two years ago in New York, Medvedev had stopped Djokovic from completing the Grand Slam, the onerous feat of winning all four Majors in a single year. Coming into Sunday, the 27-year-old was fresh off a terrific semifinal win over tournament-favourite and top seed Carlos Alcaraz. But even at the age of 36, Djokovic showed he still had space to evolve and grow, rejigging his tactics by employing the serve-and-volley and mining every last reserve of his energy.

While generational battles are not new to men's tennis, the fight is on in the women's game among this era's finest to establish a firm pecking order. Coco Gauff, the 19-year-old from the United States, threw her hat into the ring with a come-from-behind three-set victory over Aryna Sabalenka for her maiden Slam triumph. Gauff first shot to the limelight at Wimbledon 2019 when she upset Venus Williams on her main draw debut. She made good on that early promise by reaching the 2022 French Open final and subsequently breaking into the top-10. But in July this year, she appeared to have hit a trough, exiting in the first round at Wimbledon. However, with a spruced-up game and a new coach in tow (former player Brad Gilbert), she secured three of her biggest titles — Washington WTA 500, Cincinnati WTA 1000 and the US Open — in a six-week span. What stood out at Flushing Meadows was the way Gauff handled Sabalenka's baseline barrage with her attritional play. For India, Rohan Bopanna, 43, partnering Australia's Matthew Ebden, became the oldest man to reach a Major final (Open Era). A close loss notwithstanding, he is up to World No.7, untouched by Father Time.

The Hindu



What Kashmir's Unprecedented September Heatwave Means

Faizan Arif

Kashmir is currently grappling with an unprecedented heatwave in September, shattering long-standing temperature records due to an ongoing dry spell that has persisted for the last 45 days.

Srinagar, on September 12th, recorded a scorching maximum temperature of 34.2°C, a staggering 6.0°C above the normal seasonal average. This marks the second-highest maximum temperature ever recorded in September since the establishment of the weather observatory in 1891. The previous record of 33.8°C dated back to September 1, 1970, with an all-time high of 35.0°C set on September 18, 1934.

Qazigund has also witnessed record-breaking temperatures, with a maximum of 33.2°C, a deviation of 6.7°C from the norm. This new all-time record surpasses the previous record of 32.8°C from September 12, 2019, and stands as the highest since the observatory's inception in 1956.

Kokernag reached a sweltering 32.0°C, establishing an all-time record, the highest since 1977 when the observatory was established. This came with a substantial departure from the normal temperature, 6.6°C above average. The previous record of 31.8°C was also set earlier this month on September 2.

If climate change is real, why have temperature records been broken in the past? What's different this time around?

While it's true that there have been historical maximum temperature records set in the past, including some dating back a century, the crucial distinction lies in their frequency and recurrence. In the past, these extreme temperature events were exceedingly rare, occurring once in several decades. However, today, we are witnessing a troubling shift. Heatwaves have become far more frequent, and their occurrence has surged. It's no longer something that surprises us once in a while; rather, it's a monthly occurrence. Previously, temperature records used to compete with those established 50 or even 100 years ago. Now, they are competing with records set just last year, a clear indicator of the growing trend.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report, titled 'Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis', a comprehensive 3,949-page document based on over 14,000 scientific papers and authored by 234 scientists, provides a compelling narrative. It underscores that hot extreme temperature events, which used to be infrequent, now occur 2.8 times more frequently. Events that were once considered happening every half-century, are now happening 4.8 times more often. Moreover, extreme precipita-

tion events and significant agricultural and ecological disruptions, which were previously rare with a decade-long interval, now occur 1.3 and 1.7 times more frequently, respectively. These distressing trends are only set to worsen as temperatures continue to rise.

The report goes on to highlight a sobering prediction: once global temperatures surpass the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold, a milestone we are very likely to reach within the next 15 years, the frequency of hot temperature extremes that used to occur once every decade and every half-century will skyrocket. Specifically, these events will occur 4.1 and 8.6 times more frequently, respectively, exacerbating the climate crisis.

This mounting evidence leaves no room for doubt: climate change is undeniably real, and its impacts

Ahmad, a resident of Pargochi Shopian.

"Every year, Kashmir experiences a prolonged period of dry weather, and the disappearance of glaciers due to global warming has worsened the situation. The Mawar stream, which was once the primary source of irrigation of our lands, now dries up during the spring and summer months. Consequently, some farmers in our area have shifted from growing paddy crops to cultivating apples for the past three years. Although their profits have decreased, this change has proven to be a better alternative given the circumstances," according to Muzaffar Ahmad, a resident of Vailoo Anantnag.

To gain insights into the current situation, it was necessary to turn to experts for their perspectives. Professor Rehana Habib

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The ongoing heatwave in Kashmir is having a profound impact on daily life, specifically in the horticulture and agriculture sectors. These sectors are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and the current dry spell and severe heatwave are exacerbating the challenges they face



Shakir Ahmad, a resident of Shopian, displaying the discoloration of Apples

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Kashmir's Horticulture and Agriculture Sectors in Dire Straits as Heatwave Continues

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"Water scarcity has become a pressing issue and everyone in our area is in search of water. Our apple crops have suffered greatly as a result. The heatwave has caused the apples to lose their color, become less juicy, and experience a decrease in weight," says Shakir

Kant, Dean Faculty of Agriculture at SKUAST Kashmir, elaborates, "The dry weather in August has affected paddy crops in areas without irrigation supply. Adequate moisture is crucial during the flowering stage; its absence stunts growth and reduces yields. However, the above-average temperatures and dry weather in September may enhance crop maturity for this particular crop. For Rabi crops, the ongoing dry spell is less favorable due to low soil moisture. Crops like turnips, radishes, and beetroots may suffer due to reduced soil moisture."

Syed Tafazul Hussain, Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, expresses, "Crops dependent on irrigation are facing challenges. Although paddy crops are near

harvest and may not be severely impacted, the moisture content in grains might be lower due to the prolonged dry weather since August. Fruit cultivation, especially apples, may suffer due to reduced moisture supply, leading to discoloration and reduced fruit weight, among other issues."

Amid these challenges, Mr. Hussain offers a valuable piece of advice for the future. He encourages people not to panic but instead to invest in long-term solutions like constructing tubewells, borewells, water harvesting tanks, or dugwells. These investments promise to secure water availability for crops, ensuring productivity remains stable and even flourishes in the face of climate uncertainties.

Weather Outlook for The Next 10 Days

As we look ahead, the weather forecast for Kashmir presents a mix of hope and concern. The region is expected to experience mostly dry weather until Friday. However, the plains of the Jammu region, including some higher elevations, may enjoy monsoon showers in the mornings. Towards the weekend, there is a 50% chance of rainfall in the Kashmir region as well, although any significant precipitation remains uncertain.

Looking further ahead, the next week is likely to remain predominantly dry in the Kashmir region, while some parts of the Jammu region may benefit from occasional rain showers.

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

Mechanised Incarceration of Man

Mushtaq Hurra

Modernly mechanised labyrinth of industries and machines has entangled and entrapped Ibbi-Adam in the deadly maze to leave him awry and bewildered. He is wandering bizarrely to alleviate his miseries and pains, but his outlandish bargain is sure to impede his search for peace, progress and tranquility. Sagacious and wise have called it "the cry in wilderness". Technology is sucking the life out of us, we are burned out, we are tired, but ; we can't see beyond the glare, because it has chained us so terribly that we rely on it for everything. Technology is not a peril, but an absolute enslavement to it, is the catalyst which incites all the trouble.

The technology has undoubtedly reduced the hard toil of man, but has miserably failed to solace him. He has diverged from the essence of joyful living, by succumbing to its hegemony. Though digital revolution coupled with popularly growing social networking sites, has brought people of distant lands together, but the virtual affinity has hollowed our connections to the extent that they collapse even by a slightly louder voice. Adhesion and glue of love and sympathy that would bind the relationships together, has evaporated into the thin air. The gadgets and gizmos have enslaved our nerves, and have exhausted basic human values and ethics from our lives. Kinships have fallen casualties to its charm. Connecting with dear ones beyond the realms of the digital world, is an antidote for our miseries, because man by nature enjoys and relishes in the company of his own people. Solitude suits Allah SWT alone. But, our prioritised solipsism has thinned our blood ties and familial bonds.

The hackneyed pursuit of happiness



has landed Ibbi-Adam into a rat race where like an ambitious tyrant, he tramples everything under his feet. Delicate human feelings fall prey to the oblivion caused by absolute lust of awe-full monopoly to rise above all. Accumulating surplus wealth with the help of gadgets, has become the ambition of contemporary man, and in the hunt, he tumbles beyond set standards of humanity. Consequently, solitude and reclusion has become his fate. He is alone despite having hundreds and thousands around him. He is busy in accumulating physical comforts at the cost of his inner peace and happiness.

Likewise, he has chosen to purchase depression, anxiety and insomnia for himself. Just like a desperate sailor, he craves for drops because oceans never help man to quench his thirst, given the bitterness caused by excessive salts in it. A big house, luxury car, hefty bank

balance and precious outfits are not the truest parameters of happiness. Pursual of material comforts is not a sin, but hankering only after it, kills the real joy of life. Our ancestors had not all that we have, but they had blissful, exhilarated and contented lives, because they were not greedy. We have been fiddling with our palm lines to store agony, affliction and perturbation in our fates.

Though the entire world has shrunk to a digital village, but, contrarily, the distances between human bonds have widened swiftly. The digital connectivity has badly failed to connect hearts, rather has been detrimental in our deteriorating social and familial ties. The advent of smartphones has proven the last nail in the coffin. None has time because everyone is busy over nothing. Scroll up and down the digital stuff on the smartphone screens, consumes our bulk of time. We don't have

OUR FATHERS AND FOREFATHERS HAD NO BIG DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES TO THEIR credit, but they were the embodiments of empathy, love, loyalty and compassion. Their hearts were fountains of sympathy which would irrigate entire villages and towns, leaving behind none. But, now, the tech-savy netizens have divorced that essence of life.

time for our own children and parents. Relationships have suffered terribly to digital deluge. Unheard and unseen human feelings are crushed to death.

Man has become the prisoner of the gadgets and digital systems. Excessive screentime has not only proven hazardous for his familial and social bonds, but has effected his physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health. Obesity like ailments are growing rapidly. People have become sluggish, slothful and somnolent. Our young generation is highly vulnerable to different health issue because they spend most of their time on browsing and surfing. It is not only pernicious for our individual health, but it is hindering our academic pursuits, scientific works, research projects and developmental progression. Our fertile brains are devoured by the serpent of social media and other digital platforms. Our youngsters tragically waste their productive years of life in trivial issues, while as great nations never let it happen. They make it sure that their youth spend time in

laboratories and libraries, though internet is a great supplementary source of knowledge and information.

Another side of the picture is darker and distressing. Technology has dried out cherished values from our lives. Glorification of violence by different social media platforms has unleashed a reign of terror in our society. Stabbing incidents by juveniles is increasing. Crime against women is on rise, because the latent criminal stuff in youth is scratched by provocative content on internet. Consequently, the crime curve is moving up.

Our fathers and forefathers had no big degrees and certificates to their credit, but they were the embodiments of empathy, love, loyalty and compassion. Their hearts were fountains of sympathy which would irrigate entire villages and towns, leaving behind none. But, now, the tech-savy netizens have divorced that essence of life. We hardly pay a visit to our sister's in-laws home, we rarely visit our ailing relatives and friends, rather text a message "Get well soon". With the result, saccharinity in relationships is gone. People are no longer connected to their dear ones though they have virtual connectivity.

Integrating technology with life is quite important and inevitable, but, succumbing to its pitfalls is distressing. Judicious use of it will help us to strike a fine balance between subtle human feelings and the technological brunt. Allama Iqbal AR has summed it up very beautifully : Hai Dil Kay Liyay Mout Masheenu Ki Hukumat, Ehsaasi Murawat Ko Kuchal Daytay Hai'n Aalat (Death to the heart, machines stand sovereign, Machines that crush all sense of human kindness).

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The importance of talent development for our economic future

By Khulood Al Mazrouei

We are living in an age of disruption, with fast-paced technological change creating new economic opportunities daily. As such, technical fields, such as engineering, are globally viewed as key to securing future-proof careers with a high growth trajectory.

In the UAE, our leaders recognise this fact and have set targets to improve educational attainment in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) subjects at schools. This is the foundation on which to build a diversified, knowledge-based economy and enhance the competitiveness of our country.

However, the reality is that access continues to be a key barrier for entry to STEM careers in the UAE. According to 3M's State of Science Index, released late last year, 73 per cent of those who responded in the UAE say that despite wanting to pursue careers in these fields, there is a lack of access to STEM programmes and initiatives, including too few STEM educators/teachers.

How do we bridge this gap between understanding the importance of STEM, and young people making careers in these fields?

Industrial players like Etihad Rail have a significant opportunity and responsibility to take the lead in providing what young people are asking for as they consider their STEM career options. Experienced practitioners in companies like ours can offer a wealth of information and insights. As a result, these companies are front and centre as role models that young people would like to engage with to better understand employment options, not just within our organisation, but also at universities and vocational schools, sharing their expertise with prospective rail



practitioners.

Another strong motivation is on-the-job training. At Etihad Rail, we take this responsibility seriously, launching the first of its kind railway diploma in the UAE, a three-year program, in

collaboration with ADVETI, Abu Dhabi's Vocational Education and Training Institute, in 2017 to enhance the UAE's rail industry and further create opportunities for young Emirati students to specialise in professions including train

captain, train controller, rolling stock technician, system technician, on track equipment operator, and track maintenance operative.

These programmes have, for example, nurtured the UAE's first Emirati

male and female Train Captains and Train Controller – who are an inspiration to young Emiratis in this emerging industry and will pave the path forward for the new generation of young and talented female Emirati engineers.

Students on the cusp of making career choices can also benefit from unique work experiences, as it offers them a glimpse into the real-life benefits of a challenging yet rewarding job in industrials. In addition to our internal training, we have created partnerships with a broad range of organisations with whom we work on arranging regular training programs and workshops led by industry experts, contributing to the quality of their work experience and career development. This includes overseas trips and placements with partners allowing our employees to benefit from world-leading expertise.

We are actively using these examples to recruit Emirati graduates, offering them ample opportunities to develop their technical and business skills in a modern, commercially driven pioneering organization. This exposure is key to correct possible misconceptions about STEM careers and broadens students' perceptions about their options – providing some insight into the breadth of STEM work.

While these measures may seem common sense, there is a need to do more of this as an industry and a country. As industrial players, we must redouble our efforts to encourage young people into STEM careers, to show what it means to be a professional in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field. In that way, we are fulfilling our obligation to the nation.

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

Govt Earmarks Rs 1,650 Cr For Additional 75 Lakh LPG Connections Under Ujjwala



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday allocated Rs 1,650 crore towards the release of an additional 75 lakh free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) over three years ending March 2026.

As per the existing modalities of Ujjwala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters after the meeting of the Union Cabinet.

He said Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the extension of PMUY for the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.

The total financial implication will be Rs 1,650 crore.

A targeted subsidy of Rs 200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for up to 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers.

With the release of an additional 75 lakh connections, the number of PMUY beneficiaries will go up to 10.35 crore.

The total financial implication will be Rs 1,650 crore. This includes Rs 2,200 per connection (14.2 kg single bottle connection/ 5 kg double bottle connection), and Rs 1,300 per connection (5 kg single bottle connection).

An official release on the Cabinet decision said some eligible households still do not have LPG connections.

This is due to multiple reasons new households are formed every year as a result of rising population, marriages, migration, nuclearisation of families, leftover households, extremely remote locations etc.

Return Property Papers To Borrowers Within 30 Days Of Repayment Or Pay Rs 5k/Day For Delay, RBI To Banks

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday directed banks and financial institutions to release all original movable or immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within 30 days after full repayment of a loan by the borrower.



Failing to comply with the direction, Regulated Entities (REs) would compensate the borrower at the rate of Rs 5,000 for each day of delay, RBI said in a notification.

RBI noted that REs follow divergent practices in release of such movable or immovable property documents leading to customer grievances and disputes.

As part of Fair Practices Code and to make things uniform, RBI asked "REs to release all the original movable/ immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within a period of 30 days after full repayment/settlement of the loan account."

In case of delay in doing so, it said, the RE would communicate to the borrower rea-

sons for such delay.

The borrower shall be given the option of collecting the original movable/ immovable property documents either from the banking outlet/ branch where the loan account was serviced or any other office of the RE where the documents are available, as per her/his preference, it said.

The timeline and place of return of original movable/immovable property documents will be mentioned in the loan sanction letters issued on or after the effective date, it said.

In order to address the contingent event of demise of the sole borrower or joint borrowers, RBI said, REs shall have a well laid out procedure for return of original movable/immovable property documents to the legal heirs.

Such procedure would be displayed on the website of REs along with other similar policies and procedures for customer information, it said.

With regard to loss/damage to original movable/immovable property documents, the notification said, REs would assist the borrower in obtaining duplicate/certified copies of such documents and would bear the associated costs, in addition to paying compensation.

"However, in such cases, an additional time of 30 days will be available to REs to complete this procedure and the delayed period penalty will be calculated thereafter (i.e., after a total period of 60 days)," it said.

The compensation provided under these directions would be without prejudice to the rights of a borrower to get any other compensation as per any applicable law, it said.

These directions would be applicable to all cases where release of original movable/immovable property documents falls due on or after December 1, 2023, RBI said.

Won't Make 6 Airbags Mandatory For Cars, Says Nitin Gadkari



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government will not make six airbags mandatory for cars, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

"We don't want to make six airbags rule for cars mandatory," Gadkari said at the ACMA annual session here.

Last year on September 29, the government deferred the implementation of the proposal to make six airbags mandatory in passenger cars by one year to October 1, 2023.

The government had earlier planned to make six airbags mandatory in eight-seater vehicles for enhanced safety of occupants from October 1, 2022.

"Considering the global supply chain constraints being faced by the auto industry and its impact on the macroeconomic scenario, it has been decided to implement the proposal mandating a minimum of 6 Airbags in Passenger Cars (M-1 Category) w.e.f 01st October 2023," Gadkari had said in a tweet.

The minister had further asserted that the safety of all passengers travelling in motor vehicles irrespective of their cost and variants is the foremost priority.

An airbag is a vehicle occupant-restraint system which interferes between the occupant and the vehicle's body during a collision, thereby preventing serious injuries.

Vehicles Catching Fire A Matter Of Concern, Kerala Forms Panel

Press Trust Of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The frequent incidents of vehicles catching fire in Kerala in recent days is a matter of concern and a committee has been constituted to study the reasons for the same, the state government said in the assembly on Wednesday.

State Transport Minister Antony Raju said the decision to constitute a committee comprising experts from the road safety commission, police and other officials was taken subsequent to an urgent meeting held on the issue by him on August 17.

The panel, constituted on August 28, has been asked to submit a report within two months, he said.

The minister was responding to UDF MLA Anoop Jacob calling attention to the issue of frequent incidents of vehicles catching fire in the state and the deaths as a result of that.

Jacob said there should be a



proper study on what kind of vehicles -- diesel, petrol, LPG, CNG or electric -- are catching fire and the reasons for the same.

Raju said that in the meeting of experts in the transportation sector, transport department officials, vehicle manufacturers, insurance surveyors and car dealers, several causes were identified as being the reasons for the fire. These causes ranged from man-made issues -- like illegal fittings, electronic failures and electrical circuit problems, he said.

The minister said illegal fittings, to make a low variant vehicle into a high variant, was identified as one of the major causes for the fire.

Govt Exploring Legal Options Against Electric 2-Wheeler Cos For Not Complying With FAME II Norms

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government is exploring legal options against electric two-wheeler companies for not complying with the FAME II scheme norms, according to a senior government official.

The Centre has sought Rs 469 crore from seven electric two-wheeler makers for claiming incentives while not complying with the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME II) scheme norms.

The government is seeking a refund of incentives from Hero Electric, Okinawa Autotech, Ampere EV, Revolt Motors, Benling India, Amo Mobility, and Lohia Auto.

As per the official, notices have been sent to the companies, and so far, only Revolt Motors has offered to refund the amount.

"We have sent them notic-

es. So far, only Revolt has offered to pay...others have not responded," the official said.

He noted that the deadline is almost over, and next week, the government will be making some decisions.

"We are examining legal options," he said when asked about action being considered by the government.

An investigation by the heavy industries ministry has revealed that these companies have availed fiscal incentives under the scheme by violating the norms.

As per the rules of the scheme, incentives were allowed to produce electric vehicles by using made-in-India components, but in the investigation, it was found that these seven firms allegedly used imported components.

The ministry conducted the investigation after receiving anonymous emails alleging that several EV makers were claiming subsidies without complying with the Phased Manufacturing Plan (PMP) rules to boost domestic manufacturing of these electric vehicles.

After that, the ministry delayed the distribution of subsidies last financial year.

The seven electric two-wheeler makers have urged the government to look at the possibility of asking customers to pay back excess rebates availed by them on the purchase of the vehicles.



'India's First Electric Highway's Pilot Project In Nagpur': Gadkari

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government is working on developing electric highways as it is economically viable, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Nitin Gadkari has earlier said that making India's first electric highway between Delhi and Jaipur is his dream.

"My idea about the electric highway is that NHAI will give right of way...Today, I had a discussion with the Power Ministry, I am trying to get electricity at the rate of ₹3.50 per unit, otherwise, the commercial power rate is ₹11 per unit," Nitin Gadkari said at the ACMA annual session here.

"Electric highway is very very economically viable...I will give all the rights to private sector investors who are going to invest (in the electric highway project)," he added.

Nitin Gadkari further said that electric cable construction will be executed by private investors and NHAI will charge an electric tariff just like toll.

Electric highways cater to electric traction for vehicles in the same manner as is done for railways. This is based on prevalent technology in a large number of countries like Sweden and Norway.

This involves the provision of power cables, which can be utilised by a vehicle which caters to this type of technology. The vehicle will utilise the power from this cable for its traction. At present, the ministry is evaluating various technologies.

"We are making the first electric highway pilot project in Nagpur," he said.



Div Com Jammu Reviews Land Issues Of Industries Department

DCs asked to resolve bottlenecks, facilitate development of Industrial Estates



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar Wednesday reviewed the establishment of Industrial Estates in the Districts and the land related issues of the Industries & Commerce Department.

The Div Com reviewed in detail the land acquisition for industrial Estates in Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur districts and bottlenecks being confronted by the stakeholder Departments.

The meeting was attended by MD SIDCO/SICOP, Inderjeet; MD JPDCL, Shivanant Tayal; Chief Conservator of Forest, B Mohan Dass; Regional Director Pollution Control Board, Sat Paul; besides Chief Engineers of JPDCL, Assistant Commissioner central, Angrej Singh; while Director Industries, Deputy Commissioners of Kathua, Samba, Jammu and Udhampur along with

other concerned officers attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding augmentation of existing and development of new Estates, besides the progress made in resolving the land related issues of the Industries Department pending in the districts.

The concerned Deputy Commissioner apprised the Div Com about the current status of each case. It was informed that most of the issues have been resolved and those pending would be resolved soon.

The Div Com instructed DCs to cooperate with the Industries Department in sorting out the pending land issues. The functionaries of the Industries Department were also asked to stay in touch with DCs and revenue officers to seek coordination for resolving the issues on time.

The Div Com instructed DC Samba,

Kathua, Jammu and Udhampur DCs to demarcate the identified land and hand over the same to the Industries and Commerce Department for establishment of Industrial Estates. The DCs were also instructed to resolve the land issues for approach roads to the sites.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also reviewed the power supply, water supply, roads to industrial estates. He instructed concerned DCs to ensure that all the facilities are available to industrial estates.

MD JPDCL was asked to resolve issues of power supply to existing industrial estates and explore provisions for providing sufficient supply to new industrial estates.

The Div Com called for proactive anticipation of District Administration and concerned departments to develop a favorable ecosystem for setting up more industries.

E-mail: techrbpl786@gmail.com

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA

e-TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No:148/8498-8508/EEP/RNB/of 2023-24

Dated:12-09-2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working Days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Accord Approval No:	Technical Sanction No./ Date	Call No:
1	Construction of Solid Waste Management Site at Ram-bhirpora Nagam Tehsil Pulwama.	146.29	2600/-	2% of Adv. Cost	365	AAY	FC Grants	MC/PUL/Works/ 1222-25 Dt. 22-08-2023	CE(R&B) K/TS/60 of 2023-24 dt. 06-09-2023	1 st Call

Status of Technical Sanction: Approved .

Project Authority: Chief Ex. Officer Municipal Council Pulwama.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-09-2023
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	13-09-2023 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	13-09-2023 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	30-09-2023 up to 04:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	02-10-2023 at 10:30 A.M
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security).

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall 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 shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The normal deposits (deducted @ 10% from running bills) shall be released after the DLP of the work is over.
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP
- Bid Performance Security shall be released after successful completion of Defective liability period and DLP period shall be Thirty Six (36) months after completion of work except buildings and Bridges.

Sd/-
DIPK-8775-23
DT: 13/09/2023
Head Draftsman

Sd/-
Technical Officer

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama

Gill No. 2 In ODI Batters Chart; Rohit, Kohli In Top 10

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Opener Shubman Gill has achieved a career-best second position and is the highest-ranked among three Indian batters, who are now in the top 10 of the ICC Men's ODI rankings issued on Wednesday. The other two Indians in the top-10 are skipper Rohit Sharma (8th) and the peerless Virat Kohli (9th).

Last time, three Indian batters were in ODI's top-10 list, it was way back in January 2019. At that time, Rohit, Kohli and out-of-favour veteran Shikhar Dhawan were the three batters. Gill, who had scored 58 and figured in a 121-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma in the Asia Cup match against Pakistan, has moved up one spot while Indian skipper and Kohli have gained two places each in the latest



chart released by the global cricket body.

Rohit has scored three successive half-centuries so far in the ongoing Asia Cup while Kohli advanced, thanks to his unbeaten 122 against Pakistan.

Pakistan also has three batters in the top-10 with

less than a month to go for the start of the ICC men's ODI World Cup. Captain Babar Azam is at the top and enjoys a lead of more than 100 rating points over Gill, while Imam-ul-Haq and Fakhar Zaman are in fifth and 10 positions, respectively.

The latest weekly update,

that also considers performances in three matches of the South Africa-Australia series and two matches of the England-New Zealand series, saw South Africa's Temba Bavuma closing in on a top-10 place after striking three centuries and two half-centuries in his last eight ODIs. He has advanced 21 places to 11th position while his previous best was 25th.

Australia players Davis Warner (up one place to fourth), Travis Head (up six places to 20th) and Marnus Labuschagne (up 24 places to 45th) have made significant progress as has the Indian pair of KL Rahul (up 10 places to 37th) and Ishan Kishan (up two places to 22nd).

Aiden Markram, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Liam Livingstone, Daryl Mitchell and Devon Conway are among others to gain in the latest update.

Asia Cup: PoK-Born Pacer Zaman To Make ODI Debut For Pakistan

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Pakistan Occupied Kashmir-born cricketer Zaman Khan is all set to make his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in the must-win Asia Cup match in Colombo on Thursday. Zaman, a young fast bowler who has had a typical rag to riches story, belongs to a poor family from Mirpur in PoK. He played first for Rawlakot Hawks in the Kashmir League and has now appeared in T20 leagues in Canada and Sri Lanka.

Zaman has not played any first class game but has represented Pakistan in six T20 Internationals against Afghanistan and New Zealand. He is set to replace injured Naseem Shah, who has been ruled out of the remainder of the tournament due to a shoulder injury.

The playing eleven announced by the Pakistan team management on Wednesday also confirmed that fast bowler Haris Rauf would sit out of the match with an injury.

The PCB had earlier announced the inclusion of Zaman in the Pakistan squad in place of Naseem. Pakistan med-



ical team is also closely monitoring the progress of Rauf, who is feeling discomfort in his right flank after pulling out of the match against India. The biggest surprise has been the rise of Zaman in the Pakistan cricket ranks as the 22-year-old only appeared on the scene when he played in the Kashmir League in 2021 and was then picked up by Lahore Qalandars

in the Pakistan Super League.

Yet to play any first class game, Zaman took just two wickets in six games for Manchester Invincibles in the recent Hundred tournament in England but is rated highly by former pacers, including Pakistan's team director, Mickey Arthur.

Zaman played for English county side Derbyshire where Arthur is the head coach.

Baramulla Wins U-17 Inter District Handball Competition



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: On Wednesday, Baramulla emerged Under-17 champions in the week-long Inter District Provincial Level Handball competition.

A total of 10 districts from Kashmir participated in the competition, with Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Kupwara earning a spot in the semi-finals after intense battles on the field.

In the semi-finals, Baramulla triumphed over Kupwara, securing their

spot in the final, while Bandipora secured their place by defeating Ganderbal in a fiercely contested match.

The final match between Baramulla and Bandipora was a true spectacle, with Baramulla emerging as champions with a remarkable 19 goals to Bandipora's 8.

During the prize ceremony winners and runners-up were given trophies and certificates.

Meanwhile, the championship will continue today with the Under-19 boys' competition set to take place at the same venue.

JKFA To Hold Santosh Trophy Trials From Sept. 15

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association on Wednesday announced that it will hold selection trials for Senior Men's National Championship, Santosh Trophy, from September 15 to 17, at Srinagar and Jammu.

In Srinagar, the open selection trials will be held at Synthetic Turf

TRC at 9:30 AM. In Jammu, the trials will be held at Mini Stadium Prade at the same date and time.

Players selected in the three-day trials will compete in the final selection, which is set to be held in Srinagar from September 19 to 20.

The trials will be organised by JKFA in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

JKSC Secretary Holds Kashmir Division Staff Meet



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gull, on Wednesday convened a meeting of all the managers, coaches, instructors and mentors of Kashmir division to devise plans for further expansion of the 'My Youth My Pride' and other sports activities in the region.

The meeting was also attended by Muzaffar Hussain Wani, Divisional Sports Officer (K) and Sheikh Riyaz Ahmad, Administrative Officer.

In her inaugural address, Nuzhat Gull emphasized on participation of all and provided them an opportunity to show-

case their talent and chisel it further.

While applauding the efforts of her team, Nuzhat Gull said that the Sports Council has taken a giant leap in increasing the participation of masses in sports across the J&K.

Addressing the participants, Nuzhat Gull said that she is proud of the efforts of her team.

The Secretary sought a detailed report of the ongoing sports activities and advised all the concerned to percolate the programs under special activities to each block in the division.

Meanwhile, Nuzhat Gull also visited the S.K Indoor Hall Complex and interacted with the athletes.

Mattan & Srigufwara Win U-14 & U-17 Cricket Tournaments

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Zone Mattan and Zone Srigufwara emerged winners in Under-14 and Under-17 Inter Zonal District Level Cricket Tournaments organised by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Anantnag.

The grand finales were played between Zone Mat-



tan and Zone Bijbehara (U-14) and Zone Bijbehara and Zone Srigufwara (U-17) on Wednesday at Sports Ground Jablipora, Bijbehara. In U-14, Bijbehara while

J&K To Host 67th National School Games In 4 Disciplines

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K is set to host Football, Volleyball, Judo and Fencing competitions of the 67th National School Games. A preliminary meeting regarding the event was convened by the Director Youth Services & Sports on Wednesday here.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports under the aegis of School Games Federation of India shall host these four National Level events in Football for Under-19 Boys and Volleyball for Under-17 Boys at Srinagar.

Simultaneously, Jammu will host Judo for U-14 Boys/Girls and Fencing for U-19 Boys/Girls at Jammu, as per the calendar of School Games Federation of India (SGFI).

Teams from all the 44 SGFI affiliated units from different



states/UTs and organisations are expected to participate in each discipline.

"The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K has geared up its manpower and machinery for the successful conduct of the event. Around 4000 participants across the country are going to participate in these events," Director YSS said.

FOOTBALL



England Midfielder Jude Bellingham On The Rise In Europe Post-Messi & Ronaldo Era

The Associated Press

MANCHESTER: Jude Bellingham is already proving that he has what it takes to help fill the gigantic void left by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

With those two superstars off to new territories, Bellingham has become one of the elite players in Europe, alongside the likes of Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Vinicius Jr.

On Tuesday, the 20-year-old England midfielder added another goal to the five he has scored in four games this season for Real Madrid. While the 3-1 win over Scotland was only a friendly, Bellingham has had an outstanding start to the season. He even set up another for Harry Kane on Tuesday in Glasgow.

"For a young man to have that kind of football brain, I love watching him," said former Liverpool great Graeme Souness, now a TV commentator. "Jude Bellingham is the real deal."

Bellingham joined Madrid from Borussia Dortmund in June

for a fee that could reach \$139 million. His goals have helped make up for the loss of Karim Benzema, who was part of the exodus of star players who headed for Saudi Arabia in recent months.

At a time when Messi and Ronaldo have moved to the United States and Saudi Arabia, respectively, Bellingham is among the group of players establishing themselves as the new generation of global icons.

Harry Maguire, however, seems to be going in the opposite direction.

Still the most expensive defender in the history of the sport after Manchester United paid 80 million pounds (then \$97 million) for him in 2019, Maguire has reached a crisis point in his career.

He has been dropped by Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag and stripped of the captaincy as his form has plummeted over the past year. Maguire was widely expected to change clubs during the recent transfer win-



dow, but an expected move to West Ham fell through, meaning he likely faces another season on the sidelines.

That is a concern for England coach Gareth Southgate, who has stuck by the center back throughout his troubles, and needs his players to be in regular action leading up to next year's European Championship. On Tuesday, Maguire scored an own-goal against Scotland.

Maguire has become a figure of ridicule among some supporters, while Southgate is also unhappy about the treatment he has received in sections of the media. He was mocked by Scotland fans in an intense atmosphere in the friendly at Hampden Park as the two sides resumed the oldest rivalry in international soccer, which dates back to 1872.

"From a Scotland fan's point

of view, I get it and I have absolutely no complaints with what they did," Southgate said. "It is a consequence of ridiculous treatment of him for a long period of time, frankly."

"I've never known a player treated the way he is — not by the Scottish fans, by our own commentators, pundits, whatever it is. They've created something that's beyond anything I've ever seen."

Despite the loss on Tuesday, Scotland is on a high after winning its opening five games in Euro 2024 qualifying. The Scots need only two points from their remaining three matches to secure a place in the tournament in Germany.

Scotland will next play Spain, which routed Georgia 7-1 and Cyprus 6-0. Teenager Lamine Yamal made history by becoming the youngest player to score in a European Championship qualifier at 16 years, 57 days against Georgia.

France, Portugal, Belgium and Austria are also on the brink of

qualification.

Under coach Roberto Martinez, Portugal has made its best start to a European qualifying campaign with a 100% record after six games and recorded its biggest-ever win in a competitive match in a 9-0 rout of Luxembourg.

Germany, meanwhile, can only be thankful that it has automatic entry to the tournament as the host nation. Hansi Flick was fired as coach after a 4-1 loss to Japan in a friendly.

Flick was already under pressure after the Germans were eliminated in the group stage of last year's World Cup — the second straight time the four-time champions had gone out in the first round.

The loss to Japan extended a five-game winless streak and prompted jeers from the home crowd in Wolfsburg. But there was an immediate reaction to Flick's departure as Germany beat World Cup finalist France 2-1 in another friendly on Tuesday.

Mental Illness No Bar For Medical Degree, Medical Council Tells Court

New Delhi: The National Medical Council told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that diagnosis of mental illness can no longer be a bar for pursuing MBBS course and such aspirants may be considered for quota benefits in future after "better methods of disability assessment" are devised.

On May 18, the NMC, which regulates medical education in the country, was asked by the top court to set up a panel of domain experts to examine a plea for evolving modes of disability assessment of students having mental illnesses, special learning disorder and autism spectrum disorder for quota in admission to MBBS course.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions of lawyer Gaurav Kumar Bansal, appearing for a MBBS aspirant, that several countries are not only permitting persons having mental illnesses to pursue medical education but also granting reservation in admissions.

The court permitted Mr Bansal to amend the petition to challenge the fresh guidelines of the NMC on the issue of admissions of persons with mental illness in MBBS course and non-grant of quota to them for the time being under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

The bench, however, acknowledged that the NMC set up the committee of domain experts and came out with some guidelines after examining the issue.

An eight-member expert panel discussed the issue of admission in MBBS course under the

disabilities law in case of special learning disability, autistic specified disorder and mental illness, the counsel for the NMC said.

"On thorough consideration of the recommendations received from the expert members in... meetings, the Under Graduate Medical Education Board reaches to a conclusion that in respect of mental illness, 'the diagnosis of Mental Illness can no longer be a bar for eligibility to pursue medical education (MBBS) provided the candidate falls in the merit list in competitive entrance examination ie. NEET-UG,'" the NMC said in its report.

"Since the benefits of reservation/quota are not determinable under the present available methods of assessment, hence the quoted italic statement in the earlier disability notification dated May 13, 2019 -- 'However the benefit of reservation quota may be considered in future after developing better methods of disability assessment' -- shall remain valid," the council said.

The NMC said such candidates claiming to have been suffering from mental illness are being considered under "Non-PwD" (outside the disabilities law) category for the purpose of taking admission in MBBS course.

Taking the report on record, the bench said it will consider the issue after four weeks.

The top court was hearing the petition by Vishal Gupta, who was denied reservation in admission to MBBS course under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act on the ground that his mental disability was 55 per cent rendering him ineligible for securing admission in a medical college.

Tropical Storms of Asian Rivers to Intensify by 20 Percent by 2050: Study

Srinagar: Fewer yet more intense tropical storms are predicted for Asian rivers, including India's Ganga, according to a new modelling study.

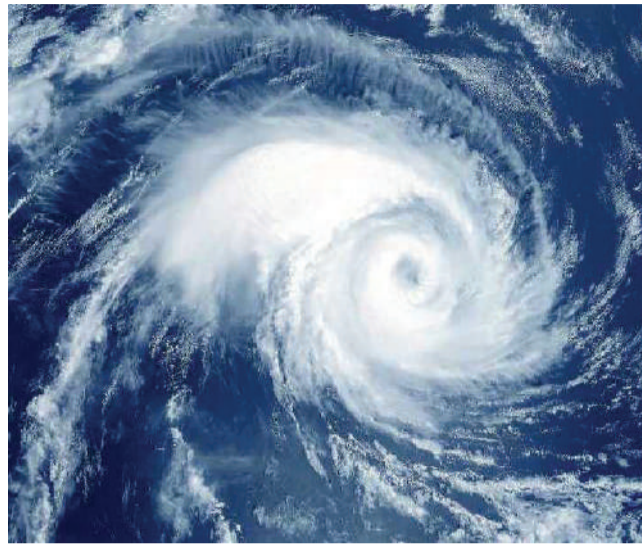
By the 2050s, tropical storms in the Ganga could intensify by nearly 20 per cent, the study led by the Newcastle University, UK, projected after performing storm modelling studies on high-resolution data under a high emissions scenario.

The storms are, however, projected to become less frequent by over 50 per cent by the same time across both the low-lying delta river basins of Ganga and Mekong, the study published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters* said.

The Mekong river runs from the Himalayan Plateau, its source, through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and southern Vietnam and falls into the South China Sea.

Due to their limited adaptive capacity and preparedness, low-lying delta systems on the east coast of India and those in Bangladesh and Vietnam are vulnerable not only to the massive damage and losses to life and property caused by tropical storms, but also to the impacts of climate change, including changes in precipitation patterns, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise, previous studies have found.

The study findings could thus help in assessing the resilience of critical infrastructure on these densely populated basins to tropical storms, in



addition to informing climate adaptation strategies to safeguard communities, the researchers said.

Tropical storms, formed when water vapour from tropical oceans leads to disturbances, can sustain wind speeds of over 60 kilometres an hour (kmph) and cause intense rainfall. Nearly 90 such storms form worldwide every year, with most of them resulting in major disasters upon making landfall.

Tropical cyclones, sustaining wind speeds of over 120 kmph and originating in the North Indian Ocean (NIO), account for about 7 per cent of cyclones globally with most of them forming in the Bay of Bengal rather than the Arabian Sea.

"Our results are consistent

with those found for tropical storms and tropical cyclones in the Atlantic Basin, where they also project an overall decline in frequency but an increase in the frequency of the most intense tropical cyclones.

"These systems cause massive impacts on society from high winds, rainfall and storm surges causing flooding. Quantifying these changes will allow us to better plan for future events," said study author Hayley Fowler, professor of Climate Change Impacts at the university.

"Knowledge of changes to tropical storms activity under climate change can be helpful in developing better disaster risk mitigation and for climate adaptation," said lead author, Haider Ali.

Apple's New iPhones Get Faster Chips, Better Cameras And New Charging Ports

Agenceis

Apple on Tuesday unveiled its next generation of iPhones — a line-up that will boast better cameras, faster processors, a new charging system and a price hike for the fanciest model. The showcase at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, comes

as the company tries to reverse a mild slump that has seen its sales drop from last year in three consecutive quarters.

The malaise is a key reason Apple's stock price has dipped by nearly 10 per cent since mid-July, dropping the company's market value below the USD 3 trillion threshold it reached for the first time earlier this summer.

کافئین ابقا لک

FATEHA

With profound grief and sorrow it is informed that Mohammad Maqbool Wani S/O Late Mohammad Sultan Wani R/O Buchwara (near CD Hospital) passed away on Tuesday Morning 12th of September, 2023. His "Fateha" will be performed on Friday, 15th of September at 2.30 pm at the family graveyard, Malateng (near Church/CD Hospital).



Allah (SWT) marhoom ko jannatul firdous atta karay (Aamen).

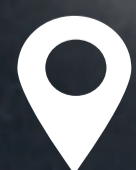
In grief : Ahmed Wani (Son)
Farooq Ahmad Bakshi (Brother in law)
Zameer Ahmad (Son in law)
Basit (Son In Law)
Bashir Ahmad Wani & Wani Family

M : 9419059385/ 8899988836/ 9858423838

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