

From Local Shops To Virtual Carts: Smartphones Are Transforming Kashmir's Retail Landscape

Farzana Nisar

In the cozy corner of a Srinagar home, where the gentle scent of cardamom wafts from the kitchen, and the melodies of a lullaby create an atmosphere of tender anticipation, Noureen, a first-time mother, cradles her newborn daughter in her arms. Like any parent, she wants nothing but the best for her child, and even before she was born, Noureen's journey into

the world of online shopping began with a simple quest—a quest to find the softest, safest, and most beautiful essentials for her precious bundle of joy. As she perused virtual aisles of baby clothes, cribs, and diapers, Noureen marveled at the choices available at her fingertips. In a time marked by rapid technological change, Noureen and her husband discovered that online shopping held the key to convenience in an era



of ever-increasing demands. "The convenience of browsing through endless options without leaving my home is a

blessing. The discounts are an icing on the cake, and now I even purchase formula milk, which is easily available in my neighborhood stores, through online markets," Noureen said, adding that she shops during naptime, effortlessly compares prices, and even has the purchases delivered to her doorstep. For her, the stress and hassle of traditional shopping seemed like a distant memory. Noureen's shopping behavior

illuminates the broader shifts reshaping Kashmir's purchasing landscape. It is a testament to how online shopping has woven itself into the tapestry of Kashmiri life. This gradual transition from traditional brick-and-mortar establishments to digital e-commerce platforms mirrors a more extensive and profound shift—a shift encompassing economic dynamics, adaptations, and offering a glimpse **» More On P10**

Indus Water Dispute India, Pakistan Attend Meeting In Vienna

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: India has taken part in a two-day meeting in Vienna that was part of the proceedings aimed at resolving a dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad over the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting in the Austrian capital city was convened by a neutral expert. Senior advocate Harish Salve was present in **» More On P10**

Mirwaiz Offers Friday Prayers After 4 Yrs

Breaks Down While Delivering First Sermon At Jamia Masjid Since August 2019



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Mirwaiz Umar Farooq offered congregational Friday prayers at historic Jamia Masjid, over four years after he was placed under house arrest following abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's semi-autonomous status in August 2019. The decision to release Mirwaiz comes days after he

moved a habeas-corpus petition at the Jammu and Kashmir High Court on September 15, challenging his prolonged house detention at his Nigeen residence since August 4, 2019. The court had given four weeks' time to the Union Territory administration to file its response to Mirwaiz's petition. Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid -- the management **» More On**

IAF A Symbol Of Strength, Bravery; Dedication: LG

Air Show Commemorates 76 Years Of Accession Of J&K Into Indian Union

Observer News Service

Jammu: Describing Indian Air Force (IAF) as a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday hailed IAF personnel for their magnificent heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. Sinha made these remarks while attending Air Show at Air Force Station, Satwari here on Friday. The event was jointly organised by IAF and the UT administration to commemorate 76 years of accession of J&K into Indian Union and diamond jubilee celebration of Air Force Station, Jammu. "Indian Air Force is a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication. I salute



the Indian Air Force personnel for their magnificent heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. My deepest gratitude to the Air Warriors and their families," the LG said. Citizens from all walks of life gathered to witness the

spectacular aerial display by IAF's Suryakiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Air Warrior Drill team, the Aakashganga Daredevil Skydiving team and the Mi-17 IV Helicopters. The Aircrafts maneuvered in the **» More On P10**

“ INDIAN AIR FORCE IS A GLOWING SYMBOL of strength, bravery and dedication. I salute the Indian Air Force personnel for their magnificent heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. My deepest gratitude to the Air Warriors and their families.”

4 Of Doda Family Killed In Highway Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Four members of a family, including a couple and their daughter were killed on Friday in a horrific road accident along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The bone-chilling accident caught on camera in the early hours on Friday, went viral on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter leaving netizens in shock and despair.

A Maruti Eeco van (JK06B 0901) carrying seven members of a family, was on its way to Srinagar from Doda when a speedy truck hit it near Levidora crossing in Qazigund area on Friday morning, reports said. The van driver was taking a turn at the crossing when the truck hit the extreme left portion of the vehicle pushing it several feet away.

All the seven inmates suffered serious injuries in the road accident and were removed to the Qazigund emergency hospital for treatment. However, the driver of the ill-fated vehicle succumbed to his injuries.

Other six injured members of the family, reports said, were



referred to Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for advanced treatment. However, four among those with critical injuries were referred to SK institute of medical sciences for specialized treatment.

Three among those later succumbed to injuries, talking the death toll in highway accident to four.

The deceased have been identified as Muhammad Nawaz Bhat, wife Mubeena and daughter Aisha. The fourth victim has been identified as Bhat's nephew Maroof Ahmed.

The condition of another family member Ghulam Qadir Bhat is stated to be critical, while two others identified as Mehvish and her brother Mumtaz Ahmed are out of danger. Meanwhile, police have seized **» More On P10**

Labelled Anti-National for Advocating Peace: Mirwaiz

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Kashmir's head priest, addressed Friday prayers at Srinagar Grand Mosque following his release from four years long house detention today. Mirwaiz said he was released following a court order and described the past four years of his house detention as the worst period of his life after his father's death. **» More On P10**

Friday Prayers Concluded Peacefully: Div Com

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday said that the congregational prayers led by Hurriyat Conference (M) Mirwaiz Umar Farooq at historic Jamia Srinagar Masjid concluded peacefully. Talking to reporters, **» More On P10**

Delhi HC Refuses Bail To 'Terrorist Recruiter'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to grant bail to Suhail Ahmad Thokar, arrested in a UAPA case for allegedly conspiring with proscribed terrorist groups to recruit "hybrid terrorists", radicalise youth and execute acts of terrorism following the repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution.



A bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul dismissed the accused's bail plea and said prima facie there were reasonable grounds to believe that the accusations against him are true.

The court observed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) requires and warrants active measures against organisations that **» More On P10**



A shepherd leading his flock of sheep towards the green pastures in the picturesque Bangus Valley of Kupwara district. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Army Commander Reviews LoC Situation



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Northern Army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday visited forward areas along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara and reviewed the counter-infiltration grid and the operational preparedness of the forces.

Apart from the frontline units in the Tangdhar sector of Kupwara, Lt Gen Dwivedi also visited a Rashtriya Rifles formation in south Kashmir's Anantnag. "#LtGenUpendraDwivedi, #ArmyCdrNC visited frontline units along the Line of Control in #Tangdhar and a #Rashtriya Rifles formation in #Anantnag to review Counter Infiltration Grid and operational preparedness. He was **» More On P10**

SHORT TAKES

Man Held With Pistol In Pattan

Army on Friday arrested a man after 'recovering a pistol' from his possession in Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. In a tweet posted on the micro-blogging site X (formerly known as Twitter), army said that a mobile vehicle check post (MVCP) was established on Friday by the army and police in Tapar Payeen area of Pattan on the basis of intelligence inputs from agencies. "One suspected **» More On P10**

Man Drowns To Death

A man drowned to death on Friday while talking a bath in a stream in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Joginder Singh, son of Punjab Singh of Arnas went to Nallah Sukto at Irwan Khetar for a bath when he suddenly drowned due to deep water, an official said. He said a police team headed by SHO Rajouri reached the spot soon after receiving the information. "Police with the help of the SDRF team, retrieved the **» More On P10**

Can't Run Affairs Of Army: SC

Courts cannot run the affairs of the Army, the Supreme Court observed on Friday while hearing a petition filed by a woman colonel who was given the charge of a company of soldiers which is ordinarily commanded by a major, two ranks her junior. A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was hearing three matters—two pertaining to the women officers of the Army and one of the Navy— in which several grievances have been raised **» More On P10**

Annual Gangbal Yatra Flagged-Off

The 15th annual Gangbal yatra commenced here on Friday after a group of pilgrims mostly Kashmiri Pandits, was flagged-off by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir from Naranag. SSP Ganderbal, Nikhil Borkar and other civil and police officials were present on the occasion. The group of pilgrims left from the Naranag temple for Annual Harmukh Gangbal yatra amid religious fervor and were accompanied by SDRF team, Police and other officials. **» More On P10**

Youth Held For Attacking Student

Police on Friday arrested a youth for allegedly attacking and injuring a student in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday. In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that around 1530 hours on Thursday, a scuffle broke out between two persons at Qamariya Park Ganderbal, during which a student Mohammad Irfan of Saloora got injured after being attacked with a sharp object by another person. **» More On P10**

3 Drug Peddlers Arrested: Police

Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday said to have arrested three drug peddlers in Kulgam & Handwara and recovered contraband substances from their possession. "In Kulgam, a police party led by Incharge Police Post Frisal at a checkpoint established near Tengbal Crossing intercepted a vehicle (Tata Indigo Manza Car) bearing registration No. PB08BT-5230 with two persons on board," a police spokesman said. During the search, officers were able to recover 10 Kgs of **» More On P10**



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Cough Sounds Analysed For Assessing Covid Severity In Patients In A New Study

Press Trust Of India

A cough analysis could soon reveal disease severity in COVID-19 patients, researchers said.

Differences in cough sounds depending on the severity of the respiratory condition were observed, the research team led by the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), Barcelona, Spain, said.

The results indicated that analysing coughs could help categorise Covid patients as mild, moderate, or severe and also monitor those with persistent infection, they said in their study published in the European Respiratory Journal Open Research.

Cough sounds of 70 patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection were recorded on the smartphone in the first 24 hours following hospital admission.

Previously, studies have analysed cough acoustics for diagnosing respiratory diseases, while this study "specifically investigates the connection between the acoustic characteristics of coughs and the varying levels of pneumonia severity in COVID-19 patients," said Raimon Jane, a senior co-author of the study and the principal investigator at IBEC.

Five frequency-based parameters of the cough sounds differed significantly with varying levels of



disease severity and pneumonia progression, the researchers found by statistically analysing data collected between April 2020 and May 2021 at Hospital del Mar in Barcelona.

These differences may reflect the progressive respiratory system changes in patients with COVID-19, they said.

Jane's signal processing group at IBEC developed the methodology and algorithms for the acoustic analysis of cough signals collected via smartphones.

Further, cough analysis can serve a dual purpose - early Covid detection and remote monitoring of disease progression, the authors said, adding that further research involving more patients

was needed to validate these study findings.

During emergencies and in regions with limited medical infrastructure, the method could prove useful in the prompt identification and isolation of Covid patients, enabling implementation of control measures and medical care, said senior co-author of the study and researcher at the Hospital del Mar, Joaquim Gea.

Despite being Covid-oriented, the study paved the way for applying this model in the context of other respiratory conditions, the researchers said, adding that the method presented a potential predictive, simple, and accessible tool to assess the risk of suffering severe pneumonia.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my passport bearing no: H9032956 as Hanifa Banoo while the correct spelling is Haneefa Banoo and My Husband's Name has been wrongly spelled as Ghulam Qadir Malik while his correct spelling is Gh Qadir Malk which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Haneefa Banoo
 W/o Gh Qadir Malik
 R/o Ganowpora Arshi Shopian

fk0

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son in school records has been wrongly written as Arsalan Nisar S/o Nisar Ahmed Wani while his correct name is Arsalan Nisar Ahmad Wani which needs immediate correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Alnoor Model School Dhoobiwan Tangmarg within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Wani
 F/o Arsalan Nisar
 R/o Barzula Tehsil Kwarhama Baramulla

bmj

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-12/10/2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date / Time
20.09.2023	28.09.2023	12.10.2023 / 15:00 Hrs.

1. Tender No. 228-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR

Details of Tender: TRR (P) 8.56 Km 15 to 15.560, Km 19 to 23, Km 41 to 43 & Km 49 to 51 on JAT-SVDK section under ADE/NUHP

Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion

1,67,68,173.09/- 2,33,900/- 60 Days 12 Months

Similar Nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TRF/TRR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".

2. Tender No. 229-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR

Details of Tender: TRR (S) 16.31 Km at Loop lines no. 1,2,3,5 at UHP (total length 3.187 Km), loop line no. 1,3 & 4 at SVDK (total length 1.508 km), loop line no. 1 & 2 at CRWL (total length 2.326 km), loop line no. 1 & 3 at SGR (total length 1.815 Km), loop line no. 1 & 3 at BLA (total length 1.919 km), loop line no. 1 & 3 at RMJK (total length 1.978km), loop line no. 1 & 3 at MNVL (total length 2.9 km), loop line no. 3 & 4 at SVDK (total length 0.998 km) on JAT-SVDK section by Manual with 60 Kg 90 UTS rails (LWR) & PSC-6 (new) sleepers (1660 nos./Km) with elastic fastenings under ADE/NUHP.

Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion

2,14,63,085.39/- 2,57,300/- 60 Days 12 Months

Similar Nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TRF/TRR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

Tender Notice No: 228 & 229-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Date: 20.09.2023 2950/23

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

Sr.DEN-IV/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-12.10.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
20.09.2023	28.09.2023	12.10.2023/ 15:00 Hrs.

S. No. Tender No. Details of Tender

1. 216-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Repair and maintenance of bridges and tunnels including repairing to flooring, protection works etc. in the section of SSE/W/UHP on UHP-SVDK section under ADE/NUHP.

Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion

39,99,710.84/- 80,000/- 60 Days 06 Months

Similar Nature of work:- "Nil".

2. 217-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Repair and maintenance of bridges and tunnels including repairing to flooring, protection works etc. in the section of SSE/W/SVDK on UHP-SVDK section under ADE/NUHP.

Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion

39,23,638.98/- 78,500/- 60 Days 06 Months

Similar Nature of work:- "Nil".

3. 218-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Misc. works in c/w special repairs to water supply sewerage, drainage to staff quarters at Ramnagar & Chakhrakhal Colony Station on JAT-SVDK section under ADE/NUHP.

Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion

49,98,908.54/- 1,00,000/- 60 Days 08 Months

Similar Nature of work:- "Nil".

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.

Tender Notice No-216,217 & 218-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Date: 21.09.2023 2949/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

e-NITNo. 67 OF 2023-24 No: PHEB:9052-63 Dated:-21.09.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt.Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti(PHE)Division Bijbehara invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies/of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/ Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Bijbehara of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr No	Particulars of the work Tender fee (in Rs)	Estimated cost	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion of work (days)
1.	L/F of Raw water main 100 mm dia from Kokernag Drum site to sump at Anderwan Sagam WSS Anderwan Sagam under JJM	As per Annexure-I to this bid document-	03% of the estimated cost	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti(PHE)Division Bijbehara The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM).

Critical Dates:

	Publish Date	22.09.2023 09.00AM
i	Document Download/sale start Date	22.09.2023 09.00 AM
ii	Bid submission start date	22.09.2023 09.00 AM
iii	Bid submission end date	27.09.2023 04.00 PM
iv	Date and time of Bid opening	28.09.2023 11.00 PM

S.No	Name of WSS	Description of work	Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Class of contract	Time for completion days
1	WSS Anderwan Sagam	L/F of Raw water main 100mm dia from Kokernag Drum site to sump at Anderwan Sagam WSS Anderwan Sagam under JJM	JSD Bijbehara	12.43	BEE CEE DEE	25 days

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The in tending bidder scan download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading the monthtenderportal.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table and shall be payable at Srinagar.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara.
 - The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial cover.
 - The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at pehbijbehara230@gmail.com

DIPK-9354/23
 dated: 22-09-2023

Executive Engineer
 JSD PHE Division Bijbehara

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

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

Subject: **Admission to the DNB Courses for the Session 2023-Counseling schedule thereof.**

Reference: Notification No.081-BOPEE of 2023 dated 18-09-2023.

Notification No: 083-BOPEE of 2023 Dated: 22-09-2023

The Board vide Notification No.081-BOPEE of 2023 dated 18-09-2023, had notified the Provisional Merit Lists of the candidates who had applied for admission to the DNB(Post MBBS/Post DNB/Post MBBS Diploma) Courses, 2023 for objections/removal of deficiencies within 03 days of uploading of the above referred Notification on the official website of JKBOPEE i.e; till 20-09-2023.

The Board has not received any objections regarding the same and hence the Provisional Merit Lists is, therefore, declared as final and shall be operated for the conduct of the counseling process.

It is hereby notified that the Board shall conduct the counseling (Physical) of the candidates who were eligible as per the Lists annexed to the Notification No.081-BOPEE of 2023 dated 18-09-2023 as per the following schedule:

Day / Date of Counseling	Remarks
Monday/ 25-09-2023	All eligible candidates annexed to The Notification No.081-BOPEE of 2023 dated 18-09-2023

Note:

- All the eligible/participating candidates shall have to report at the BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar between 9:00 a.m to 10.00 a.m. for Registration-cum- Attendance purposes alongwith the following documents in original:
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - NOC issued by the Health and Medical Education Department.
 - NEET-PG/PDCET Score Card, 2023.
 - MBBS/PG Diploma.
- The seats shall be allotted to the eligible participating candidates on the basis of Merit-cum-Preference filled up by the candidates during the process of counseling.

The seats shall be allotted to the eligible participating candidates on the basis of Merit-cum-Preference filled up by the candidates during the process of counseling.

The other Terms and Conditions as mentioned in the Notification(s)/Notice(s) issued by the Board from time to time on the subject shall, however, remain the same in this regard.

E & OE.

No. BOPEE/Exam-17/2023 DIPK-NB-3349/23 Dated: 22-09-2023

Sd/-
 Controller of Examinations,
 J&K BOPEE

Food Safety Teams Inspects City Markets Ahead Of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the team of Food Safety Department Srinagar on the eve of Eid-e-Milad un Nabi (saw) conducted special drives in various markets of Srinagar City to check the hygiene practices adopted and quality of food items by the Food Business Establishments.

During the market checking drives conducted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Food Safety (Designated Officer under FSSAI Srinagar), Yameen ul Nabi in and around Hazratbal area, Bemina and Qamarwari, Mobile Food Testing Van was put in place to

check the quality of ready to Eat Food being sold in the area during which as many as 40 samples of Ready to Eat Food were tested in Mobile Food Testing Van on the spot.

The Food Safety Department Srinagar also inspected food Canteens at JVC and Children Hospital Bemina. The checking teams also lifted about 14 surveillance samples and 6 legal samples were also sent for analytical purposes.

In this regard, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar has asked the Food Safety Department and other Market Checking teams to continue the drive in City markets to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the Food Safety Standards and Quality.

KU's Medical Store Faces Acute Shortage Of Medicines, Patients Aghast

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The medical store at the health centre in Kashmir University is facing acute shortage of medicines which are provided on a free of cost basis to patients, students complained here on Friday.

The shortage of the medicines in hospital drug stores have been forcing patients admitted in the wards and the outdoor patient department (OPD) visitors, to purchase prescribed medicines from private chemist shops at higher rates.

The students alleged that the UT government had launched the free medicine scheme in all government health institutions but shortage of providing the essential drugs has exposed the inability of the health department to provide better health facilities.

"My friend was suffering from a high fever a few days ago. We rushed to the university health center, but to our surprise, they only provided us with two paracetamol tablets and asked us to purchase the remaining prescribed medicines from private shops," said Adil Ahmad, a third-semester university student.

"I had a severe flu for a few days, and when I went to the university health center, they didn't have the necessary medications. They told me to go to a nearby pharmacy, which was an inconvenience," said Nida Khan, a fourth-semester student at the university.

Meanwhile, the students urged the senior health officials to address this issue promptly and ensure that essential medications are stocked at the health center to alleviate the suffering of patients.

LCMA Conducts Special Demolition Drive In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) today conducted a Special Demolition Drive in the area of Harwan, Wangund Teibbal, Ishber, Baba Demb, Bagi Roop Singh Rainawari, Beigh Mohalla Saidakadal and Dalgate.

Several illegal constructions were demolished/ removed on the occasion, including 04 single storey houses, Compound walling, one plinth and one raft. Also illegal earth filling was removed by utilizing the services of Departmental JCB and trippers. Besides, legal action has also been initiated against the violators.

The Police Station

Harwan and Police Contingent from PCR were accompanying the Special Demolition Drive.

The Special Demolition Drives will continue within LCMA Jurisdiction especially in Green Belt (200 mts) and the violators will be dealt under law. Therefore, people within LCMA Jurisdiction are time and again warned not to resort to any kind of illegal construction/ encroachments within LCMA Jurisdiction especially Green Belt (200 mts).

More so, people residing within LCMA residential areas are requested to get proper building permission from the competent Authority before taking any construction work in hand, otherwise, strict action shall be taken against them.

Noise Pollution Disrupts Peace In Azad Colony Soura

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Inhabitants from Azad Colony 90 feet Soura here on the Srinagar outskirts vehemently appealed to authorities to save them from the men-

ace of noise pollution.

A delegation from the locality said two private banks operating from a shopping mall make use of generators that are a source of menacing noise pollution.



Supporters of Hurriyat (M) chairman and chief cleric of Kashmir Mirwaiz Umer Farooq lined up to welcome the religious leader with garlands outside historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Wards of 1474 Regd Construction Workers Gets Rs 1.034 Cr Education Assistance

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today released an amount of Rs 1.034 crore in favor of the wards of 1474 beneficiaries/registered construction workers on account of Education Assistance under J&K Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JK-BOCWWB) here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

While interacting with the beneficiaries on the occasion, the

Deputy Commissioner said that the Government is running several schemes for welfare of Building and other Construction workers with the object to regulate the employment and conditions of service and to provide safety, health and welfare measures for the registered workers.

At the outset, the DC was apprised by Assistant Labor Commissioner that an amount of Rs 3.88 crore has been provided as Education Assistance to the 10554 wards of 7671 registered workers during current financial year

2022-23.

Similarly, Rs 5.15 crore was also disbursed among 7699 beneficiaries under different schemes including Death Assistance, Chronic Disease Assistance and Disability/Medical Assistance of JKBOCWWB during the same period.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Yaseen Lone, Assistant Labor Commissioner, Arshid Qadir Bhat and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Open Air Gym Dedicated To PPS Bemina To Commemorate Police Martyrs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: DIG Central Kashmir Range (CKR) Sujit Kumar, IPS, in presence of Snigdha Chauhan, Principal Police Public School Srinagar inaugurated and dedicated an Open-Air-Gym to the wards of police martyrs of the school. The gym has been constructed under the civic action program (CAP) of Jammu and Kashmir police.



On the occasion, beside the

teachers and students of the school, Aslam Chaudhary C O AP 13th battalion, sajjad khaliq staff officer to DIG CKR, Shah Jahan SDPO west were also present. Students also performed exercises on spot by using these gym items.

Speaking on the occasion, DIG Sujit kumar said that martyrs and their families are our top priority and the department is constantly taking steps towards their improvement. He added that Martyrs

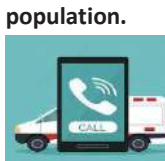
will always remain close to our heart and it is a personal satisfaction to work for their betterment.

The officer also expressed the hope that not only students but teachers can also benefit out of this facility. He said Jammu and Kashmir police has been earmarking a substantial amount of money for extending help to society under CAP and thanked the police department for their concerns towards police martyrs.

WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

- Early Intervention**
 - Critical care ambulances are equipped with advanced medical equipment and trained medical professionals who can provide early intervention to patients during transit. This early intervention can help to stabilize patients and prevent their condition from deteriorating, thereby reducing the risk of mortality and morbidity.
- Timely Transportation**
 - Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.
- Reduced Complications**
 - Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.
- Better Coordination**
 - Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.
- Improved Accessibility:**
 - Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



9484100200 / 01942310018

- 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
- BIBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR 06 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445	PRAYERS	
	FAJR	4:56
ZUHR	12:24	
ASR	4:45	
Magrib	6:32	
ISHA	8:52	

This Day In History

- 951- Otto I the Great becomes king of Italy
- 1122- Concordat of Worms agreed between Pope Calixtus II and Holy Roman Emperor Henry V
- 1387- One of the most extravagant medieval English feasts ever recorded held for Richard II and John of Gaunt in London. Included 14 salted oxen, 120 sheep, 1200 pigeons and 11,000 eggs [1]
- 1408 - Battle of Othée; victory of John the Fearless, duke of Burgundy over Liège.
- 1459 - Battle of Blore Heath in Staffordshire, 1st major battle of the English Wars of the Roses
- 1513 King Henry III & Emperor Maximilian conquer Doornik
- 1739 - Russia & Turkey sign Peace of Belgrade
- 1803- Battle of Assaye: British-Indian forces beat Maratha Army
- 1821- Fall of Tripolitsa, Greek forces massacre 30,000 Turks during Greek War of Independence
- 1862- Otto von Bismarck appointed Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Prussia by King Wilhelm I
- 1868- Grito de Lares proclaims Puerto Rico's independence (crushed by Spain)
- 1887- Tongariro National Park formed in New Zealand after proposal by local chief Ngiti Wharetoa - fourth national park in the world [1]
- 1892- British Open Men's Golf, Muirfield: Harold Hilton wins by 3 shots from amateur John Ball, Sandy Herd & Hugh Kirkaldy
- 1895- French labor union CGT (Confederation Generale du Travail) forms
- 1904- British Colonel Francis Younghusband and his expedition with accompanying military force leave Lhasa, Tibet
- 1908- University of Alberta opens
- 1913 - Serbian troops march into Albania
- 1932 - Abdulaziz Ibn Saud merges the Kingdom of Nejd and Hejaz into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 1941 - General de Gaulle forms government in exile in London
- 1941 - German air raid on Soviet naval base at Kronstadt (battleship Marat sinks)
- 1941 - The first gas murder experiments are conducted at Auschwitz, concentration camp
- 1942 - Soviet counter offensive at Stalingrad
- 1944 - Proclamation No. 30 was issued, declaring the existence of a state of war between the Philippines and the United States and the United Kingdom
- 1949 - US President Harry Truman announces evidence of USSR's 1st nuclear device detonation
- 1950 - Nobel peace prize awarded to Ralph Bunche for mediation in Israel - 1st African American winner
- 1970 - Abdul Razak bin Hussain becomes premier of Malaysia
- 1973 - Largest known prime, 2[^] 132,049-1, is discovered
- 1976 - South Africa decides to allow multi-racial teams to represent them
- 1976 - Soyuz 22 returns to Earth
- 1977 - 3rd test of Space Shuttle Enterprise
- 1999 - NASA announces that it has lost contact with the Mars Climate Orbiter.
- 2002 - The first public version of the web browser Mozilla Firefox ("Phoenix 0.1") is released
- 2003 Crime drama "NCIS" starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherley, Pauley Perrette and David McCallum premieres on CBS in the US
- 2017 - Women are allowed in King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh for the first time during Saudi Arabia's 87th anniversary celebrations
- 2018- Mud volcano, the Otman-Bozdag, erupts 300m (980ft) high, near Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2019- 178 year old British travel company Thomas Cook goes into liquidation, stranding 600,000 travellers worldwide, prompting largest postwar repatriation effort by UK government
- 2019- Climate activist Greta Thunberg scolds world leaders "How Dare You" for not addressing climate change at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York
- 2020- President Donald Trump refuses to commit to a peaceful transfer of power after the US November election at a White House press conference
- 2021- Biden administration and EPA introduce first regulation against greenhouse gases, reduction of hydrofluorocarbons by 85% in 15 years

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Syed Ijlal Hayder Zaidi, want to correct my name as it has been written wrongly in some of my documents. I want to update my documents as per my Aadhaar details. If someone has any objection. He/She can report to the concerned office.

Syed Ijlal Hayder Zaidi
S/O: Syed Naseer Ahmed
R/O Sajad Abad Chattabal, Srinagar

bko

Students can take shorter GRE from September 22 onwards: Educational Testing Service

Press Trust of India

Students can take the shorter Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) for admission to graduate, business and law programmes and schools in several countries from Friday onwards, according to Educational Testing Service (ETS).

The shorter GRE test time has been cut by nearly half and is now under two hours compared to almost four hours previously. Official GRE scores will also be delivered to test takers even faster than before, in just 8-10 days after the examination.

According to ETS, the GRE is now under two hours with quicker score reporting as a result of removal of an analytical writing section, reduced number of questions in the quantitative and verbal reasoning sections and removal of the unscored section.

ETS CONDUCTS GRE AND TOEFL.

"The shorter GRE provides a better test taking experience, while continuing to be the most valid and reliable

assessment of graduate-level readiness. GRE's widespread acceptance across graduate and professional programmes, including STEM, business and law, is a testimony of being an objective measure of cognitive skills that are the foundation of success across fields of study and profession," said Sachin Jain, Country Manager, ETS India and South Asia.

"We are confident that GRE test takers from India, one of the largest populations of GRE test takers in the world, will welcome a significantly better experience with the shorter GRE when showcasing their graduate-readiness to admission in... higher education institutions around the globe," he added.

Jain explained that the score scales will remain consistent, ensuring that graduate programmes can easily compare performance across individuals who test before and after September 2023.

The shorter GRE is also section level adaptive, allowing test takers to answer questions in the order that they choose and to change their answers as often as they need to.

Travellers Rush To Change Flights As India Suspends Canada Visa Services

Agencies

Canadian tourists, business travellers and even some former Indian citizens are rushing to change flights and inquire about their trip deposits after India abruptly suspended visa applications in the country amid an escalating diplomatic row.

A day after the Indian government warned its citizens in Canada to "exercise utmost caution" and hinted that their safety is threatened, BLS International - an agency that processes visa requests in Canada - posted an online notice saying services have been "suspended until further notice."

"This shouldn't happen for the innocent people," said Jyoti Ilangovan, standing in line outside the BLS office in Toronto. She was there to help her brother, a Canadian citizen who has lived in the country for 33 years, obtain a visa for a Hindu pilgrimage back to India. He had already booked his vacation time from work and feared the trip would be canceled. "We want to go to the temple and pray, that's it."

Ties between Canada and India are at their lowest point in decades after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian government of orchestrating the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian activist who was pushing for an



independent Sikh homeland in the Punjab region.

India has denied the allegation, calling it "absurd" and hitting back with measures aimed at curbing travel between two nations.

Montreal-based engineering firm SNC-Lavalin Group Inc., which now operates under the brand name of AtkinsRéalis, has limited travel to India for Canadian employees to "essential reasons only" until further notice, the firm's spokesperson, Laurence Myre Leroux, said in an email. There hasn't been any impact on operations so far, she added, but the situation is being monitored "closely."

India's move means most Canadians won't be able to travel there if they don't already have a visa. Travel agents said e-visa applications online

were also not being processed for Canadians. And while Canadians who previously held Indian passports are eligible for Overseas Citizen of India cards - which allow visa-free entry - many do not hold them.

"This is going to impact Canada, and its trade and economy, where India has played a big role," said Unnati Oza, a Toronto-based travel agent. "I used to work with a client who used to go there twice a year for business - to Delhi, Bangalore and Chennai. Where are Canadians going to go after this?"

It's not just business travel. The visa suspension is also hitting leisure travellers: Canadians made 280,000 tourist arrivals in India last year, according to Indian government data, making it the No. 5 source of such visitors.



Iran Parades Hypersonic, Cruise Missiles, 'Longest-Range' Drone

Agencies

Iran has paraded its military hardware on the anniversary of a Western-backed war on the Islamic Republic in the 1980s, including "the longest-range drone in the world" along with ballistic and hypersonic missiles.

To commemorate the Holy Defense Week, the Iranian armed forces held military parades throughout the country and in the Persian Gulf waters.

In Tehran, President Ebrahim Raisi and top military and government officials oversaw a parade at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, in the south of the capital on Friday morning. The date signifies the initiation of the war by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein against Iran 43 years ago.

Similar parades were conducted in various provinces across Iran, involving the participation of the Iranian Army, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Police, Border Guards, and Basij forces.

The latest military products, including various missiles and drones, are usually put on display at the annual parade. One

of the highlights of Friday's parade in Tehran was the showcasing of two key Iranian missiles, namely Fattah and Pavah.

Fattah, literally meaning "the opener", is a precision-guided two-stage solid-fueled rocket with a range of 1,400 km and terminal speed of Mach 13 to 15. The speed, along with movable nozzles that allow the missile to maneuver in all directions both in and out of the Earth's atmosphere, makes it immune to interception by all existing anti-missile systems.

Pavah is a new long-range cruise missile that can travel as far as 1,650 kilometers (1,025 miles). The parade also included the unveiling of "the longest-range drone in the world" along with Mohajer, Shahed and Arash unmanned aerial vehicles displayed in the event.

The Islamic Republic said last month that it had built an advanced drone named Mohajer-10 with an enhanced flight range and duration as well as a larger payload.

It has an operational range of 2,000 km (1,240 miles) and can fly for up to 24 hours, Iranian media reported then, adding that its payload could reach 300 kg (661 pounds), double the capacity of the Mohajer-6 drone.

Hate Speech On Floor Of House: Danish Ali Slams BJP Over Bidhuri's Derogatory Remarks

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali on Friday said if action is not taken against BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri for his derogatory remarks in the Lok Sabha, then he could consider quitting the membership of the House. He also said that people had not elected him to listen to "hate speeches".

Bidhuri made certain objectionable remarks targeted at Ali on Thursday night during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

"This is unprecedented. I have written to the Speaker. I hope action will be taken," Danish Ali said.

"This is nothing less than hate speech. This is hate speech on the floor of the House. Hate speeches were being made outside Parliament but now hate speech has been delivered on the floor of the House by a BJP MP," he told PTI. He also said that Bidhuri has shamed the entire country and demanded the BJP MP's suspension.

Asked what would he do if action was not taken against Bidhuri, Ali said, "I expect that the speaker will take action on this. But if action is not taken, then with a heavy heart, I can consider quitting the membership of this House because people

have not sent me to Parliament to listen to hate speeches." He also alleged that there was a difference between the words and actions of the BJP.

"Where is this kind of behaviour and culture taught? He (Bidhuri) is a senior MP. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji's two former cabinet colleagues, senior parliamentarians Ravi Shankar Prasad and Harsh Vardhan, were laughing and thumping desks. This behaviour of the BJP has been witnessed by people in new India's new Parliament's first special session," the BSP MP said.

On the BJP issuing showcase notice to Bidhuri, Ali said, "That is the BJP's lookout. I can only say that the people who have elected us have not sent us to Parliament for this." "Are the BJP MPs learning hate speeches in RSS shakhas or in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new laboratory of new India?" he posed.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday said "serious note" of the objectionable remarks made by Bidhuri in the House and warned him of "strict action" if such behaviour is repeated in the future, officials said. The speaker later expunged those words.

Union minister Rajnath Singh has expressed regret for Bidhuri's remarks.



"Both India, Canada Important Partners For Us": US Amid Row

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Amid the rising tensions between India and Canada, US State Department's Hindustani Spokesperson Margaret MacLeod on Thursday emphasized that the US has its own relations with India and Canada, noting that both are important for the United States.

Ms MacLeod further said that Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations are concerning.

"The allegations levied by Canadian PM Justin Trudeau are very concerning. We are keeping in touch with our Canadian allies. We urge the Indian govt to cooperate in this investigation," she added.

Notably, she said, "US and Canada have their own relation and US and India have their own relation, both are important partners for us. But most importantly, the guilty should be brought to justice."

Earlier today, spokesperson for the White House National



Security Council, Adrienne Watson rejected reports of the US rebuffing Canada after the latter accused the Indian government of being behind the assassination of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Adrienne Watson said they are "coordinating and consulting" with Canada and also "engaging" with the Indian government.

Adrienne Watson made the statement in response to reports in the American media that Washington has distanced itself from Canada's allegation about New Delhi's involvement in the killing of Nijjar, a wanted Khalistani

leader in India. The report highlighted the diplomatic challenges faced by the Biden administration as it seeks to maintain strong relations with both India and Canada.

Earlier, US National Security Council Spokesperson John Kirby said "serious allegations" were levelled by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau against India in the killing of Nijjar, adding that the US wanted the matter handled in a "transparent" way.

In an interview with CBS News, an American television news channel, Kirby urged India to cooperate in the investigation.

Man Who Tried To Open Emergency Door On IndiGo Flight Depressed, Wanted To Jump: Cops

Press Trust of India

AGARTALA: The man who attempted to open an emergency door of a Guwahati-Agartala IndiGo flight mid-air is suffering from depression and wanted to jump from the plane, police said today.

Biswajit Debath, 41, hailing

"Biswajit has confessed that he suffers from depression and was trying to jump from the flight by opening the emergency door mid-air," the police officer said.

Further investigation is underway, Mr Mandal added.

The man tried to open the emergency door around 1 pm



from West Tripura's Jirania, has been arrested for "endangering the lives of hundreds of passengers" and getting into a fight with crew members on board, Officer in Charge of Airport Police Station at Agartala Abhijit Mandal told Press Trust of India.

He will be produced before a court today, Mr Mandal said.

on Thursday, when the plane was flying 15 miles from the runway of Maharaja Bir Bikram Airport here, an official had said.

The crew members and other passengers intervened and resisted the attempt, with the flight landing safely at Agartala, the Airports Authority of India official said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JSD PHE DIVISION BARAMULLA
E - Tender Notice No. 47 of 09/2023
Dated 21.09.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), e-tenders [in singlecover system] are invited from the Registered PWD Contractors for the works mentioned hereunder:
Total No. of works = (01 only)

S. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of EMD	Cost of T. doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion
1	Installation of New water Connection at District Jail Baramulla by way of providing/ laying and fitting of 50mm dia G.I pipe under M.H "2056-Jails (Normal), Sub Head 0729 "Maintenance and Repairs"	10.14lacs	BEE/CEE/DEE	Rs. 20280/-	500/-	20 days

Instruction/ Terms & Conditions:

- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, bill of quantities [B.O.Q.] set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given hereunder:

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21.09.2023
2. Date of Publishing	21.09.2023
3. Period of downloading of bidding documents	21.09.2023 (18.00 Hrs) to 28.09.2023 upto 16.00 Hrs
4. Bid Submission Start date	21.09.2023 from (18.00Hrs)
5. Bid Submission End date	28.09.2023 upto (16.00 Hrs)
6. Date and time of opening of bids [online]	28.09.2023 from (18.00Hrs)
- Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of TREASURY CHALLAN against account No. 0215 favouring of Executive Engineer, PHE Div. Baramulla [tender inviting authority].
- All Bidders have to upload scanned copy of Earnest money deposit (EMD) of 02% of advertised cost mentioned against each work) pledged to the undersigned.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bid shall be notified on website 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 on-line in the office of Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla. The Executive Engineer, PHE Division, Baramulla reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- No conditional tenders shall be accepted and such tenders are liable to be rejected even if rates quoted are the lowest.
- 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.
- For item providing, laying and fitting/ successful testing commissioning of various dia's of pipes, the pipe shall be buried underground as per trench norms laid in the book of specification and as per direction of Engineer incharge at Site.
- The pipe material should be ISI marked galvanised mild steel tubes should conform to IS:1239 (PT-1) 2004 and the quality of the pipe material shall be supported by manufacturers quality and test certificate third party to be nominated by the department. Inspection certificate shall also be provided by the contractor at his own cost in respect of material provided and used by him. The same shall be approved by the departmental quality control committee. The pipe will be laid only after the certificate will be issued by the said committee.
- The contractor will be responsible for any prefrillage in the quantity of pipe and pipe specials and sufficient watch and ward has to be provided at his cost.

No. PHE/Adm/Bla/ 7158-7181
Dated: 21.09.2023
DIPK-9338-23
DT: 22/09/2023

Executive Engineer
P.H.E Division
Baramulla

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION
DIVISION KASHMIR, J&K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender Notice: E-NIT No:49 of 2023-24
DAT ED: 20.09.2023

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible bidders registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work: -

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Class of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender documents	Administrative Approval No. & date	Time of Completion
1	Construction of Pavilion and other allied works at S.K Stadium Bandipora.	213.70	AAY Class	Rs. 427,400/-	Rs. 2500/-	Sports Council Order No: 153 of 2023 dt: 06.02.2023	150 days

Position of Fund = Under Capex 2022-23
Position of TS = Accorded

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

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice.	20.09.2023
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	20.09.2023 from 6.00 PM to 06.10.2023 upto 4.00PM.
3. Bid Submission Start Date.	26.09.2023 from 10.00 AM
4. Bid submission End Date.	06.10.2023 upto 04.00 PM
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids(online)	07.10.2023 at 10.00 AM in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakhshi Stadium, Srinagar. (or any convenient date)
- The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder. (No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

1) Name of Bank	=	J&K Bank Ltd.
2) Account Title	=	Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC
3) Account No	=	CDG-036501020000842
4) Branch	=	Lal Mandi
5) IFSC Code	=	JAKA0SBOARD

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.
4. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (L1) after opening of Financial Bids.

DIPK-NB-3323-23
DT: 22/09/2023

Ex. Engineer, CDK
J&K Sports Council
Srinagar

2004 Doda Grenade Blast

HC Upholds Acquittal Of 3 Accused

M Ahmad

JAMMU: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday upheld acquittal of three persons in connection with a grenade attack which according to police was aimed at police picket manned by CRPF but exploded in an adjacent residential house, killing two minor kids and injuring their parents in Doda district in 2004.

Subsequent to the filing of chargesheet against the trio, the trial court—Additional Sessions Judge, Doda acquitted the trio of the charge under Section 302, 307, 34 RPC on 2 June 2010. The state had filed appeal against the acquittal and a bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Puneet Gupta dismissed it, observing that it was not the case for interference with the judgment of acquittal recorded by the trial court.

“Needless to emphasize that the scope of interference with the judgment of acquittal in appeal is circumscribed and even if, on evaluation of the evidence on record, two views are pos-

sible, the Appellate Court would take the view that favours the accused,” the court said, adding, “It is cardinal principle of criminal jurisprudence that accused is presumed to be innocent unless proven guilty and this presumption gets fortified with the acquittal by the trial court.”

According to the prosecution, on the fateful day some unknown militants had hurled an RPG on a police picket with a view to killing CRPF personnel. The RPG, however, missed the target and blasted in the house of one Mohammad Hanief due to which his two children, namely, Nassra Banu and Baber aged 1 ½ years and 9 years respectively were injured and succumbed to the injuries on spot, the prosecution said. Hanief’s wife, Shahida Begum, was seriously injured and taken to Thathri hospital for treatment. Hanief too, was injured in the incident and was taken for treatment to Kahara.

Police had subsequently filed the case— FIR No.80/2004— for offences under Sections 302, 307, 34, 109 RPC and 7/27 Arms Act in Police Station, Gandoh.



IAF's Airshow Enthralled Spectators In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: An airshow by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to commemorate 76 years of the accession of Jammu and Kashmir into India enthralled spectators here on Friday morning even as the event was cut short by a little over 15 minutes due to rains. Thousands of people, mostly youngsters, thronged the Air Force Station here as the show was open to the public. The show was presented by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), Mi-17 helicopters and the Aakashganga Daredevil Skydiving team.

The act by the Air Warrior Drill Team and the musical performance by the IAF band drew a lot of applause and whistle-blowing. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha was the chief guest at the event, which was organised jointly by the IAF and the Union Territory administration. The airshow was also to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Air Force Station, Jammu and raise awareness about aviation.

Air officer commanding Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Air Vice Marshal Pradeep Keshav Vohra, and senior civil and police officers also witnessed the show.



“The Indian Air Force is a glowing symbol of strength, bravery and dedication. I salute the IAF personnel for their magnificent heroism and the spirit of sacrifice. My deepest gratitude to the Air Warriors and their families,” the Lt-G wrote on X after the event.

Three Mi 17 helicopters of the 130 Helicopter unit, headed by Wing Commander Irfan Wahid Khan Jarial presented a flypast on the arrival of the chief guest.

Shruti Arora, a youngster from Jammu city, thanked the IAF for providing the people the opportunity to watch the show.

“The show had a magnificent start with 11 members of the IAF flying high with the national flag and performing the most difficult stunts in the sky. The IAF’s Garuda Commandos paradropping operation from helicopters to pin down its target was also worth watching,” she said.

“I was apprehensive that the show might be cancelled because of the heavy cloud cover. Though rains cut short the show, we enjoyed every bit of the show,” said Vinay Kumar, a student of class 11.

Cong Stages Protest, Demands CBI Probe Into JJM 'Scam'

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress staged a protest here on Friday demanding a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into an alleged scam of Rs 14,000 crore in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu and Kashmir.

Raising slogans against the BJP, the protesters tried to march from the Congress headquarters at Residency Road to the Raj Bhavan but were stopped by police.

The protest was led by Jammu and Kashmir Congress unit president Vikar Rasool Wani.

Wani announced that the party’s youth wing would start a signature campaign from Saturday to know whether the people want assembly elections or continuation of the Lt Governor rule.

“Our signature campaign will try to find out the opinion of the

public,” Wani said in an apparent reference to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha’s reported statement that a survey revealed 80 per cent population of Jammu and Kashmir do not want elections as they are satisfied with his administration.

The Congress leader claimed that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were fed up with the BJP and wanted early restoration of a democratically elected government.

He said they are on the streets due to “wrong policies” of the BJP whose leaders are not listening to the people.

Wani said senior IAS officer Ashok Kumar Parmar who headed the Jal Shakti department claimed a scam worth Rs 14,000 crore in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Union territory.

“There must be a CBI probe into the allegations to unravel the truth,” he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for general public that, I have lost my 9th Pass Registration Card (R.R Card) under registration no. 201200000030042. Now I want to apply for its duplicate in this regard if any person have any objection he/she may file the objection in office of the Board of School Education Sub Office Bandipora within a period of Seven Days from the date of the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be accepted.



Alisha Manzoor, D/o Manzoor Ahmad, Mother's Name: Masrat Manzoor R/o: Sharampur UP

Evacuee Property Dept Intensifies Eviction Drive In Jammu

Reclaims 3 Kanal Illegally Occupied Land In Samba

Agencies

JAMMU: Evacuee Property Department intensified its drive against encroachers and illegal occupants in Jammu province and reclaimed three kanal land illegally occupied in Samba.

Custodian General Rajinder Singh Tara has asked the officers and officials of the Evacuee Property Department Jammu to intensify the drive against encroachers and illegal occupants of Evacuee Properties in Jammu Province.

Rajinder Singh Tara, after taking over Custodian General J&K Government, took a meeting of the officers/officials of Evacuee Property Department Jammu in his office chamber at Wazarat Road Jammu to review the functioning of the department.

After threadbare discussions on the functioning of the Evacuee Property Jammu, the Custodian General emphasized that the Evacuee Property Department has been tasked with the responsibility to safeguard the Evacuee property with honesty and dedication. “As such, as and when any report of encroachment of Evacuee land is brought into the notice of the department, stern action in collaboration with Revenue/Police Department should be taken” he said.

The Custodian General J&K also asked the Deputy Custodians to liaise with the District Administration to identify evacuee land/property which has potential for commercial purpose including other lands which may be fenced and sign

boards installed to avoid any encroachment.

He further asked that the land not viable for departmental use be put to open auction through e-auction mode for which the department has already developed an e-auction portal.

Acting upon the directions of Custodian General J&K, the Evacuee Property Department Jammu through Dy. Custodian Samba has in the first instance reclaimed the possession of Evacuee Land measuring 3 kanal Land under Khasra No. 722 alongwith structures raised thereon. As per the department the person was occupying the Evacuee Property illegally, though the land in question was leased out to him but he failed to deposit the premium fixed by the department and violated the terms and conditions of the lease.

“Ample opportunity was provided to the occupant to deposit the premium as provided under the provisions of J&K Evacuees’ (Administration of Property) Act 2006 and on failure, the action was taken in the matter.”

The Custodian General, while appreciating the action taken in the matter reiterated that the drives be undertaken by the department against the encroachers, illegal occupants and violators and may be intensified. He appealed to the general public to refrain from such acts failing which action as warranted under law will be taken against such violators in terms of Section 18 of J&K

Decorated Soldier Named As Ambassador For Cleanliness Campaign

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Directorate of Rural Sanitation of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday nominated retired army Captain Bana Singh, a Param Vir Chakra recipient, as the ambassador for its “war against waste” initiative.

Making the announcement at the Captain Bana Singh Stadium at R S Pura on the outskirts of Jammu during the ongoing “Swachhata Hi Seva” campaign, Rural Sanitation Director Charandeep Singh said the “war against waste” initiative aims to address the pressing issues of waste management and environmental conservation in rural areas.

The campaign is being conducted from September 15 to October 2 to generate a mass movement through community participation and reinforce the concept of sanitation as everyone’s business.

“Captain Singh joining the

cause will raise awareness, promote sustainable practices, and inspire local communities to actively participate in waste reduction and preservation of Jammu and Kashmir’s natural splendour,” the director said.

He said Captain Singh, whose distinguished military service has been widely recognised for valour and dedication, now takes on a new mission to protect and preserve the pristine beauty of Jammu and Kashmir by leading the charge against waste and pollution.

Addressing the gathering, Captain Singh said, “Just as I dedicated my life to defending our country, I am now committed to defending our environment. Jammu and Kashmir’s natural beauty is a national treasure and we must ensure it remains pristine for generations to come.”

At the event, around 2,000 people, including students and shopkeepers, took a “swachhata” (cleanliness) pledge.

NC, PDP Condemn Bidhuri's Remarks Against BSP MP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday strongly condemned BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri’s objectionable remarks in the Lok Sabha against BSP parliamentarian Danish Ali.

While National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said Bidhuri’s remarks against the BSP MP revealed what the BJP thinks about Muslims, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said the BJP should “spray phenyl” to stop its leaders from using such foul language.

Bidhuri made certain objectionable remarks targeted at Ali on Thursday night during a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission.

Abdullah said he felt both ashamed and angry over it.

“If he had been only called a terrorist, I can understand as we are habitual to hear it. But he has been called such things that I do not want to repeat here. I am ashamed that such words were used in the Parliament... I am angry also because these words were used against all Muslims. I don’t understand how the Muslims in BJP are bearing it,” the former chief minister said.

“The words that were used were for entire Muslim community, it was not only against one honourable MP. It reveals their thinking towards Muslims. The Parliament is new but the thinking is old, deplorable,” he told reporters here.

PDP leader Mufti, another former chief minister, also condemned the Bidhuri’s remarks.

“The BJP should have sprayed phenyl to clean the mouths of their people so that the beasts like him (Bidhuri) could not use such foul language,” she told reporters.

NC leader Abdullah said politicians should corner each other on political issues and governance while keeping religion out of it.

“I don’t want to get into religious conflicts. I only want to say that no religion can be under threat just because of one person. I can talk of Islam, I know how strong our religion is. Similarly, if anyone makes remarks against Hindu religion, I would like to think that the religion much more stronger than one person’s opinion.”

“Such statements should not be made. We are political people, we can oppose each other on politics,

on issues, in performance of government,” he added.

When asked about steps that should be taken by the government in J-K, Abdullah said the biggest step will be to give the people their own government.

“Whoever wins the elections let them form the government. Why are they running away from elections. I don’t understand. The situation is not so bad that you cannot hold elections. Let’s see what they do next,” he added.

On the arrest of deputy superintendent of police Sheikh Adil here on Wednesday following a warrant from a local court, Abdullah said if he has been arrested, the police must have evidence against him.

“I know Adil to the extent that he was posted at Airport few years ago where we would meet each other. He has relations with our party. He is son-in-law of one of our leaders. I can understand what they must be going through.”

“Now, they have arrested him, let them proceed with the case. Whatever the court decides will be acceptable to all,” he said.

The former chief minister, however, said the probe agencies should investigate allegations against all people.

“But we are compelled to ask about the allegations levelled by a senior officer about embezzlement of Rs 3,000 crore in Jal Jeevan mission in J-K. Why was there no investigation? I am not saying the allegation is true but it should be investigated,” he said.

While talking to reporters, PDP chief Mufti also accused the BJP of using the blood of the people including security forces and minorities for their electoral gains.

She alleged that the BJP thrives on conflict between India and Pakistan.

“(Former PM) Vajpayee’s line was different, he wanted peace. So did Manmohan Singh. Today’s BJP wants to keep this issue alive. They want violence and thrive on conflict between India and Pakistan so that they can seek votes.”

“They sought votes in the name of the 40 CRPF personnel killed in Pulwama attack in 2019. They are not concerned about friendship or dialogue. When it comes to J-K, conflict suits the BJP so that they can create another drama or an incident or there is some negligence by virtue of which Pulwama like incident happens,” she said.

Special Camps For Updation Of Panchayat Electoral Roll- 23

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The State Election Commission (SEC) has ordered updation of Panchayat roll-23 for which process at each Panchayat level has been stated from 20.9.23 and special camps would be also held.

These camps will be held on 23rd and 24th of September at polling booths, where in the Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBO) (VLW/MPW/GRS) along with Assembly BLOs shall remain available at these locations with requisite forms and electoral Roll for guidance of the electors.

Pertinently, 1st January 2023 has been kept as a qualifying date. All eli-

gible electors who are 18 years of Age as on 1st January 2023 can get name entered in Panchayat Electoral Roll which can also be downloaded from website of State Election Commission at secjk.nic.in and submit necessary documents to concerned PEBO.

For new enrollment form PER- 2A is to be filled, for deletion of existing name PER 28, for correction of particulars PER 2C and for transposition/ Shifting to other Panchayat Halqa form PER 2D is to be filled.

Similarly, the display of existing Roll will be done on 20th September and period of filling claims/ objections and for addition/ deletion/ Corrections/transposition is from 20th to 29th September, 2023.

CANCELLATION/REGULATION/SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORINATION/DIVERSION OF TRAINS

In order to upgrade the infrastructure and enhance passenger amenities, Northern Railway will undertake the redevelopment work at Jalandhar Cantt. Railway Station and the launching of Foot Over Bridge at Kandrori yard over Firozpur Division. To execute this work traffic block will be taken from 30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023. As a result following trains will be affected temporarily on the dates shown against each :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) of Cancellation (from originating station)	
04598 Jalandhar City - Hoshiarpur Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
04597 Hoshiarpur - Jalandhar City Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
14506 Nangal Dam - Amritsar Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
14505 Amritsar - Nangal Dam Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
04653 New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Karmabhoomi Express	06.10.2023	
04654 Amritsar - New Jalpaiguri Karmabhoomi Express	04.10.2023	
04591 Ludhiana - Chheharta MEMU Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
04592 Chheharta - Ludhiana MEMU Special Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
22429 Delhi - Pathankot Superfast Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
22430 Pathankot - Delhi Superfast Express	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
04642 Pathankot - Jalandhar City DEMU Special Express	03.10.2023	
06949 Jalandhar City - Pathankot DEMU Special Express	03.10.2023	

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Train Name	Short Terminate at/ Originate from	Date (s) (from originating station)	
15531 Saharsa - Amritsar Jansadharan Express	at Ambala	01.10.2023	
15532 Amritsar - Saharsa Jansadharan Express	from Ambala	02.10.2023	
22551 Darbhanga - Jalandhar City Antyodaya Express	at Ludhiana	30.09.2023	
22552 Jalandhar City - Darbhanga Antyodaya Express	from Ludhiana	30.09.2023	
12497 New Delhi - Amritsar Shane Punjab Express	at Ludhiana	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
12498 Amritsar - New Delhi Shane Punjab Express	from Ludhiana	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	

DIVERSION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)	
19611 Ajmer - Amritsar Express	Firozpur Cantt.-Kapurthala-Jalandhar City	30.09.2023	
22318 Jammu Tawi - Sealdah Humsafar Exp.	Jalandhar City-Nakodar-Ludhiana	04.10.2023	
22479 New Delhi - Lohian Khas Sarbat Da Bhala Express	Ludhiana-Phillaur-Lohian Khas	30.09.23, 01.10.23, 03.10.2023 & 04.10.2023	
12587 Gorakhpur - Jammu Tawi Amarnath Express	Jalandhar Cantt.-Jalandhar City-Amritsar-Gurdaspur-Pathankot Cantt.	02.10.2023	
19224 Jammu Tawi - Ahmedabad Express	Pathankot-Gurdaspur-Amritsar-Jalandhar City	03.10.2023	

REGULATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Regulation	Date (from the Originating Station)	
12919 Dr. Ambedkar Nagar-S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 80 Minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.2023 to 03.10.2023	
12471 Bandra Terminus - S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.23, 01.10.23 & 02.10.23	
12473 Gandhidham - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	30.09.2023	
12475 Hapa - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will regulate 60 minutes in Delhi Division, 60 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	03.10.2023	
12029 New Delhi - Amritsar Swarna Shatabdi Express	Will regulate 30 minutes in Delhi Division, 30 Minutes in Ambala Division and 60 Minutes in Firozpur Division	30.09.2023 to 04.10.2023	
04652 Amritsar - Jaynagar Special Express	Will depart 155 minutes late from Amritsar	01.10.2023 & 04.10.2023	
04651 Jaynagar - Amritsar Special Express	Will regulate 60 minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.23, 01.10.23 & 03.10.23	
11057 Chhatrapati Shivaji T. - Amritsar Express	Will regulate 60 minutes in Firozpur Division	28.09.2023 to 02.10.2023	
14615 Lal Kuan - Amritsar Exp.	Will regulate 100 minutes in Firozpur Division	30.09.2023	
12549 Durg-Udhampur S.F. Exp.	Will regulate 40 minutes in Firozpur Division	03.10.2023	
12379 Sealdah - Amritsar Exp.	Will regulate 40 minutes in Firozpur Division	29.09.2023	
15655 Kamakhya - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Exp.	Will depart 180 minutes late from Kamakhya, will regulate 45 minutes in Ambala Division & 45 minutes in Firozpur Division.	01.10.2023	
12920 S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra - Dr. Ambedkar Nagar Express	Will depart 90 minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & will regulate 65 minutes enroute	03.10.2023	
12472 S.M. Vaishno Devi Katra - Bandra Terminus Express	Will depart 60 minutes late from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra & will regulate 60 minutes enroute	03.10.2023	

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The Fragile Foundation: How Teacher Misconduct Weakens Trust

Farooq Shah

“To tackle this serious problem, we need to embrace a comprehensive approach that goes beyond punitive actions and includes preventative and educational strategies. The establishment of sexual harassment cells within educational institutions, often staffed by untrained personnel, has proven to be an inadequate effort that produces limited outcomes

Of late, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a troubling series of events, each more disquieting than the previous ones. These occurrences have implicated teachers who, regrettably, have not only violated the trust placed in them but have also tarnished the sacred bond between teachers and students.

These incidents are forcing us to think whether a few individuals with questionable intentions have cast a shadow over this foundation. Hence, it is crucial that we delve into these deeply troubling instances of alleged sexual exploitation and improper behaviour taking place within our educational institutions, addressing them comprehensively to safeguard the integrity of this crucial relationship.

Few months ago, a principal of a higher secondary school was arrested, ignominiously, for allegedly molesting and harassing a girl student. This distressing incident served as the continuation of a string of similarly disheartening events that have deeply affected our society. The accusations encompass various transgressions, including phone calls and troubling leaks of inappropriate conversations, all of which undermine the fundamental trust within the teacher-student relationship.

This troubling pattern extends to religious schools as well, where Molvis have been accused of sexually molesting underage girls. An illustrative instance took place in Srinagar, involving a Molvi from Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, underscoring the widespread occurrence of such troubling events within these institutions.

Pertinently, these occurrences are not isolated; they resonate throughout our country and reveal a widespread issue that we can no longer ignore.

The foundation of education is built upon the trust that students and their parents repose in their teachers. Parents send their kids to school with a firm belief that teachers are not only conveyors of knowledge but also their mentors who shape their character and impart values to live a decent life. Nevertheless, when a handful of educators violate this trust by exploiting their position for



“The accusations encompass various transgressions, including phone calls and troubling leaks of inappropriate conversations, all of which undermine the fundamental trust within the teacher-student relationship

personal satisfaction, it disrupts the very foundation of our educational system.

To tackle this serious problem, we need to embrace a comprehensive approach that goes beyond punitive actions and includes preventative and educational strategies. The establishment of sexual harassment cells within educational institutions, often staffed by untrained personnel, has proven to be an inadequate effort that produces limited outcomes.

In some instances, well-intentioned female teachers entrusted with conducting awareness campaigns have inadvertently exacerbated the problem by approaching the subject insensitively. This highlights the urgent need for professional and effective training programs that tackle the issue of sexual harassment head-on, facilitated by experts who possess a deep understanding of the intricacies involved in dealing with this sensitive issue.

Our teacher training programs are not structured to address such urgent situations, and when they do, they are presented in an unrefined manner. An instance from the online

Nishtha teacher training module designed by the NCERT, New Delhi, on sexual harassment featured a question that was not only in poor taste but also highly objectionable.

The true-false question presented was: "Can one infer a child's engagement or interest in a sexual act if they do not vocalize distress, resist, physically oppose, or provide consent during the act?"

Hence, it becomes crucial to adopt a proactive approach to prevention by implementing thorough training programs for teachers right from the outset of their tenure. These programs should prioritize correct classroom conduct and establish explicit, unambiguous standards for appropriate interactions with students, with the aim of instilling a safer and more supportive learning atmosphere.

In addition to addressing the content, we should also consider the language used in these training modules. The terms "Good Touch" and "Bad Touch" have been widely criticized for their insensitivity, especially when there are alternative, less invasive terms and methodologies available. It is essential to choose words

that encourage understanding and empathy, rather than perpetuating discomfort or misunderstanding.

The need of the hour is to transform these training modules into professional, sensitive, and effective resources that provide teachers with the necessary tools to recognize, prevent, and address issues related to sexual harassment. This transformation should be carried out under the guidance of experts who have a profound understanding of the subject matter. We cannot afford to trivialize or mishandle a topic as delicate as this one especially when the future of our students and the reputation of our education system are at stake.

While these incidents of sexual exploitation of students by teachers are not unique to our country, what sets us apart is our response to them. It is true that laws like the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act exist, but they are only generalized ones and do not specifically address misconduct within the educational context.

In contrast, countries like the United Kingdom take a firmer stance, barring teachers found guilty of such delinquent behaviour from returning to the classroom. It is high time that we consider implementing similar stringent measures in our country to safeguard our students and maintain the integrity of our education system.

In conclusion, there is no relationship as profound and influential as that between a teacher and a student. It is a bond that shapes minds, nurtures dreams, and holds the promise of a brighter future. However, the actions of a few delinquent individuals must not be allowed to cast a dark shadow over the entire teaching community. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child can learn and grow in an environment that is not just academically enriching but also safe, nurturing, and free from fear.

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

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The Problem Of Being Big

Big Tech will run out of ways to keep up its scintillating growth and profits

Shubhanshu Singh

Tech has never been bigger. Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta and Microsoft, put together, are almost a third of the S&P 500 market capitalisation. Last year, their total capital spending was \$360 billion. That alone is more than the GDP of Pakistan.

With developments such as generative AI, Big Tech may be at a point of inflection. For the incumbents, their bigness may become their biggest challenge in staying ahead. To be sure, 'big' in the case of tech is truly awesome. Be it revenue, profitability, consumer contact, community, ubiquitousness, Google's holding company—Alphabet—would qualify as the all-time, most successful combination of brand, business and technology in the history of the world. But what if big were to prove an eventual challenge?

Google search, the Android mobile operating system, the Chrome browser, Google Play Store for apps, Workspace productivity tools and YouTube each has more than 2 billion users per month. Add Google Maps, Translate, Google mail and more. The Economist reported that "humans collectively spend 22 billion hours a day on Alphabet's platforms."

What does Google sell and who are the buyers? It sells attention and engagement to advertisers. Revenues have grown at an average annual rate of 28% since its IPO in 2004 and almost 80% of inflows are for online ads. Never sliding back in any quarter, Alphabet has generated \$460 billion of cash. Its share price has risen 50-fold, making it the world's fourth-most-valuable company.

Isn't this enough, one would ask. Not quite. Alphabet's 'bread and butter' digital-ads business is maturing. Data is the new oil, attention the oil wells, and the internet its refinery. With a base of \$300 billion in annual revenues, new oil wells

are not throwing up the gushers and growth is a challenge. Enough has been said about the end of third-party cookies and resulting impact, but given what's at stake, there isn't clarity—forget consensus—on available new means to reach, target and engage. It will impact measurements of effectiveness and its consequential monetisation.

It seems bizarre, given the context of Alphabet's awe-inspiring success, that now its investors want cost efficiency and capital discipline. Insider Intelligence expects the annual increase in global digital ads sales to stay within 10% or less in the next few years, down from a rate of 20% or so in the past decade. Hence, the anxiety is legitimate.

For a total pie of about \$700 billion, further share gain on part of Google will invite scrutiny from regulators. Sundar Pichai may be no Rockefeller, but there are enough concerns in the US concerning its search monopoly such as its arrangement with Apple and others, whereby it pays a reported \$10 billion a year to be the default search engine. This may be one area which ironically brings the liberals and the conservatives together as each suspects such scrutiny is manipulated by 'the other'. Action has ensued.

Although search remains immensely lucrative, with operating margins of nearly 50%, its pathways are mutating. Now direct video search on YouTube, TikTok, Instagram counts high up among the options. The flip side is that video doesn't monetise in equally profitable ways.

As chatbots and other "generative" AIs have seen burgeoning presence, based on the appeal of a likeness to human-generated content, Pichai's insistence that Alphabet is an "AI-native" company may ring true. That said, will its scale matter?

Alphabet shares trade at a lower price relative to earnings than Apple or Microsoft, and not much higher than the S&P 500 index of big American firms. This is a tell-tale data point.

“It seems bizarre, given the context of Alphabet's awe-inspiring success, that now its investors want cost efficiency and capital discipline. Insider Intelligence expects the annual increase in global digital ads sales to stay within 10% or less in the next few years, down from a rate of 20% or so in the past decade. Hence, the anxiety is legitimate.

Apple transformed itself from a desktop brand to a mobile-phone powerhouse. Microsoft matured from a desktop OS player to a cloud-computing ace.

Investors and analysts may have demolished Mark Zuckerberg's bet on the metaverse, but let us remember that Apple and Microsoft spent years in the cold too. Specifically on the metaverse, Gartner is still hopeful. According to its analysis, the metaverse is still in its early stages of development, but it is rapidly gaining traction. Gartner predicts that by end 2023, it will reach a tipping point where it will become a mainstream platform for social interaction, commerce, and entertainment.

The year 2022 may have been Big Tech's an-

nus horribilis, but the firms are back in the circus. Artificial intelligence (AI) going mainstream will boost the fortunes of Big Tech and challenge them at the same time.

These giants—Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, Meta and Microsoft—have been growing revenues and profits in double-digits for 10 years and counting. That is unprecedented in the history of business of that size. But that may also be the undoing. Big Tech will run out of ways to keep up its scintillating growth and profits. This is the reason that at the first signs of slowdown, the markets punished these giants severely. Except Apple, each one has had multiple rounds of layoffs. The count is as high as 70,000 workers altogether.

Ambition will lead to tech cannibalism. All the big players operate in overlapping areas such as cloud computing, advertising, gadgets, new services.

Of course, like the traditional big corporations with sputtering growths, new-age tech giants may also look to purchase growth. Microsoft cut a \$69-billion deal to buy growth via the acquisition of Activision, which has revenues of \$8 billion per annum.

Margins will be strained. Growth will stall. Upstarts will bring new technologies to market. Then, Big Tech will start to shrink till incumbents give way to new players or effectively reinvent themselves.

This all may seem fantastical and highly unlikely now, but will come within half a decade. The future arrives in stealthy ways, especially to topple the 'Big'.

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

Allama Iqbal's Wisdom: Unveiling Life's True Purpose

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

In our quest for personal growth and more meaningful relationships, two transformative concepts—self-awareness and consciousness expansion—take center stage. These aren't just buzzwords; they hold the keys to unlocking your full potential and forging deep connections with others. In this article, we embark on a journey to explore the profound impact of self-awareness and consciousness expansion and how they can shape your life.

The Foundations of Self-Awareness

At its core, self-awareness is the cornerstone of personal development. It's about peering within, understanding your thoughts, emotions, and their influence on yourself and those around you. Here's how you can tap into the power of self-awareness:

Self-Reflection:

Begin with honest self-reflection. Take a moment to ponder your actions, motivations, and beliefs. This self-examination can highlight areas in your life where growth is needed.

Mindfulness:

Embrace mindfulness practices, such as meditation and mindfulness exercises. These techniques foster a non-judgmental awareness of the present moment, a crucial skill for self-awareness.

Feedback and Self-Discovery:

Seek feedback from trusted individuals and be open to constructive criticism. Their insights can reveal blind spots and deepen your self-awareness.

The Power of Consciousness Expansion

Consciousness expansion takes self-awareness to new heights. It's about transcending your limited view of yourself and the world, leading to a more profound understanding of life's intricacies. Here are avenues to explore for consciousness expansion:

Prayer and Spirituality:

Engage in practices like daily prayers (Salat/Namaz), self-reflection, and spiritual exploration. These paths can connect you with deeper aspects of yourself and the universe.

Education and Knowledge:

Expand your horizons by learning about different cultures, philosophies, and scientific discoveries. This broader worldview can ignite your consciousness expansion.

Psychedelic Experiences:

While approached with caution, some individuals report profound consciousness expansion through controlled and guided psychedelic experiences.

The Impact on Relationships: Self-awareness and consciousness expansion ripple through your interactions with others:

Healthy Boundaries: Armed with self-awareness, you're better equipped to establish and respect healthy boundaries, a vital ingredient for nurturing strong relationships.

Empathy: As your consciousness expands, you naturally become more empathetic. Understanding others' perspectives and emotions becomes second nature, deepening your connections.

Conflict Resolution: Self-awareness enables you to approach conflicts with calmness and understanding, leading to more effective and peaceful resolutions.

The True Purpose of Life According to Allama Iqbal



Life's purpose is a question that has intrigued philosophers, scholars, and thinkers throughout history. Allama Iqbal, a renowned philosopher, poet, and scholar of the 20th century, explored this profound question in his poetry and philosophical writings. He delved into the essence of human existence and called upon individuals to introspect, understand their true selves, and recognize the purpose of their lives.

In Iqbal's view, many people are often mired in confusion or remain oblivious to the genuine purpose of their existence. His poetry emphasizes the importance of self-awareness and the quest to discover the true meaning of life. Iqbal's verses draw attention to a significant issue: the Muslim community, which was initially guided by the beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the Quran, has, in many cases, become distracted by worldly pursuits, much like non-Muslims.

Today, for many individuals, wealth, comfort, worldly positions, and materialism have become the primary goals of life. However, these pursuits do not align with the real purpose of human existence. According to Quranic teachings, all these worldly elements exist to serve humanity, not as the ultimate goals of life.

The Quran, in Surah Al-Mulk (51:56), states that Allah created humans and jinn to worship Him. This implies that the purpose of life is to worship Allah in all aspects, including personal, social, and spiritual. Worship, in this context, encompasses not only ritual acts such as prayer and fasting but also encompasses loyalty and obedience to Allah, respecting His commands, gratitude for His blessings, and fearing His punishment.

Allama Iqbal's thought-provoking poetry resonates with this concept. He urges individuals to delve into the depths of their own consciousness and seek the true purpose of their lives. His poetry famously states,

"Apne mann mai dhoob kar paa ja suragi, tu agar mera na ban saka na bann apna toh ban," which translates to "Immerse yourself in your own being and discover your purpose. If you cannot conform to my expectations, at least understand your true self and purpose in life."

This verse serves as a call to introspection and self-realization. It suggests that if one cannot meet the expectations of others, they should, at the very least, understand their own true self and purpose in life. By recognizing their purpose and living in accordance with it, individuals can attain true success and fulfillment in life.

Bottom line

In the words of the great philosopher Socrates, 'An unexamined life is not worth living.' Self-awareness and consciousness expansion are not just personal journeys but also the foundations of fulfilling relationships and a more meaningful life. By embracing these concepts and the practices that support them, you can unlock your true potential and navigate the complexities of human connection with empathy and grace. Ultimately, the pursuit of self-awareness and consciousness expansion is a journey that leads to a more enlightened and harmonious existence and the true purpose of life, as advocated by Allama Iqbal and aligned with Quranic teachings, is to worship Allah through a life characterized by righteousness, obedience, gratitude, and self-realization. This purpose extends to all aspects of life and serves as a guide for individuals seeking meaning and fulfillment in their journey through this world.

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun is a renowned Columnist & Motivational Speaker and an Associate Editor of the Weekly Publication 'Education Quill'. He currently serves as the Senior EDP Head at DD Target PMT Kashmir, a reputable institute renowned for its coaching classes in the medical/JEE/ Foundation Classes

How the Qur'an Can Become Your Best Friend and Life Companion

FATIMA MAHMOUD

The nature of this life is that it is filled with ups and downs, and we humans are social beings who need friendships to help us navigate this journey. Though we interact with so many people – at work, at university and even at social gatherings – how many of the people around us do we regard as friends, and how many of these friendships do we find fulfilling?

Experts say that meaningful relationships are built upon three core characteristics, and it is the presence of all three that determines a healthy friendship: someone who brings us joy (positivity), someone to depend on (consistency) and someone to confide in (vulnerability) [1]. The reality is that most of our relationships lack at least one of these and we are left with very few, if any true close friends. And even with our closest friends there will inevitably come a parting – either life growing a distance between us, a fallout that leaves a bitter taste, or death leaving us to nurse that wound alone.

But what if you were to make a friend who vows to stick by you through thick and thin, a friend who understands your heart when your tongue fails you, a friend who responds to you even before you call out. A friend who awaits you when you return late from work, who stays up with you when your worries drive away sleep, who watches the daybreak alongside you as the world stills. A friend that is your clarity in doubt, your light in darkness, your solace in heartbreak and your company in loneliness. A friend on your shelf, that belongs in your heart – the Qur'an.

What makes the Qur'an a friend? The world we live in teaches us to nurture our physical needs – so when we read the Qur'an, our tongues recite it and our ears hear it, and then we close the book and move on to the next task. Our naivety deters us from expecting to find pleasure in an act Allah recommends for us so we do not think to search for it in our ibadah (worship). But if we were to tune out the world and listen, we would hear Allah say:

أَلَمْ نَجْعَلِ لَكَ كَلِمَةً إِذَا دَعَوْتَ رَجُلًا أَنْ لِي إِلَيْكَ فَآتِمْ وَأَنْ يَسْتَجِيبْ لَكَ وَلِي عَلَى الْكَافِرِينَ
لَوْ كُنَّا نَسْمَعُ أَوْ نَعْقِلُ مَا كُنَّا فِي أَصْحَابِ السَّعِيرِينَ

Is it not sufficient for them that We have sent down to you the Book that is being recited to them? Surely in it there is mercy and advice for a people who believe. (Qur'an 29:51)

Allah SWT created us, and He alone knows us best. He knows our happiest moments and our darkest secrets, and He knows that the simple beings He created long to be heard and to be loved – He knows and He tells us that in all our affairs, this Qur'an is sufficient for us.

What is to our eyes a book on the shelf, is to our hearts a home and is from Allah, a gift He has bestowed upon His creation – a soul to accompany our souls:

وَمَا كُنَّا بِأَعْيُنِنَا إِنْ كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ
وَمَا كُنَّا بِأَعْيُنِنَا إِنْ كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ

And so We have sent to you a "soul" of Our command (Qur'an 42:52) The Qur'an was revealed to pierce our hearts, an exercise for the soul, an escape from the harshness of this world and a window into the bliss that lies ahead of us as believers. Allah informs us that this Qur'an is the sole reason to rejoice. In it is true pleasure and happiness, and if we were to gather all that brings us a smile in this world, the Qur'an is far better for us than all that we can collate. And if that were not enough, scan its pages and count the verses that give glad tidings, an abode of gardens, palaces, and rivers from beyond our imagination and an eternity of peace and content. In the Qur'an is our joy, and in it is the promise of true everlasting happiness.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَتَّبِعُوا هَوْلًا بَعْضُهُمْ أَعْيُنُنَا وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ لَبِئْسَ مَا يَكُونُ لَكُمْ عَدُوًّا وَمَنْ يَكُنْ لَكُمْ عَدُوًّا فَلْيَسِّرْ لَكُمْ أَسْرَارَهُمْ
وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا هَوْلًا بَعْضُهُمْ أَعْيُنُنَا وَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ لَبِئْسَ مَا يَكُونُ لَكُمْ عَدُوًّا وَمَنْ يَكُنْ لَكُمْ عَدُوًّا فَلْيَسِّرْ لَكُمْ أَسْرَارَهُمْ

O humanity! Indeed, there has come to you a warning from your Lord, a cure for what is in the hearts, a guide, and a mercy for the believers. Say, "In Allah's grace and mercy let them rejoice. That is far better than whatever they amass." (Qur'an 10:57-58)

We find in the Qur'an the definition of consistency. The Qur'an was revealed at a deliberate pace, consistently throughout Prophethood as a reflection of its breadth – whether you reach out to it at the darkest hour of the night or the brightest time of day it is always near, its hand outstretched awaiting yours. When we are purposeful with the Qur'an, and we listen and reflect upon it with our hearts present it becomes a part of us, a companion that quite literally lives within us. A heart that houses the Qur'an will find in it the most dependable of friends.

وَمَا كُنَّا بِأَعْيُنِنَا إِنْ كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ

We have sent it as such in stages so We may reassure your heart with it. And We have revealed it at a deliberate pace (Qur'an 25:32)

It is human to want to feel loved, but to be loved requires us to be known. It is not easy to find the trust to confide in someone, to share our secrets and rawest emotions – our proudest achievements, our deepest wounds, our shame and our guilt, our aspirations and our fears. Often when we are at our most vulnerable, our reflex is to withdraw and shut out the world.

But the Qur'an promises us a refuge – it was made for our hearts, and so it recognises the hearts' most silent calls. The Qur'an advises us, warns us and shapes us to be the best version of ourselves. Its verses inspire and strengthen us, and it is those verses that can hold us up when the weight of this world beats us down.

لِيُنذِرَ مَن كَانَ مُجِرِمًا
لِيُنذِرَ مَن كَانَ مُجِرِمًا

Those who believe and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of Allah. Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort (Qur'an 13:28)

The Qur'an is indeed a comfort, and in its comfort we find a friend – someone to bring us joy, someone to depend on and someone to confide in; the three characteristics of a fulfilling friendship exhibited in their best forms.

How do I become a friend of the Qur'an?

As with any friendship, building a friendship with the Qur'an requires you to be intentional, and to invest time and effort in your relationship. This Qur'an promises to be the best of friends, but that gift is granted only to those who are sincere in seeking its companionship – those who prioritise it, those who keep their tongues moist with it, those who spend the nights searching for its secrets and the days reflecting on its verses.

وَمَا كُنَّا بِأَعْيُنِنَا إِنْ كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ

It is truly a mighty Book (Qur'an 41:41) Azeez is a characteristic of Allah, and it can be translated as Mighty. An 'Azeez' is one who has no dependence on anyone, but an 'Azeez' is also one who honours those who honour Him.

The Qur'an has no need for you, and so if you desire a friendship with it, you must show the Qur'an how much you want it.

Purposefully plan your time with it and be present in its presence. Isolate yourself from the physical and the virtual distractions and read it slowly and consciously.

Fill your ears with it on the commute to work, in the car and at home.

Commit yourself to a wurd (a daily amount) that is the nourishment to your soul, and you will slowly but surely find yourself filling an emptiness you did not know existed within you.

Pause at every verse, allow your heart to absorb its wisdom and take heed from its warnings.

Embark on the journey of memorising it and studying its tafseer (interpretation).

Introduce it to your loved ones, reflect on its verses together and share your love for it.

Recite it aloud in the quiet hours of the night and beautify your recitation knowing that when you are seemingly alone with it – you are in fact hosting a gathering, and the angels of Allah are in your company.

Make an effort to befriend it, and you will no longer recognise a life without it.

Ultimately to have this strong connection with the Qur'an is a gift Allah SWT grants only those whom He loves, so pray to Him SWT and ask Him for this blessing:

اللهم اجعل القرآن العظيم ربيع قلمي و نور صدري و جوارحى و ذهاب حزنى
Allahumma ij'al al-Qur'an al-atheema rabe'e qalbee wa noora sadree wa jalaa' hammee wa tahaaba huznee

O Allah, make the Qur'an the spring of my heart, and the light of my chest, the banisher of my sadness, and the reliever of my distress (Ahmad 1/391)

How does the Qur'an befriend you?

Persevere in your journey to befriend the Qur'an and know that this friendship is worth all that is in this world and much more beyond. For your friendship with the Qur'an, unlike any other friend, is not bound by the impermanence of this life. One who befriends the Qur'an has made for themselves a friend in this world, and a friend in the next.

Nothing in this world is guaranteed but death, and as Muslims we know that there will come a day when we stand before Allah SWT and be judged. On that day when even a mother flees from her children, no relationship will hold value.

وَمَا كُنَّا بِأَعْيُنِنَا إِنْ كُنَّا مُرْسِلِينَ

And no close friend will ask about

their friends (Qur'an 70:10)

That is the first day of the next life, our forever life, and that is the day we will be in more desperate need of a friendship than we have ever been. Amidst the panic and the fear, there will be a group of people who will be comforted by a familiar voice. The Qur'an will recognise its friends on that day, and it will reach out to them, and just as it guided them in this world it will hold even tighter onto them and guide them through the darkness of Day of Judgement.

Anas bin Malik said, "The Messenger of Allah () said: 'Allah has His own people among mankind.' They said: 'O Messenger of Allah, who are they?' He said: 'The people of the Qur'an, the people of Allah and those who are closest to Him.'" (Sunan ibn Majah 215)

The friends of the Qur'an will stand out from amongst the crowd, levels above the rest of humanity, crowned with the title they earned for themselves in this world: The people of Allah. Those are the sincere friends of the Qur'an who honoured it in this world and so by virtue they will be honoured by Al-Azeez.

When you befriend the Qur'an, it becomes your best friend in this world, and when this world ends for you, your best friend will be all that remains by your side. The Qur'an will be your companion in the grave, your intercessor when there is no one else to intercede for you, your stability on As-siraat (the crossing) and your guide to Jannah (paradise). This friendship you built with the Qur'an does not just leave you at the gates of Jannah, for the Prophet Muhammad () says:

"The friend of the Qur'an will be told on the Day of Resurrection: Recite and ascend (in ranks) as you used to recite when you were in the world. Your rank will be at the last Ayah you recite." (Abu Dawud)

When the Qur'an becomes your company in seclusion, your light in darkness, your calm amidst the chaos, when you find yourself longing for it – that is when you can call yourself a friend of the Qur'an.

The friendship you foster with the Qur'an is the only relationship that is not separated by death. You will part this world and your soul will part your body, but if your soul has befriended the soul that is the Qur'an, then the Qur'an will remain your source of joy, your confidant, and your most faithful companion – it will remain for eternity, your best friend.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Amazon Introduces Next-Gen Of Echo Smart Devices With New-Age AI

IANS
Amazon has introduced a new line-up of Echo smart speakers with more intuitive Alexa experiences which can understand conversational phrases and respond appropriately with the help of AI. The company showcased next-generation Echo Show 8, all-new Echo Hub and new Echo Frames at its fall hardware event late on Wednesday. Amazon also collaborated with Safilo, one of the world's leading eyewear manufacturers, to blend the power of Alexa with iconic Carrera designs. "These new Echo devices give custom-

ers more ways to experience the world's best personal AI—and the growing generative AI capabilities that will be coming to Alexa soon—at home and on the go," said Daniel Rausch, vice president of Alexa and Fire TV. The new Echo Show 8 has been upgraded inside and out. It also runs a new model enabling Alexa to process common smart home requests locally for 40 per cent faster responses to common requests, such as turning on a smart light, switch, or plug. Video calls are better with a centred 13-megapixel camera, plus an enhanced audio pipeline which minimises background noise from around the home. Echo Show 8 also features Adaptive Content — a new home screen experience

that uses on-device computer vision technology to adjust on-screen content based on a customer's proximity to the device, said the company. Echo Show 8 is available in Glacier White and Charcoal for \$149.99 and will begin shipping on October 25. Also coming this fall is Echo Show 8 Photos Edition, which unlocks a photo-forward mode on Echo Show 8's high-resolution screen. The Photos Edition experience makes customer-selected personal photos the primary rotating content on the ambient screen. Photos rotate every 30-seconds and customers receive 25 GB of storage from Amazon Photos. The Echo Show 8 Photos

Edition is available for \$159.99 and includes a six-month PhotosPlus subscription which will renew after six months for \$1.99 per month, and can be cancelled at any time. Echo Hub is Amazon's first smart home control panel that makes connecting and managing smart devices intuitive, that costs \$179.99 and will be available later this year. It features a thin, eight-inch, touch-enabled display with a customizable smart home dashboard. With Adaptive Content, Echo Hub uses infrared technology to detect when someone is nearby, and naturally transitions from a home screen with a beautiful clock, to the smart home control screen, the company said. The Echo Frames and Carrera Smart Glasses introduce seven new frame styles,

reimagined audio design, long-lasting battery, and hands-free access to Alexa, and start at \$269.99. Amazon also introduced enhanced conversational voice search with generative AI, upgrades to the Fire TV Ambient Experience, and the most powerful Fire TV Sticks yet—the all-new Fire TV Stick 4K Max, now with the Fire TV Ambient Experience, and Fire TV Stick 4K. All-new Fire TV Stick 4K delivers Fire TV Stick's best performance for under \$50, with nearly 30 per cent more power than the previous generation, plus support for Wi-Fi 6. In addition, Amazon announced the all-new Fire TV Soundbar, enabling customers to enjoy their favourite TV shows, movies, and games with room-filling sound.

Office Of The Child Development Project Officer POSHAN PROJECT URI (PUBLIC NOTICE).

Subject: Tentative Selection List of Sahikiyas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Uri.
In pursuance to Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023, and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar vide No: MD/Poshan/Estt/13281-94 Dated: 08-05-2023, (56) posts of Sahikiyas (Anganwadi Helpers) have been advertised by this office vide advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 and Extension Notice No: CDPO/POSHAN/Uri/Estt/23-24/187-196, dated: 13-06-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Srinagar Times" on 15-06-2023, Re-Advertisement Notice No: 02-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 20-06-2023 Published in News Paper "Rising Kashmir" on 22-06-2023, Re-advertisement Notice No: 03-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 06-07-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Bazmi Kashmir" on 07-07-2023, advertisement notice No: 04-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 14-07-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Rising Kashmir" on 15-07-2023, Re-advertisement notice No: 05-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 02-08-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Maqad/Kashmir Aman" on 04-08-2023 & Re-advertisement notice No: 06-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 17-08-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Imroz-e-Kashmir & Srinagar-e-Jung" on 18-08-2023. In response to said advertisement notices, (45) application forms were received against (23) Posts of Sahikiyas (Anganwadi Helpers) on the basis of Punch/Municipal Wards within cut-off dates and merit list of candidates have been prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023 and No: SWD-ICDS/43/2022, dated: 14-08-2023. The tentative selection list has been framed on the basis of merit list herewith as Annexure-A, comprising of 23 candidates Tentatively selected as Sahikiyas (Anganwadi Helpers). The Merit List of candidates for (23) Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Uri is annexed herewith as Annexure-B. Both Tentative Selection List and Merit List are hereby published for information of general public and inviting appeal/objections if any. The appeal/objection if any against the said Tentative selection list, shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Uri against proper receipt with in ten days up to 4:00 PM, from the date of publication of the said public notice, no appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filing appeal/objections.

(ANNEXURE-A)

Tentative Selection List of Candidates for the post of Sahikiyas (Anganwadi Helpers) for Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Uri advertised vide above referred notices.

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	8	Sahiba Farooq	85	Farooq, Ahmad	Razernawi	06	20-07-1998	Matric	197	500	39.40%	39.40	No	0	39.40	Un-Married
2	2	Mubina Bisher	89	Jalpanger, Ahmad	Chak	09	12-09-1995	Matric	212	500	42.40%	42.40	No	0	42.40	Married
3	21	Ruba Yousaf	84	W/O Iqbal Ahmad Tanzeem	Mahara Farooq Mohalla	04	15-03-1992	Matric	206	500	41.20%	41.20	Yes	0.824	42.024	Married
4	14	Sharifa Begum	86	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Thajal-A Sokar Upper	06	06-01-1990	Matric	191	500	38.20%	38.20	No	0	38.20	Married
5	12	Tandona Bano	83	W/O Inshad Ahmad Nali	Garkote-A Nali Mohalla Nali	03	19-11-1989	Matric	212	500	42.40%	42.40	No	0%	42.40	Married
6	76	Kamran Jahan	7	W/O Shahr Ahmad Nali	Banhabad Garkote-A	3	25-09-1985	Bk	340	500	68.00%	68.00	No	0	68.00	Un-Married
7	08	Shabana Kousar	81	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Nasib-A Fatawal	04	18-03-1989	Matric	216	500	43.20%	43.20	No	0	43.20	Married
8	51	Haniya Bano	7	W/O Umar-Ed-Din Chacki	GARKOTE-B CHATTA BAYTA	7	04-05-2004	10th	333	500	66.60%	66.60	No	0	66.60	Un-Married
9	18	Rubana Bano	86	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Nasib-A Sokar Mohalla	06	01-08-1996	Matric	199	500	39.80%	39.80	No	0	39.80	Un-Married
10	18	Sarifa Bano	85	W/O Gulab Din Chacki	Garkote-B Khar	05	14-04-1998	Matric	206	500	41.20%	41.20	No	0%	41.20	Un-Married
11	16	Shamona Akter	8	W/O Musarrat Ahmad Nali	Garkote-A Nali Mohalla Khar	8	26-12-1992	Matric	211	500	42.20%	42.20	No	0%	42.20	Un-Married
12	35	Shamima Begum	89	W/O Musarrat Ahmad Nali	Garkote-B Khar	09	11-12-1998	Bk	332	600	55.33%	38.67	Yes	6.733	39.44	Un-Married
13	75	Nusrat Nadeer	82	W/O Musarrat Ahmad Nali	Garkote-B Khar	02	13-08-1997	Bk	342	600	57.00%	40.33	No	0	40.33	Un-Married
14	20	Rafiya Begum	81	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Nasib-A Sokar Mohalla	06	05-03-1999	Matric	175	500	35.00%	35.00	No	0%	35.00	Un-Married
15	18	Shahzad Bano	85	W/O Abdul Qayyum Shab	Thajal-Kasi	05	07-12-1992	Matric	186	500	37.20%	37.20	No	0	37.20	Un-Married
16	52	Qurat-Ul-Ain	81	W/O Raaf Ahmad Farooq	Thajal Khar	01	20-03-1991	Matric	201	500	40.20%	40.20	No	0	40.20	Un-Married
17	42	Sahiba Ameer	82	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Maqad	02	06-02-1992	Matric	176	500	35.20%	35.20	No	0%	35.20	Un-Married
18	15	Rubana Bano	87	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Garkote-B Khar	07	28-08-1999	Bk	237	600	39.50%	39.50	Yes	0.79	40.29	Un-Married
19	14	Sharifa Bano	84	W/O Shafiq Hussain	Thajal Sokar Lower	06	01-03-2000	Matric	193	500	38.60%	38.60	No	0	38.60	Un-Married
20	46	Harna Mubayyir	84	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Thajal-A	04	29-03-2004	Matric	182	500	36.40%	36.40	Yes	0.738	37.138	Un-Married
21	8	Aadia Akter	86	W/O Haseem Ahmad Nali	Haseem Ahmad Nali	06	28-02-1998	Matric	204	500	40.80%	40.80	Yes	1.136	41.936	Un-Married
22	14	Nargis Begum	81	W/O Abdul Qayyum Shab	Mahara Farooq Mohalla	04	05-05-1987	Bk	272	600	45.33%	45.33	No	0	45.33	Un-Married
23	37	Maryam Bano	86	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Kashim Colony Lit	06	16-12-1994	10th	222	500	44.40%	44.40	No	0	44.40	Un-Married

ANNEXURE-B

Merit List of Candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWHs) in response to different advertisement notices mentioned in supra.

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-06 Manichrang Razernawi advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 04-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 14-07-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Rising Kashmir" on 15-07-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	8	Sahiba Farooq	85	Farooq, Ahmad	Razernawi	06	20-07-1998	Matric	197	500	39.40%	39.40	No	0	39.40	Un-Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-09 Garkote-A Mankidar advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 04-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 14-07-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Rising Kashmir" on 15-07-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	2	Mubina Bisher	89	Jalpanger, Ahmad	Chak	09	12-09-1995	Matric	212	500	42.40%	42.40	No	0	42.40	Married
2	4	Shabana Begum	81	W/O Inshad Ahmad Nali	Mankidar Garkote	09	04-06-1992	Matric	197	500	39.40%	39.40	No	0	39.40	Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-04 Mohara Tantray Mohalla advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	21	Ruba Yousaf	84	W/O Iqbal Ahmad Tanzeem	Mahara Farooq Mohalla	04	15-03-1992	Matric	206	500	41.20%	41.20	Yes	0.824	42.024	Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-06 Thajal-A Sokar Upper advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 and Extension Notice No: CDPO/POSHAN/Uri/Estt/23-24/187-196, dated: 13-06-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Srinagar Times" on 15-06-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	14	Sharifa Begum	86	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Thajal-A Sokar Upper	06	06-01-1990	Matric	191	500	38.20%	38.20	No	0	38.20	Married
2	45	Aadia Bano	86	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Thajal-A Sokar Upper	06	08-01-2004	Bk	172	600	28.67%	28.67	No	0	28.67	Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-03 GARKOTE-A NAIK MOHALLA NALI advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	12	Tandona Bano	83	W/O Inshad Ahmad Nali	Garkote-A Nali Mohalla Nali	03	19-11-1989	Matric	212	500	42.40%	42.40	No	0%	42.40	Married
2	13	Gulshan Begum	83	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Garkote-A Nali Mohalla Nali	03	05-02-1991	Bk	184	500	36.80%	36.80	No	0%	36.80	Married
3	50	Zaynab Begum	86	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Garkote-A Nali Mohalla Nali	03	10-05-1996	Bk	383	1000	38.30%	38.30	No	0%	38.30	Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-03 BANHODI GARKOTE-A advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 and Re-advertisement Notice No: 03-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 06-07-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Bazmi Kashmir" on 07-07-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	76	Kamran Jahan	7	W/O Shahr Ahmad Nali	Banhabad Garkote-A	3	25-09-1985	Bk	340	500	68.00%	68.00	No	0	68.00	Un-Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-04 NAMLA-A FATAWALI advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	31	Pervin Begum	81	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Nasib-A Fatawal	04	15-08-1988	Bk	188	500	37.60%	37.60	No	0	37.60	Married
2	68	Shabana Kousar	81	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Nasib-A Fatawal	04	18-03-1989	Matric	216	500	43.20%	43.20	No	0	43.20	Married
3	61	Pervin Begum	81	W/O Iqbal Ahmad Tanzeem	Nasib-A Fatawal	04	01-02-1994	Matric	177	500	35.40%	35.40	No	0	35.40	Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-07 GARKOTE-B CHATTA BAYTA advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	28	Rafia Azeem	86	W/O Iqbal Ahmad Tanzeem	GARKOTE B CHATTA BAYTA	7	06-04-2001	Bk	137	300	45.67%	45.67	No	0	45.67	Married
2	43	Yasmin Bano	81	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	GARKOTE B CHATTA BAYTA	7	12-04-2003	10th	235	500	47.00%	47.00	No	0	47.00	Un-Married
3	51	Haniya Bano	7	W/O Umar-Ed-Din Chacki	GARKOTE B CHATTA BAYTA	7	04-05-2004	10th	333	500	66.60%	66.60	No	0	66.60	Un-Married

Merit List of candidates who have applied for the post of Sahikiyas (AWH) against the location of AWC Ward-06 Ramba A Sadar Mohalla advertised vide this Office advertisement notice No: 01-CDPO URI of 2023, Dated: 31-05-2023 Published in Daily Newspaper "Aftab" on 01-06-2023 for general information

S No	Index No	Name of the candidate	Parcentage %	Residence	Ward No	DOB	Qualification	Higher Qualification	Marksheet No.	Max. Marks	%age	Weightage	Whether any relation with parent AWW/AWH	Additional 2% points	Total Merit	Marital Status
1	17	Qudus Bano	86	W/O Shahr Ahmad Nali	Garkote-B Chatta Bayta	06	04-01-1989	Matric	178	500	35.60%	35.60	No	0	35.60	Married
2	18	Rubana Bano	86	W/O Mubayyir Hussain	Garkote-B Chatta Bayta	06	01-08-1996	Matric	190	500	38.00%	38.00	No	0	38.00	Married
3	29	Rubana Bano	86	W/O Iqbal Ahmad Tanzeem	Garkote-B Chatta Bayta	06	15-01-1988	Bk	212	500	42.40%	42.40	No	0	42.40	Married
4	34	Sahiba Farooq	86	W/O Safer Ahmad Mir	Garkote-B Chatta Bayta	06	12-04-1999	Matric								

Diplomatic Tensions Between India And Canada Not Expected To Impact Exports: EEPC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The diplomatic row between India and Canada will not have a material impact on the country's exports, according to apex engineering body EEPC.

India's exports to Canada stood at USD 4.1 billion in 2022-23.

The export goods include pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, textiles, and machinery, while imports (USD 4.06 billion) include pulses, timber, pulp and paper, and mining products.

"We do not believe that the stand-off with Canada will have a material impact on our exports and trade, given our long-standing relationship. We expect the current stand-off to be temporary and to be resolved," EEPC (Engineering Export Promotion Council of India) Chairman Arun Kumar Garodia told PTI.

He expressed hope that the stand-off would be resolved soon and India's outbound shipments to Canada will continue to grow.

"India and Canada have been good partners as far as trading and cultural relations are concerned, for a significant time.



The current stand-off between India and Canada seems to be a temporary one, and I'm sure that it is going to be resolved diplomatically," Garodia said.

He added that though the talks for the proposed free trade agreement have been paused, it would resume as soon as political issues settle down.

Engineering exporter Nipha Group director Akash Shah said there would be no material impact on exports, and that trade would continue, and he hoped that the ongoing stand-off would be settled soon.

The comments come in the backdrop of an intense diplomatic row that erupted following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of a Khalistani separatist in June. India has rejected the charge as absurd.

4th Handicrafts Quality Control Council Meeting Held

Major decisions taken to promote GI/Non GI Labeled Handicraft products

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A 4th meeting of the Handicrafts Quality Control Council was Friday held under the chairmanship of Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah to formulate a uniform process of labelling and quick-response coding (QR) of Non-GI products.

QR code is part of the serious effort by the Jammu and Kashmir government to improve buyer confidence and adequately promote handmade works. The initiative is aimed at fair trade practice at a time when the handicraft sector is exhibiting a strong revival with exports.

The meeting witnessed all the stakeholders come together to discuss and address issues related to the process and pricing of the labels and it was decided that nominal price shall be charged for labelling of the products.

Director Handicrafts and Handloom passed on the spot directions to provide doorstep facilities for the manufacturers having bulk stock of notified craft items at workplaces of the applicants.

Department is in process to achieve the accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) by upgrading the existing lab facilities in Quality Control Division of the department.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director Quality Control, Director ICT Srinagar, President KCCI, Representatives from Tahafuz and MEERAS societies and other senior officers of the department.



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District Tourism Development Council To Be Established At Ganderbal

DC discusses district tourism master plan

Observer News Service



GANDERBAL: To transform district Ganderbal into a world-class tourist destination, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamprasad Friday chaired a meeting to discuss the modalities for establishing District Tourism Development Council.

At the outset, the meeting held a detailed discussion on requirements for creating a comprehensive district tourism policy to harness the district's potential as a tourist destination while ensuring sustainable development and community involvement.

While discussing the requirements for creating district tourism policy, it was revealed that the District Tourism Development Council shall be established headed by the Deputy Commissioner and involving all stakeholders associated with the tourism sector.

The DC maintained that the District Tourism Development Council will act as catalyst to harness these assets and develop a sustainable tourism industry that benefits all stakeholders.

The DC highlighted the collaborative efforts required from all stakeholders to boost tourism in the district and maximize its potential as an economic driver. He stressed that a comprehensive tourism master plan is required that outlines long-term development goals and strategies, aligning tourism with the district's socio-economic and environmental objectives.

The meeting was attended by CEO, Manasbal Development Authority, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, CPO, SE PWD, Deputy District Election Officer and Sonamarg Tourist Officer.

Interacting with the officers, the DC said that the district Ganderbal is blessed with breathtaking natural landscape, pristine lakes and rich cultural heritage and the District Tourism Development Council will act as catalyst to harness these assets and develop a sustainable tourism industry that benefits all stakeholders.

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Sale Of iPhone 15 Sees 100% Growth Versus iPhone 14's On Day 1

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Sale of Apple's iPhone 15 is estimated to have registered a 100 per cent growth compared to that of the iPhone 14 series on the first day with high demand for made-in-India iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus models, according to industry sources. Apple has for the first time made available the 'made-in-India' iPhone on the same day it started selling the devices in the country and other parts of the globe.

"Till evening, 6 pm IST, the sales of iPhone 15 series have recorded over 100 per cent growth on Day 1 compared to the sale of iPhone 14. There are long queues everywhere and more people have started coming after their office hours," an industry source, who did not wish to be identified, told PTI.

An email query sent to Apple did not elicit any reply. Apple has started selling made-in-India iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus, having colour options of pink, yellow, green, blue, and black with 128 GB, 256 GB, and 512 GB storage capacities, at starting prices of Rs 79,900 and Rs 89,900, respectively. The iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max are available in black titanium, white titanium, blue



titanium, and natural titanium finishes.

The price of iPhone 15 Pro starts at Rs 1,34,900 and is available in 128GB, 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB storage capacities. iPhone 15 Pro Max starts at Rs 1,59,900 and is available in 256GB, 512GB, and 1TB storage capacities.

iPhone 15 Pro Max with 1 TB storage is being sold for Rs 1.99 lakh apiece in India.

The iPhone 15 series marks several firsts for Apple in India. This is the first time that customers are able to buy iPhones from Apple Stores in Delhi and Mumbai.

According to another industry source, the iPhone 15 Pro series was booked by more customers but demand for iPhone 15 and iPhone 15 Plus was also high at Apple stores, and Apple Premium Reseller stores.

J&K Bank Dedicates Cash Recycler Machine At Mahanpur In Kathua

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In line with its policy to enhance ease-of-banking, J&K Bank has dedicated a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) for the public at its Branch Mahanpur in District Kathua.

The Bank's Zonal Head (Kathua) Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated the touch-point in presence



of Cluster Head Vinay Gupta, Branch Manager Vishwanath Bhardwaj, prominent citizens of the area besides a good gathering of valuable customers, senior citizens, local businessmen and other officials of the bank.

Speaking on the occasion, the Zonal Head said, "We feel pleased to dedicate a new CRM for people of the area. Now the customers can deposit, with-

draw cash as per their need and convenience even after the banking hours and on holidays."

Urging people of the area to avail various schemes of the bank, he said, "We are committed to empower people by providing them with opportunities to start their own business ventures thereby contributing to the economic upliftment of society."

He instructed the branch staff to sensitize the locals about digital delivery channels rolled out by the bank besides various schemes tailored to meet their financial needs.

After the inauguration, he held a detailed interaction with the customers and other participants, who expressed their gratitude for various banking and financial facilities provided to them by the Bank.

BSE To Discontinue Stop Loss Market Orders From Oct 9 To Check Freak Trades



Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Leading stock exchange BSE has decided to discontinue Stop Loss Market (SL-M) orders from October 9 to prevent erroneous order placement arising out of manual or algo trades.

This came after a recent freak trade incident caused a lot of angst among the trading community earlier this month due to an SL-M order.

SL-M is a type of order that automatically sells or buys a security at the market price when the trigger price is reached.

"As a measure to prevent erroneous order placement, stop loss orders with market condition in equity segment, equity

derivatives segment, currency derivatives segment, and commodity derivatives segment shall be discontinued by the exchange with effect from October 9," BSE said in a notice.

Welcoming the decision, Narendra Solanki, Head, Fundamental Research - Investment Services, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said it is a good step to prevent erroneous orders and should prove beneficial to small and retail traders as such freak trades harm and create unnecessary volatility in the markets.

"We believe that this is a positive and progressive step that will benefit all market participants by improving the trading process and market quality as

SL-M can also lead to extreme price executions during low volumes or when the market price fluctuates sharply," Tejas Khoday, Co-founder and CEO of FYERS, said.

This measure will protect traders from such incidents and align its operations with the NSE, which discontinued SL-M orders in September 2021.

Khoday said traders can use Stop Loss Limit (SL-L) orders instead of SL-M orders.

An SL-L order is another type of stop-loss order that only sells or buys a security at the specified price in a range. This helps to avoid executing orders at strike prices with low volumes or sharp movements in the market.

Arunachal's Agri Min Visits IIKSTC Dussoo, Pampore

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Arunachal Pradesh, Taggi Taki, along with team of Agriculture Officers Friday visited India International Trade Centre (IIKSTC) Dussoo, Pampore.

He visited different sections of IIKSTC where he along with the team was briefed about grading, labelling, packing, drying, processing, marketing and related things available at the centre.



Speaking on the occasion, Agriculture Minister said that the purpose of their visit to IIKSTC is to learn basic techniques and explore possibilities for introduction of saffron in AP besides exposing the accompanying offices to different technical interventions in

saffron production, protection and post harvest management.

He appreciated the officers and officials of IIKSTC for their role and commitment towards development of saffron sector. He said this part of our country produces world's best quality saffron.

Earlier, Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, briefed the visiting Minister regarding post harvest management techniques, quality evaluation and e marketing facilities be-

ing provided to saffron farmers at IIKSTC Dussoo, Pampore.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Manohar Lal Sharma, Administrator, IIKSTC Shanawaz Ahmad Shah, Technical Officer HADP, Sheikh Imran and others were also present on the occasion.

Sebi Levies Rs 55 Lakh Fine On 11 Entities For Non-Genuine Trades

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Sebi has levied penalties totalling Rs 55 lakh on 11 entities for indulging in non-genuine trades in illiquid stock options segment on the BSE.

In 11 separate orders, the regulator slapped a fine of Rs 5 lakh each on Kamala Agarwal, Kamla Devi Bajoria, Kamla Jain, Kamaljeet Kour, Kamal Ramprasad Gupta, Kamal Kumar, Kamlesh Ahuja, Kailash Narottamdas Anam, Sanjay Kumar Daga HUF Pragma Suppliers Pvt Ltd and Aromatic Tie Up Pvt Ltd.

The orders came after the regulator observed large-scale reversal trades in the illiquid stock options segment on the BSE, leading to artificial volumes on the exchange.

Sebi conducted an investigation into the trading activities of certain entities engaged in the segment from April 2014 to September 2015.

The entities to be fined were among those who indulged in reversal trades, Sebi said in the 11 separate orders on Thursday.

Reversal trades are non-genuine as they are executed in the normal course of trading, leading to a false or misleading appearance in terms of generating artificial volumes, the regulator said.

By indulging in such trades, the entities violated the PFUTP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) norms, it said.

In a separate order on Wednesday, Sebi imposed fines totalling Rs 20 lakh on two entities for flouting disclosure rules in the matter of IFL Promoters Ltd.

In another order, the regulator suspended the registration of 3M Team Research Pvt Ltd for a period one year for violating the regulatory norms.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

From Local Shops

into the future of commerce in Kashmir.

"This trend is not confined to urban areas alone. We're delivering more parcels than ever before, and it's evident that online shopping is gaining a strong foothold in Kashmir. From the urban hubs to the remotest villages, e-commerce has become a part of daily life," Tanveer Ahmad, a courier service provider in south Kashmir's Kulgam said. "Sometimes we even deliver 2000 parcels in a day."

In a region as geographically diverse as Kashmir, Tanveer believes that efficient logistics and reliable delivery are crucial, and the improved logistics and delivery networks over the years have helped to make online shopping a viable and convenient option.

Unicommerce, an e-commerce enablement SaaS platform in India, in its report 'India E-commerce Index' 2023, highlights the consistently rising consumer inclination towards online shopping. It reported a significant 26.2% year-on-year increase in order volume and a 23.5% rise in annual GMV (Gross Merchandise Volume) compared to the previous fiscal year, indicating a maturing e-commerce landscape in the country. Experts project that this market will expand from US\$ 38.5 billion in 2017 to a staggering US\$ 200 billion by 2026.

Rage of smartphones in Kashmir

Experts opine that the rapid proliferation of smartphones in Kashmir has played a significant role in fueling the boom of online shopping in the region. As smartphones become increasingly affordable and accessible to a wider population, more people in Kashmir are now connected to the digital world and able to engage in online activities, including e-commerce.

"The region has witnessed a significant surge in the demand for smartphones," Aasif Ahmad, a mobile tech sales expert in Kashmir said, adding that consumers in Kashmir now have access to a wide range of smartphone options, including budget-friendly models as well as high-end flagship devices from renowned brands. "Even a 5th grader has a phone now," he said.

According to Aasif, the easy availability of fast and reliable internet connectivity has facilitated seamless browsing, making smartphones even more appealing to users who seek to engage in online shopping.

Over 97 percent households in Jammu and Kashmir possess mobile phones while 58 percent households have access to the internet, the National Health and Family Survey-5 (NHFS-5) had reported. The data from Stats of India—an independent e-resource providing socio-economic statistical information of India, 75.2 percent women in Jammu and Kashmir own a mobile phone which is the 12th highest ratio in India.

Impact on local economy

Many think that when individuals choose to make online purchases, they often divert financial resources away from their local communities. For instance, if a consumer decides to buy a gift from a platform like Amazon rather than a nearby local business, the money spent goes into the coffers of a national trader rather than contributing to the economic vitality of the purchaser's community. However, economic analyst Ejaz Ayoub notes that this shift has mixed effects on Jammu and Kashmir's economy. "The region heavily relies on imports due to its consumption-driven economy, with an annual import size of around Rs. 60,000 crores and around 10 lakh people are associated with the trading sector. What is currently being impacted by changing consumer behavior are the profits and margins earned by the trading sector," Ejaz told Kashmir Observer.

"Nonetheless, there is a growing trend of young entrepreneurs adopting modern business practices that can benefit the local community's revenue generation," he added.

But is e-commerce killing offline retailing?

In Anantnag's Lal Chowk, Faheem Ahmad, a clothing shop owner looks upon his meticulously arranged shelves, filled with a variety of textiles and garments. Once a flourishing trader, Faheem finds himself grappling with the challenges brought about by the onset of online shopping. The bustling streets that were once filled with enthusiastic customers have transformed into quiet lanes, and he witnesses a noticeable decline in footfall and customer engagement.

Faheem acknowledges that the charm and character of his shop

seem to have lost their allure amidst the rapidly changing consumer behavior. "Customers often compare prices with online platforms, not considering the transportation charges, taxes, and other expenses that physical stores bear" he said. Despite their lack of realization, Faheem understands that he cannot stop customers from shopping online.

He shares his frustration, "You won't believe, there are days when I struggle to sell even one item. People blame inflation for the same, but the significant shift towards online shopping has a major part to play."

Other local traders, whom Kashmir observer talked to, also shared that the rise of online shopping has put a downward pressure on prices, leading to reduced profit margins or difficulties in maintaining pricing levels. "Online platforms often offer lower prices due to factors like lower overhead costs, direct sourcing, and bulk purchasing. This puts pressure on us to offer competitive prices to attract customers," an offline retailer said.

Extending beyond trivial products, the availability of EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) options has made it possible for people to purchase a wide range of products, including electronics, appliances, furniture etc. "EMI's make it more affordable for individuals to spread the cost of expensive purchases over several months. I recently purchased an air conditioner from one of the leading online shopping sites using EMI option without bearing a substantial immediate financial burden," Wahid Ahmad, a student said.

Despite the increasing popularity of online shopping and the rise of smartphones in Kashmir, there remains a section of people who prefer traditional offline shopping. These individuals continue to embrace the experience of visiting physical stores and examining products in person.

"E-commerce has undoubtedly lured customers away from conventional retail stores, but I believe that it will ever reach a point where it entirely replaces them. Traditional stores are unlikely to vanish," 40-year-old Chulam Nabi Bhat, said. "It is crucial for physical retail stores to adapt rapidly in response to the current situation."

Need for digital presence

As the dynamics of commerce evolve, many local traders have recognised the importance of embracing the digital realm. Offline stores have started to establish a virtual presence through websites, social media platforms, or e-commerce stores that allows them to tap into the growing online market. The Unicommerce report stated that during FY-2023, the number of stores in India that implemented omnichannel operations rose by 58.4% as compared to the last financial year.

Saima Jan, a small business entrepreneur from Srinagar runs an offline ladies' store. But she started leveraging platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp to promote her products. "Social media has helped me connect with consumers from different parts of Kashmir and even from other regions. Virtual presence makes it easier to meet the expectations of digitally savvy consumers," Saima said.

"I click good pictures of my products like bags and upload them with detailed descriptions, images, and prices. Now, most of the sales I make are through online selling."

Walk into any neighborhood shop nowadays and you'll notice something new - a small black and white QR code (quick response code) discreetly placed near the cash counter. These codes represent a significant digital transformation that has swept through local markets and quaint corner stores. "Recognizing the importance of integrating technology into businesses, shopkeepers are now upgrading their stores with modern contactless payment processing. The adoption of digital payment methods, including mobile wallets and UPI (Unified Payments Interface) has facilitated transactions," Saima said.

E-commerce sites flourish in Kashmir

With an aim to bridge the gap between traditional businesses and the digital marketplace, several local e-commerce platforms and marketplaces like Koshur store, Kashmir Box, Kashmir origin, Jhelum Cart, Kashmir sales mart etc. have emerged in Kashmir.

koshurstore.com, an e-commerce marketplace founded in 2019 by 23-year-old Morris Shahmiri in Kashmir, has diversified into new markets, such as food, online pharmacy, and groceries, and successfully acquired other businesses, including Khen, Groceries-Daily,

and Shoob. Koshur Store attained funding from angel investors, becoming the youngest company to secure such investment. Multiple reports suggest that the company has experienced exponential growth, with a net worth of 900 million and the founder's personal net worth reaching 630 million in 2023. These numbers highlight the immense potential and opportunities that lie ahead for the e-commerce industry in Kashmir.

India, Pakistan

the meeting as India's lead counsel in the matter, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

"A delegation from India, led by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, attended a meeting of the neutral expert proceedings in the Kishenganga and Ratle matter at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in Vienna on September 20 and 21," it said in a statement.

The meeting was convened by the neutral expert appointed on India's request under the aegis of the Indus Waters Treaty and was attended by representatives of India and Pakistan, the MEA said.

"India's participation in this meeting is in line with India's consistent, principled stand that as per the graded mechanism provided for in the Indus Waters Treaty, the neutral expert proceedings are the only valid proceedings at this juncture," it added.

"It is for this reason that India has taken the Treaty-consistent decision to not participate in the parallel proceedings being conducted by an illegally constituted Court of Arbitration on the same set of issues pertaining to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects," the ministry said.

The MEA said the neutral expert proceedings are ongoing and expected to continue for some time.

"India is committed to engaging in a manner that supports the resolution of issues in accordance with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty," it said.

India has not cooperated with the CoA process to resolve the dispute.

According to India, the start of the two concurrent processes to resolve the dispute violates the provision of the three-step graded mechanism prescribed in the Indus Waters Treaty.

India has been pushing for the resolution of the dispute through the neutral expert proceedings.

Mirwaiz Offers

committee of the grand mosque said that a senior police official had on Thursday visited Nigeen residence of Mirwaiz, informing him that the authorities have decided to release him and also allowed him to discharge his religious duties at Jamia Masjid.

Soon after his release, Mirwaiz headed to the Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta area of the Old City and received a rousing welcome from hundreds of his supporters. People were seen holding garlands to welcome the Valley's head priest.

Emotions ran high when the Mirwaiz reached Jamia Masjid. He was greeted with slogans and praises by hundreds of his supporters. He was escorted to the pulpit of the Grand mosque, where he broke into tears.

Parties hail release

Meanwhile, political parties welcomed the release of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, with National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah expressing hope that Mirwaiz would resume his social and religious responsibilities.

"First of all we welcome this step by the government. Better late than never. He should not have been kept under house arrest for so long," Abdullah told reporters here.

The former chief minister, however, said the government has not done any favour to the Hurriyat chief by releasing him.

Abdullah said now all eyes will be on Mirwaiz. "...I hope that he will resume his socio-religious responsibilities. There are many issues in which he has a big role, especially in drug abuse," he said.

Another former chief minister, Mehbooba Mufti, also welcomed Mirwaiz's release, saying the Centre has corrected its mistakes which it committed after 2019 by arresting religious leaders in Jammu and Kashmir.

She said there is a race among BJP leaders and its allies to take credit for the release of the Mirwaiz.

"This is BJP's policy to turn J-K into a prison and throw its religious leaders into jails, and then after four-five years doing them a favour by releasing them. Keeping Mirwaiz under house arrest for four years was against democracy and humanity," Mufti told reporters here.

Asked about Mirwaiz's remarks about dialogue with Pakistan during his sermon at the Jamia Masjid, she said India needs to talk to

Pakistan if it wants permanent peace in J-K.

However, the PDP chief said she believes that the BJP-led government has held talks with Pakistan even if it says it will not.

"How did the ceasefire (on the LoC) happen? How was the Kartarpur corridor opened if there were no talks? They talk to Pakistan over other issues, but, when it comes to J-K, they do not bother even as poor migrants from Bihar and other places are killed," she said.

Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari expressed hope that the Mirwaiz will play his role to shape the society in a positive way for a better and peaceful tomorrow.

"I want to place on record thanks to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Mr. Amit Shah ji @ AmitShah and LG Manoj Sinha ji @ manojsinha_ for the decision to allow Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to lead Friday prayers at historic Jamia Masjid. Hope Mirwaiz Sahab will play his role to shape the society in a positive way for a better and peaceful tomorrow," Bukhari said in a post on X.

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief spokesperson Salman Nizami sought the release of all clerics.

"Today, the government has decided to allow Mirwaiz Umar Farooq sahib to lead the congregational prayers at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. It is a welcome step and we have been repeatedly seeking the release of religious clerics who are highly influential in our society and can have a substantial impact on our youngsters, if their knowledge and influence are positively used. We again demand the release of all Islamic clerics to utilise their efforts for a positive outcome," Nizami said. (With PTI inputs)

Labelled Anti-National

Addressing a large gathering at the sprawling mosque, 50 year old Mirwaiz said "that despite advocating for peace, it is unfortunate that he was branded as anti-national, anti-peace and separatist as well".

Earlier Mirwaiz broke down after he stood up on the pulpit amid intense sloganeering from the people present.

"I was allowed to deliver a sermon on the pulpit of Jamia Masjid after 212 consecutive Fridays. People are aware that after August, 04, 2019, I was kept under house detention and I was not being allowed to move out of my home, due to which I couldn't perform my duties as Mirwaiz" he said.

Mirwaiz said that after approaching the court, a few police officers visited him yesterday and informed that he is being released and can visit Jamia Masjid tomorrow to offer Friday prayers. "I cannot utter my sentiments, but it is all because of the prayers of people that I am here again to deliver the sermon," he said, adding that it was quite difficult for him to stay away from the pulpit for four years. He said that after August 5, 2019, people have faced difficult times as J&K's special identity was snatched and was bifurcated in two Union Territories.

"As a Mirwaiz, I have the responsibility to raise the voice for the people. Since Hurriyat Conference continued to raise the voice, but the media stopped using our statements. I want to tell my people that it is the time to be patient, to keep faith in the Almighty," he said. He said that Hurriyat believes that J&K's one part is in India while the rest two are in Pakistan and China, and by merging them fully J&K will be complete, which it was on 14 August 1947.

"Therefore, this issue needs to be resolved. J&K issue can be a territorial issue for many, but for the people of J&K it is a humanitarian issue," he said.

Reacting to the statement of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Ukraine issue, Mirwaiz said that he was right in saying that the present era is not of war. "We too have been advocating for the resolution of J&K issue through dialogue."

Following the path of peace, we had to bear difficulties, but unfortunately, we were branded as separatists, anti-national and anti-peace. But we don't have any personal ambition, we only want peaceful resolution of J&K issue," he said.

Advocating return of Kashmiri migrants, Mirwaiz said "It is because of our peaceful mission that we continued to appeal for the return of Kashmiri migrants."

"We believe in peaceful coexistence between communities and nations between the strong and the weak, between the majority and the minority. We have always advocated the return of Kashmiri Pandits and disapproved of making this human issue a political one."

He also demanded release of all political prisoners, journalists, lawyers, civil society members and the youth as well. After delivering

sermons, Mirwaiz appealed to the gathering to leave the Jamia Masjid peacefully.

Friday Prayers

Bidhuri said that prayers concluded peacefully, which is the dividend of the peace process. "The credit goes to the people and agencies, who took the decision after calculating the things," he said. He added that the role of every citizen is equal in the society, in the present situation related to the drug menace, everyone including religious leaders have a role to play—(KNO)

IAF A Symbol

skies and the air warriors exhibited their flying and formation skills to perfection. The people were also sensitized about the hazards for aviation and how can they assist in aviation safety through the first-of-its-kind Air Show in Jammu.

Later, the LG felicitated the defence personnel and the members of the aerobatic and skydiving teams to mark the occasion.

Air Vice Marshal PK Vohra, AOC J&K, Ladakh; Air Commodore SS Rawat, AOC, Air Force Station, Jammu; LG's Advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, State Election Commissioner J&K BR Sharma, senior officer of IAF, civil and police administration and army attended the event.

4 Of Doda Family

the truck and arrested its driver.

A case FIR No 206 has also been registered under relevant sections of law in this regard.

Delhi HC Refuses

pose a threat to national security, and according to the prosecution, the appellant attempted to arrange shelter for two militants associated with Jaish-e-Mohammed, a banned terrorist organisation.

Thokar, in his plea, challenged a trial court order of January which refused to release him on bail.

"After due consideration of the provisions of the UAPA Act, along with an assessment of the material appended in the subject charge-sheet; the collective evidence; as well as surface analysis of its probative value, in our considered view prima facie there exist reasonable grounds to believe that the accusations against the appellant are true," said the bench, also comprising Justice Anish Dayal, in its order.

"The present appeal is accordingly dismissed," the court said.

As per the prosecution, the court recorded, violent and proscribed terrorist groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-E-Mohammed, Hizbul-Mujahideen, Al-Badr and others, in collaboration with their facilitators and leaders based in Pakistan, hatched a conspiracy, both in physical and digital realm, to influence and radicalise susceptible local youth with an aim to recruit and train them to participate in acts of terrorism, which included handling weapons, ammunition, and explosive materials.

These actions were intended to execute acts of terrorism involving attacks on civilians and security forces with the intention of spreading fear within the Kashmir Valley and in various regions of India subsequent to the revocation of Article 370, noted the court.

The appellant, who was arrested on October 20, 2021, argued there was absence of material evidence against him, especially associating him with any conspiracy related to the origination and implementation of "hybrid terrorism".

The NIA, on the other hand, contended there was active involvement of the appellant in sharing material eulogising and endorsing slain terrorists and proscribed terrorist groups across various online forums and social media platforms.

It was alleged the appellant played an active role in arranging logistical support for militants in the Kashmir Valley.

Army Commander

briefed on automation of Intelligence and Engagement Matrix," the Army's Northern Command wrote on X.

Lt Gen Dwivedi interacted with the troops and felicitated them for maintaining high standards of operational preparedness in active counter-infiltration operations, the Army said.

Man Held With

individual has been apprehended along with the recovery of 01xPistol & other war-like stores. Investigation in progress," the tweet added.

Man Drowns

body from the nallah," he added. The deceased was a labourer by profession,

Can't Run

including about promotions.

"We now can't run the affairs of the Army," the bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, told senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for the petitioners, when she raised the issue of the woman colonel having been given the charge of a company which is ordinarily led by a major rank officer.

"We interfere in those cases on issues of principles," it observed, adding, "Surely, we can't start running the command structure of the Army".

She said it was a case where the woman officer has been given permanent commission and she is a colonel in the Army. Arora said it amounts to "gross humiliation" of the woman officer who is now a colonel.

"Ordinarily, a colonel has to be put in a command post which will have a certain number of JCOs (junior commissioned officers), officers and others under them. Now people who are junior to me have been given units in those commands," she said.

"You have heard the grievance now," the bench told Attorney General Venkataramani.

The apex court, which posted the matter for further hearing on September 27, said there are issues which can surely be sorted out by the authorities themselves.

The bench asked the petitioners to circulate a note, not exceeding two pages, setting out the grievances raised by them.

It said the respondent authorities will be at liberty to file their responses on the issues raised.

The bench clarified the pendency of these proceedings will not preclude the Army and Navy authorities from looking into the grievances raised by the petitioners and resolve them.

In a landmark verdict on February 17, 2020, the top court had directed that women officers in the Army be granted permanent commission, rejecting the Centre's stand on their "physiological limitations" as being based on "sex stereotypes" and "gender discrimination against women".

The apex court had directed that within three months all serving Short Service Commission (SSC) women officers have to be considered for permanent commission irrespective of them having completed 14 years or, as the case may be, 20 years of service.

Later, in another major verdict on March 17, 2020, the top court had paved the way for granting permanent commission to women officers in Indian Navy, saying a level playing field ensures that women have the opportunity to overcome "histories of discrimination."

Annual Gangbal

After performing Puja at Naranag temple, devotees set on foot to undertake a 36-km journey to Gangabal Lake, which is located around 14,500 feet above sea level in the Harmukh mountain range.

The sacred puja would be performed on the banks of Gangbal Lake situated at an elevation of 3570 meters on Saturday following which the pilgrims will return the next day.

The pilgrimage was organized under the banner of the Harmukh Ganga (Gangabal) Trust (HGTT) and All Parties Migrants' Coordination Committee.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the administration has made all arrangements including accommodation, food, medical and security arrangements for the pilgrims.

On the occasion, devotees thanked district administration, police and locals for extending their co-operation and support in facilitating this Yatra.

3 Drug Peddlers

Poppy Straw like contraband substance filled in two nylon Sacs from the said vehicle. They have been identified as Surjit Singh son of Dula Singh resident of Raipur Gujira Bitlan Jalandhar Punjab and Abid Ahmad Ganie son of Abdul Aziz Ganie resident of Frisal. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Vehicle used in commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

"In Handwara, a police party led by SHO PS Qalamabad under the supervision of SDPO Handwara at a checkpoint established at Qalamabad market intercepted a suspicious person who tried to flee but was apprehended tactfully. During the search, 200 grams of charas-like substance concealed within maize covers was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Nadeem Ahmed Mir, son of Gh Rasool Mir, resident of Chanjmola Zachaldara Handwara. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station Qalamabad where he remains in custody," police said.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and further investigation has been initiated.

Shami & Batters Set Up India's Win Over Australia

Reuters

MOHALI: Seamer Mohammed Shami claimed career-best figures of 5-51 and India's frontline batters gave a good account themselves to secure their five-wicket victory against Australia in the opening one-day international on Friday. Put into bat, Australia were all out for 276 in exactly 50 overs even though 300 looked within their reach before Shami polished off their tail.

In reply, four of India's top six batters smashed half-centuries as the home side led, who have rested several frontline players, romped home with eight balls to spare. Shami removed Mitchell Marsh in the first over to give India a strong start after home captain KL Rahul won the toss and elected to field.

Nearly all of Australia's frontline batters got the starts in the match but only David Warner (52) managed a half-century. The left-hander combined in a 94-run stand with Steve Smith, who made 41 in his return to action from a



wrist injury.

Marnus Labuschagne (39) and Cameron Green (31) chipped in with useful runs in the middle order but could not soldier on. Australia still looked poised for a bigger total with Josh Inglis (45) and Marcus Stoinis (29) scoring freely.

Shami returned to claim three lower-order wickets to hasten their collapse. India began their chase brightly, aided by Shubman Gill's (74) silken

batting and a reprieve to Ruturaj Gaikwad (71) when Jos Inglis dropped the batter, then on 17, off Sean Abbott's bowling.

Gaikwad opened the innings in place of regular skipper Rohit Sharma, who is among several frontline players rested for the first two matches of the series to keep them fresh for the home World Cup beginning on Oct. 5. After Adam Zampa removed both the openers and Shreyas Iyer ran himself out

in between, Australia looked back in the contest.

Suryakumar Yadav, who made a cheeky 50, and Rahul batted sensibly to frustrate Australia. Rahul made 58 not out, staying put till the end to secure India's victory by hitting Abbott for a four and a six.

The teams move to Indore for the second match on Sunday and the three-match series concludes in Rajkot on Wednesday.

Sports Minister Cancels China Visit After Arunachal Athletes Denied Visa

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday decided to cancel his upcoming visit to Hangzhou for the Asian Games as a mark of protest against China's decision to deny visas to three Indian wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh.

Female players Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu have been denied accreditation, which also works as visa for the Asian Games that officially open on Saturday in Hangzhou.

"Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports @ianuragthakur cancels visit to China for the Asian Games as India strongly protests China's targeted and pre-meditated discrimination against Indian sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh by denying them accreditation and entry to the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China," a Sports Ministry statement said.

The northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh is viewed by China in its entirety as Chinese territory. "Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, issues statement underscoring the fact that in keeping



with our long-standing and consistent position, India firmly rejects differential treatment of Indian citizens on the basis of domicile or ethnicity. Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India," the statement added.

Wushu Athlete Goes Incommunicado, Family Worried

Wushu athlete Mepung Lamgu has gone incommunicado since being denied visa to travel to China for the Asian Games, leaving her family members in Arunachal Pradesh worried and clinging to hope that she wouldn't take any "extreme step".

The 20-year-old is one of the three wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh who were denied visas to travel to China for the Hangzhou Asian Games.

She was "crying inconsolably" when her brother Gandhi Lamgu, a doctor in Itanagar, last spoke to her just after the news broke on Thursday. He hasn't been able to contact her since that conversation.

"Now she's not even taking our calls, and it's coming switched off. So we are also very worried about her, kahin kuch kar na de ro ro ke (hope she doesn't take any extreme step as she is crying inconsolably)," Gandhi told PTI from Itanagar.

Cricket Match For Visually Impaired Held In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: A cricket match for Visually Impaired Sports Persons under the Banner, "Nasha Mukht Abiyaan" was organized jointly by District Youth Services and Sports Anantnag, District Social Welfare Office Anantnag and South Kashmir Handicapped Persons Association on Friday at Govt. Degree College Boys Anantnag Ground.

On the inaugural ceremony of the match, DYSSO Anantnag, Principal GDC Anantnag and District Social Welfare officer were present, who interacted with players of both the teams and appreciated them.

In the match Anantnag XI locked horns with Bijbehara XI, in which Anantnag XI emerged as winner and Bijbehara XI were the runner up. Gh. Mohi Uddin was declared as man of the match for his 17 runs off 7

balls and 2 wickets. Bilal Ahmad remained highest scorer in the match with 23 runs.

On the post match presentation ceremony, Activity Incharge DYSSO Anantnag Mohammad Abbas Dar, Physical Director GDC Anantnag Umer Bashir and Kamal Jeet of Social Welfare Department Anantnag were present, who distributed Trophies and Medals among the players and teams.

Today, a cricket match for Wheelchair Sports Persons will be held on the same venue at 11am.

In the next week, there will be competition in the sports discipline of Tennis Ball cricket for sports person with Arthropadic disabilities, which will also be jointly organised by the DYSSO Anantnag and District Social Welfare Office Anantnag with the assistance of GDC Anantnag.

SRINAGAR PREMIER LEAGUE

Aakif Scores 5 As J&K Bank Routs Iqbal Sports 6-1

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Round 15 matches of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League were played on Friday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

The first scheduled game turned into a walkover as LoneStar Kashmir FC failed to report to the venue to face Real Kashmir FC (Reserves). LoneStar Kashmir has officially withdrawn from the league over differences with J&K Football Association.

In the second game of the day, STFC Natipora beat AG's Office XI 3-0. Talib (18'), Shahzan (56') scored from the spot for Syed Tajudin, before Aabid sealed the tie in added time.

In the final game, J&K Bank FC played Iqbal Sports FC. Captain Aakif Reshi scored five goals (30', 44', 50', 79', 80'), while Un-eeb added another in the 77th minute as



J&K Bank beat Iqbal Sports 6-1. G. Mohamad was lone goalscorer for Iqbal Sports.

KO XI Beats Kupwara XI By 5 Wickets

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Observer XI defeated Kupwara XI by 5 wickets in a friendly T20 cricket match on Friday at Amar Singh College ground here.

Batting first, Kupwara XI lost wickets at regular intervals before their middle-order batters revived the innings with crucial partnerships. Aamir 32 (36) top scored for Kupwara, while Shafaat added 27 (21) to help the team reach 159-7 in 20 overs. For KO XI, Younes took 3 wickets. Wasaf,

Rayees, Zaid and Raja took a wicket each.

KO XI, set with a challenging target of 160, started the game in true T-20 style. Opening batter Imtiyaz 61 (33) took Kupwara bowling to the cleaners as KO XI raced to 46 runs in just 4 overs. Imtiyaz could only continue his blitz till the 8th over, taking his team within reach of the target.

Irfan 26 (11) and Younes 13* (12) saw the game through as KO XI made 159-5 in 17.2 overs. For Kupwara XI, Rameez and Amir took 2 wickets each, while Nisar took 1.

Baramulla Girls Win Inter-District Kho Kho U-19 C'ship

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Baramulla has once again proven its sporting prowess, achieving a resounding victory in the Inter-District Provincial Level Under-19 Girls Championship at Shopian.

The competition witnessed District Baramulla triumph over their formidable opponents, District Budgam.

Jatinder Singh, the District Youth Services & Sports Of-

ficer of Baramulla, extended his warm congratulations to the outstanding performance of the district team. He commended their dedication, teamwork, and unwavering spirit that led to this remarkable win.

He also expressed his gratitude towards Mahjabeen PEM and Mohd Arif Mir, the Rehbar-e-Khel teacher, for his guidance and support that contributed to this success.



Spain Removes The Word 'Women' From National Team Name

The Associated Press

MANCHESTER: By eliminating the phrase for "women's soccer" from the name of its national team, the Spanish Football Federation is hoping to show it has made a "conceptual shift" in its view of the sport.

It remains to be seen if more countries will follow suit.

Spain made the move towards greater equality this week as part of an agreement between the governing body and its World Cup winning team, which have been in dispute since former federation president Luis Rubiales kissed player Jenni Hermoso on the lips during the trophy ceremony as Spain was crowned world champion in Australia last month.

The name for the women's team traditionally included the phrase "de fútbol femenino" — translated as "women's soccer." Going forward, the men's and women's national teams will both officially be known as "Selección Española de fútbol" or "Spain's national soccer team." "More than a symbolic



change, we want this to represent a conceptual shift, and recognition that soccer is soccer, regardless of who plays it," the federation's interim president Pedro Rocha said.

European soccer's governing body, UEFA, has previously held informal discussions about how countries can handle such name issues, but no official proposal has been made.

Other countries, such as England and United States, have created parity in the names by

referring to them as the "men's" and "women's" national teams.

But there is less parity when it comes to leading tournaments.

European club soccer's elite men's competition is simply called the Champions League. The women's equivalent, however, is called the Women's Champions League.

Likewise, next year's European Championship for men is called Euro 2024. The women's 2025 version is called the Women's Euro.

Germany Hires Julian Nagelsmann As National Football Team Coach

The Associated Press

BERLIN: Germany hired Julian Nagelsmann to lead the men's national soccer team on Friday, entrusting the former Bayern Munich coach with doing a better job than the last Bayern Munich coach who tried.

The German soccer federation said Nagelsmann was taking over on a short-term contract through next year's European Championship. Germany is hosting the tournament.

"We have a European Championship in our own country. This is something special, something that only happens every few decades," Nagelsmann said. "Having a great tournament in a great country is the priority. I'm very keen to take on this challenge ... We will be a close-knit bunch next year."

At 36, Nagelsmann is the youngest Germany coach since 34-year-old Otto Nerz was appointed in 1926.

Nagelsmann succeeds Hansi Flick, the first German coach ever fired from the



position. The federation removed Flick on Sept. 10, the day after a 4-1 loss to Japan stretched the team's losing run to three games and its winless run to five.

Nagelsmann previously took over from Flick when he became Bayern coach in 2021 with Flick leaving to coach the national team. Nagelsmann led his team to another Bundesliga title — its 10th straight —

but was fired by the Bavarian powerhouse in March amid management concerns that he wasn't getting the best from the squad.

Germany next has friendlies against the United States in East Hartford, Connecticut, on Oct. 14, then Mexico in Philadelphia four days later. The team will continue its Euro 2024 preparations against Austria in Vienna on Nov. 21.

Overcrowded Jails, Delayed Justice A Concern: Parliamentary Panel

Agenceis

A parliamentary panel has observed that overcrowding in jails and delayed justice have become pressing concerns, leading to a series of consequences for both the prisoners and the criminal justice system as a whole. The parliamentary standing committee on home affairs, headed by BJP MP Brijlal, also recommended that special attention be given to pregnant women on the line of a judgement of the Supreme Court where it was observed that a jail must have adequate facilities for prenatal and post-natal care for female prisoners as well as their children.

"The committees, notes that the issue of overcrowding and delayed justice has become a pressing concern, leading to a series of consequences for both the prisoners and the criminal justice system as a whole. The committee recommends that prisoners from overcrowded jails may be transferred to other jails with vacant cells in the same state or other states by signing MoUs to that effect. This kind of an arrangement can be mutual in nature between the states signing the MoU," it observed.

The panel recommended that babies born in prison be allowed to stay with their

mothers until the age of 12 in order to provide a nurturing environment during their early years while ensuring their well-being and development.

According to guidelines, emphasis should be given towards proper care of children relating to food, shelter, medical care, education, and physical growth, it further said.

Apart from this, sports and entertainment facilities are also to be provided to these children. The committee said transgender prisoners are to be provided the same standards of healthcare available to other inmates and should have access to necessary healthcare services without discrimination on the grounds of their gender identity. It observed that the overcrowding in Indian prisons has long plagued the country's criminal justice system. Despite various steps to reduce the number of inmates from jails, the total inmates in India stands at 5.54 lakh against the total prison capacity of 4.25 lakh.

The national average occupancy rate in prisons across India is 130.2 per cent and the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana together make up for more than 50 per cent of the total prisoner population in the country.

Booker Prize shortlist offers 'terrors' and 'pleasures'

Agenceis

LONDON: The shortlist for the 2023 Booker Prize was announced in London on Thursday, with the final six books offering "terrors, pleasures, joys and consolations."

Twice-shortlisted novelist Esi Edugyan, who chairs the judging panel, said the chosen novels "offer a full range of human experience" that "transport us not just outside reality but outside the common language of the everyday."

The prestigious literary prize is open to works of fiction by writers of any nationality, written in English and published in the UK or Ireland between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

The final list is made up of authors from the US, Ireland, Kenya and Canada. The six novels were drawn from 158 works, which were then reduced to a 13-strong longlist.

Among them is Irish author Paul Murray's "The Bee Sting", which looks at the role of fate in the travails of one family in a tragicomic saga.

Kenyan writer Chetna Maroo's moving debut novel "Western Lane" about grief and sisterhood, which follows the story of a teenage girl for whom squash is life, also makes the cut.

Taking a dark turn, dystopian



work "Prophet Song", set in Dublin as Ireland descends into tyranny, earned Paul Lynch his first appearance on the Booker shortlist.

The novels were selected by a five-person panel, which included actor and writer Adjoa Andoh, poet Mary Jean Chan, professor of English at Columbia University James Shapiro and actor and comedian Robert Webb.

The panel also selected "If I Survive You" by US writer Jonathan Escoffery, which follows a Jamaican family and their chaotic new life in Miami.

He was joined by fellow US author, Paul Harding, whose "This Other Eden" -- inspired by historical events -- tells the story of Apple Island, an enclave off the

US coast where society's misfits flock and build a new home.

Canada is also represented on the shortlist in the shape of "Study for Obedience" by Sarah Bernstein.

The unsettling novel explores the themes of prejudice and guilt through a suspicious narrator. The winner, to be announced in London on November 26, will receive a £50,000 (\$69,000, 59,000 euros) prize and a huge boost in their profile.

Last year's winner was Sri Lankan writer Shehan Karunatilaka, whose work "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida" tells the story of a war photographer who wakes up dead in what seems to be a cosmic visa office.

Having Productive Conversations With Authors: OpenAI On New Lawsuit

Agenceis

Sam Altman-run OpenAI has said it is "having productive conversations" with creators around the world, including the Authors' Guild, as more prominent authors sued the ChatGPT developer for copyright infringement.

The Authors' Guild and 17 well-known authors like Jonathan Franzen, John Grisham, George R.R. Martin, and Jodi Picoult have filed a fresh lawsuit in the Southern District of New York against OpenAI.

According to the complaint, OpenAI "copied plaintiffs' works wholesale, without permission or consideration" and fed the copyrighted materials into large language models (LLMs).

OpenAI told Forbes that it has been "working cooperatively to understand and discuss their concerns about AI."

"We're optimistic we will continue to find mutually beneficial ways to work together to help people utilise new technology in a rich content ecosystem," the Microsoft-backed company said.

The authors alleged that OpenAI's LLMs could result in

derivative work "that is based on, mimics, summarises, or paraphrases" their books, which could harm their market.

OpenAI could have trained GPT on works in the public domain instead of pulling in copyrighted material without paying a licensing fee, they alleged.

This is not the first time authors have sued OpenAI for copyright violations and illegally using their works to train its chatbot called ChatGPT.

Earlier this month, authors Michael Chabon, David Henry Hwang, Rachel Louise Snyder and Ayelet Waldman sued OpenAI and Mark Zuckerberg-owned Meta over dual claims of copyright infringement.

In July, comedian and author Sarah Silverman, along with authors Christopher Golden and Richard Kadrey, sued OpenAI and Mark Zuckerberg-owned Meta over dual claims of copyright infringement.

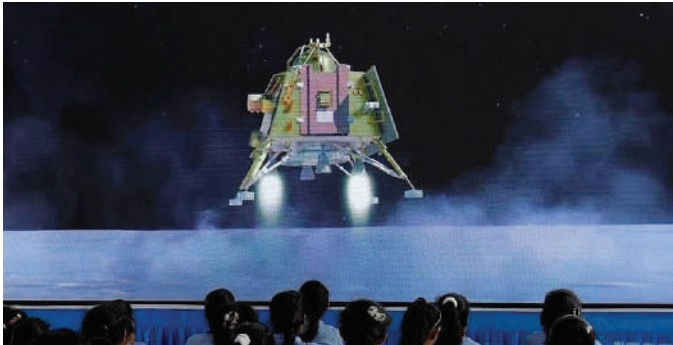
The lawsuits alleged that OpenAI's ChatGPT and Meta's LLaMA (a set of large language models) were trained on illegally-acquired datasets containing their works.

Chandrayaan-3 lander, rover set to 'wake up' from 'sleep' on moon

Agenceis

India is set to become the first nation in the world to witness the "waking up" of Chandrayaan-3 mission's lander and rover after the end of a two-week long "sleep" due to sunset on the moon, as the sun is set to rise during the early hours of 22 September, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh informed Lok Sabha on Thursday, 21 September.

"Tomorrow when the nation will be rejoicing the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, we may also hopefully become the first nation in the world to make our Chandrayaan-3 mission land on the moon's South Pole (which happened last month) and then witness the



resumption of navigational activities of both lander Vikram and rover Pragyan after a 14-day slumber (owing to a fortnight-long sunset on the moon)," Singh said while replying to a discussion on Chandrayaan-3 mission's success in Lok Sabha.

In his more than an hour-long

reply, the minister, while replying to Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's comment earlier in the day that the BJP creates an impression that all scientific accomplishments occurred only after 2014, referred to the famous photograph of scientists carrying rocket parts on a

cycle, said, "That miracle was of pre-2014 days. Unlike in the Nehruvian era when we were devoid of resources, we are now technologically advanced."

To another Tharoor's remark that unlike in Parliament, women don't need reservation in scientific fields, Singh said that there are more women scientists in ISRO than ever before and informed that even the Aditya L-1 mission is headed by a woman scientist.

He also countered Tharoor's another observation that the space department budget is minimal. "Between 2014 and now there has been a 142 per cent increase in the budget of science and technology as well as space departments," Singh said.

China announces 'strategic partnership' with Syria

Agenceis

HANGZHOU: Chinese President Xi Jinping announced a "strategic partnership" with Syria on Friday during talks with President Bashar al-Assad, who is seeking financial support to help rebuild his devastated country.

The leaders met on the eve of the Asian Games opening ceremony, which Assad will attend as part of his first visit to China since 2004.

China is one of only a handful of countries outside the Middle East that Assad has visited since the 2011 start of a civil war that killed more than half a million people, displaced millions and battered Syria's infrastructure and industry.

Assad is the latest in a string of leaders ostracised by the West to be feted by Beijing, with Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi visiting this year, as well as top Russian officials.

"Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad on Friday jointly announced the establishment of the China-Syria strategic partnership," according to Chinese state news agency Xinhua.

The leaders were each flanked by nine aides at a large rectangular wooden table, a CCTV video showed, as two flags from each country were set in front of a Chinese painting in the meeting room.

Relations between the two countries "have withstood the test

of international changes", Xi said. "China supports Syria in opposing foreign interference, opposing unilateral bullying, safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity," the Chinese leader added.

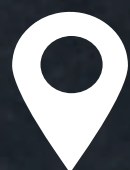
Assad, in turn, said he "thanked the Chinese government for everything you have done to stand alongside the Syrian people in their cause and their trials", according to a readout from Syrian state news agency SANA.

"This visit is extremely important due to its timing and circumstances because a multipolar world is being formed today which will restore balance and stability to the world," he said.

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