

Valley Records 700% Rise in Foreign Tourist Arrivals Post G20 Meet 30647 Foreigners Visit Kashmir Till August 31 Against 4028 Last Year

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The successful G20 working group meeting held here in May this year has contributed to a 700% increase in foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir, with over 30647 foreigners' mainly from Europe and Middle East having visited the valley as of August 31.

The enhanced tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said, has led to a significant increase in the employment in the federally governed territory, underscoring the

government's untiring developmental efforts.

In addition to participating in international trade fairs, the Department of Tourism J&K has also prepared a master plan to promote 75 new tourist destinations to draw more and more foreign visitors to the valley.

A senior official in the Tourism department told Kashmir Observer that the valley recorded 700 percent rise in foreign tourist arrivals, as 30647 foreigners visited the valley till August 31 this year against 4028 till December 2022.



Of the 30647, the majority of the tourists, who visited Kashmir valley this year, belong to Europe, Thailand, Malaysia and the Middle East, he said. The tourism players in

“NOT ONLY G20, BUT THE GOVERNMENT'S TIRELESS EFFORTS, I must say, boosted the tourism industry in Kashmir over the past few years and I hope tourists from Europe and other nations will move to Kashmir in hordes.”

Kashmir have also expressed satisfaction over the surprising number of foreigners having

visited the valley this year.

It may be in place to mention that the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently stated that 1.27 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, which he said was far higher than the previous year's figure.

The successful G20 summit and the government's unwavering efforts, according to Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) Chairman, Javid Tenga were the important factors in the record-breaking arrival of 30647 international tourists to Kashmir. **» More On P6**

Two Doctors Fired Over 'Unauthorised Absence'

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered the termination of the services of two doctors over their "unauthorised absence" with immediate effect.

As per two orders issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, the doctors were terminated for failing to join duties after the lapse of their leave.

As per the details, the services of Dr Asim Shameen Zaz, who was appointed as Medical Officer, submitted a leave application to the CMO, Budgam, for a grant of 89 days to attend a marriage function in Canada, but after the lapse of the leave, the doctor did not rejoin duties.

"Absence without leave or after the end of leave involves loss of appointment, except as provided in Article 203(b) or when due to ill health in which case the absentee just produces the certificate **» More On P6**

India Blasts Pak For Raking Up Kashmir At UN

'Stop Cross-Border Terrorism, Vacate Indian Territories Under Illegal Occupation'



Press Trust Of India

United Nations: India has strongly hit out at Pakistan after its caretaker leader raked up Kashmir in his address to the UN General Assembly, with Delhi saying the "home and patron" to the largest number of proscribed terrorist entities in the world should take credible action against perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks instead of engaging in "technical sophistry".

First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot exercised India's Right of Reply in the UNGA after Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar

raised the Kashmir issue in his address at the General Debate during the high-level 78th session of UNGA on Friday.

"Pakistan has been the home and patron to the largest number of internationally proscribed terrorist entities and individuals in the world. Instead of engaging in technical sophistry, we call upon Pakistan to take credible and verifiable action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks, whose victims await justice even after 15 years," Gahlot said in the scathing response.

She said Pakistan needs to take three-fold action for there to be peace in South Asia.

"First, stop **» More On P6**

PM Gives Credit To Women For Passage Of Women's Reservation Bill

Press Trust Of India

Varanasi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday gave credit to the women of the country for the passage of the women's reservation bill in Parliament and said the power of women's leadership has been proved in every period in history.

Modi said this while addressing an all-women public meeting in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi, where the women showered flower petals on him for the Parliament's nod to the women's reservation bill.

Talking about the recent approval to the Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, referred to as the "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam", by Parliament, the prime minister said, "Women's leadership may be a modern system for the rest of the world, but we are the people who



worship Mother Parvati and Ganga before Mahadev."

He was addressing the "Nari Shakti Vandan Samaroh" organised at the ground of Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accompanied Modi at the function.

"This Kashi of ours is also the birthplace of a brave woman like Rani Lakshmi Bai.

From brave women like Rani Lakshmi Bai during the freedom struggle to Mission Chandrayaan in modern India -- we have proved the power of women's leadership in every period.

"Take the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam for example. This law was pending for three decades. But today, it is your strength that even those political parties had

to support it in both Houses of Parliament who never got tired of opposing it earlier," Modi said.

Giving credit to the women of the country for this, he said, "Because you, the mothers and sisters, have become aware and united, all the political parties of India are afraid and are trembling and that is why this bill was passed -- this is your strength."

Striking a chord with the voters of Varanasi, Modi said "your MP from Kashi got the privilege" of getting the women's reservation bill passed in Parliament.

"Kashi is the holy city of India -- Mother Kushmanda, Mother Shringar Gauri, Mother Annapurna and Mother Ganga. The glory of their power is attached to every part of this place. Vindhyaasini Devi is also not far from Banaras.

"The city of Kashi has also been a **» More On P6**

10 Arrested For Trying To Vitate Peaceful Atmosphere Outside Jamia Masjid: Police

Srinagar- Police on Saturday said that 10 persons were arrested for trying to vitate peaceful atmosphere outside Jama Masjid in Nowhatta area of Srinagar after Friday prayers.

"10 Hooligans arrested for trying to vitate peaceful atmosphere outside Jamia Masjid Yesterday after Friday prayers. They shall be booked under relevant section of law. Public is requested not to indulge in such acts failing which law will take its own course," police said in a tweet.

400 Acre Land In Samba To Undergo Changes In Record Of Rights

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir revenue department on Saturday ordered changes in the record of rights in respect of over 400 acres of land in Birpur village of Samba district, an official said.

The changes pertain to the delineation and demarcation of land that do not form part of any water course or source but have been recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad, 'Gair Mumkin Darya' and 'Gair Mumkin Nallah' in the revenue records, the revenue department official said, adding the issue was a long pending demand of the people.

Quoting an order issued by the department, the official said that a total of over 4,150 kanals of land in Birpur village have been recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad.

"A detailed study conducted by the revenue authorities and irrigation and flood control department, and based on spot verification by the deputy commissioner and a technical report by the department, flood risk zone maps for the village has been prepared," the official said.

"Accepting the



recommendation of the committees set up for delineation and demarcation, the government has ordered that 3278.25 kanals of land (409.7 acres) shall be recorded as Banjar Qadeem' (old barren or uncultivated land)," he added.

Welcoming the decision, Bari Brahmna Industries Association hoped that the notified land will be allotted for the industrial purpose to prospective investors whose applications for the allotment of land is pending with the industries department.

The association said the move will help businesses complete their projects in time and generate employment for

local unemployed youth.

The revenue official said that delineation and demarcation exercise was conducted in a scientific manner while ensuring robustness and due diligence.

"Using drone flying and GIS mapping, a digital terrain model or digital elevation model of the catchment area of Ballol Nallah (stream) was prepared. Based on input data of land use, land cover and highest observed discharge, hydrological modelling study was conducted and flood risk zone maps for varying return periods were prepared which were then used to demarcate the width of Balol Nallah," he said.

The official **» More On P6**

Follow Ideals Of Freedom Fighter Dinkar: LG To Youth

Observer News Service

Bihar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday asked the youth to follow the ideals of freedom fighter, writer and parliamentarian Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, and tread the path of righteousness and contribute in nation-building.

"I bow to the memory of a great freedom fighter, writer and parliamentarian, who continues to inspire the young generation," Sinha said while attending Dinkar's birth

anniversary event at Simaria, Begusarai here on Saturday.

Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh also attended the event.

Paying tributes to the Rashtrakavi, the LG remembered the significant contribution of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in the field of literature and his selfless service to society and the nation.

"Dinkar is undoubtedly one of the greatest poets of India, a giant intellectual, a national icon who played a pivotal role in shaping the **» More On P6**

“I BOW TO THE MEMORY OF A GREAT freedom fighter, writer and parliamentarian, who continues to inspire the young generation.”



BJP Ready For J&K Assembly Polls: Singh 'It Is Up To The EC To Decide When Election Will Be Conducted'

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The BJP is always ready for elections and it is up to the Election Commission (EC) to decide when the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls will be held, Union minister Jitendra Singh said here on Saturday.

The Lok Sabha MP from Udhampur also said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved a lot over the last few years.

"It is up to the EC to decide when the election will



be conducted. As far as the BJP is concerned, it is always ready for every election -- whether it is the panchayat, Assembly or Parliament," Singh told **» More On P6**

SHORT TAKES

VDG Member Shoots Self Dead

A Village Defence Guard (VDG) member on Saturday shot himself dead in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. 50-year-old Babu Ram, son of Dina Nath from Dudu village, Tehsil Latti in Udhampur, allegedly committed suicide at his home by shooting himself dead with his service rifle on Saturday evening, reports said. The man was taken to a nearby hospital by his family for treatment. However, the doctors there **» More On P6**

Landslide Blocks Banihal Highway

Traffic on the strategic Jammu-Srinagar highway on Saturday was closed due to landslide in Banihal. "Traffic movement stopped from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar Srinagar NHW due to landslide at Shalgr, Banihal. Men and machinery on job. People are advised to co-operate with Traffic Police," Traffic Police posted on the micro-blogging site X (formerly known as Twitter). According to reports, scores of light **» More On P6**

Two Terrorists Arrested In Baramulla

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists from North Kashmir's Baramulla district. On Thursday, Police through reliable sources came to know that Yaseen Ahmad Shah of Janbazpora Baramulla is missing from his home and has joined LeT of its offshoot The Resistance Front (TRF), a police spokesperson said Saturday. Accordingly, he said, a case under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station **» More On P6**

Man Slips To Death

A man slipped to death on Saturday in a forest area in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Showkat Ahmad Tekri of Gujjar Basti Rezan was collecting firewood in the upper reaches of the forest area, when he lost balance and fell down, reports said. Due to the fall, Showkat died on the spot. The heavy rainfall had triggered slippery conditions in the area. Soon after the incident, police reached the spot and recovered his body. "After medico-legal formalities, his body will be handed **» More On P6**

Mason Falls From Rooftop, Dies

A mason died after he fell down from a rooftop of a house in Zirpora area of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, officials said. Nazir Ahmad Ganai son of Abdul Salam Ganai of Zirpora was doing some work on the roof of the house when he slipped and fell down. Ganai, he said, was immediately rushed to Sub-district hospital (SDH) Bijbehara for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries before **» More On P6**

Sudhanshu Pandey Is Ladakh's First SEC

Former IAS officer Sudhanshu Pandey took oath as the first state election commissioner of the Union Territory of Ladakh on Saturday, an official spokesperson said. Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (retired) B D Mishra administered the oath of office to Pandey at the Raj Niwas here, he added. Pandey, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre, is the first election commissioner of Ladakh after it became a Union Territory in 2019. Retired last **» More On P6**



Implantable Device Could Allow Injection-Free Diabetes Management: Study

ANI

Implanting pancreatic islet cells that can manufacture insulin when needed is one promising technique for treating Type 1 diabetes, which could liberate patients from needing regular insulin injections. However, once the cells are transplanted, they eventually run out of oxygen and cease generating insulin.

The study was published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Science. To overcome this hurdle, MIT researchers created a unique implantable device that not only contains hundreds of thousands of insulin-producing islet cells but also has its own onboard oxygen factory that manufactures oxygen by splitting water vapour found in the body.

When implanted into diabetic mice, the researchers demonstrated that this device could maintain the mice's blood glucose levels steady for at least a month. The researchers are now hoping to develop a larger version of the device, around the size of a stick of chewing gum, that will be tested in persons with Type 1 diabetes.

"You can think of this as a living medical device that is made from human cells that secrete insulin, along with an electronic life support system. We are excited by the progress so far, and we really are optimistic that this technology could end up helping patients," said Daniel Anderson, a professor in MIT's Department of Chemical Engineering, a member of MIT's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research and Institute for Medical Engineering and Science (IMES), and the senior author of the study.

While the researchers' main focus is on diabetes treatment, they say that this kind of device could also be adapted to treat other diseases that require repeated delivery of therapeutic proteins.

Most patients with Type 1 diabetes have to monitor their blood glucose levels carefully and inject themselves with insulin at least once a day. How-

ever, this process doesn't replicate the body's natural ability to control blood glucose levels.

"The vast majority of diabetics that are insulin-dependent are injecting themselves with insulin, and



doing their very best, but they do not have healthy blood sugar levels," Anderson said.

"If you look at their blood sugar levels, even for people that are very dedicated to being careful, they just can't match what a living pancreas can do. A better alternative would be to transplant cells that produce insulin whenever they detect surges in the patient's blood glucose levels. Some diabetes patients have received transplanted islet cells from human cadavers, which can achieve long-term control of diabetes; however, these patients have to take immunosuppressive drugs to prevent their bodies from rejecting the implanted cells.

More recently, researchers have shown similar success with islet cells derived from stem cells, but patients who receive those cells also need to take immunosuppressive drugs.

Another possibility, which could prevent the need for immunosuppressive drugs, is to encapsulate the trans-

planted cells within a flexible device that protects the cells from the immune system. However, finding a reliable oxygen supply for these encapsulated cells has proven challenging.

Some experimental devices, in-

with the oxygen-generating, water-splitting membrane, while the other received a device that contained islet cells without any supplemental oxygen. The devices were implanted just under the skin, in mice with fully functional immune systems.

The researchers found that mice implanted with the oxygen-generating device were able to maintain normal blood glucose levels, comparable to healthy animals. However, mice that received the nonoxygenated device became hyperglycemic (with elevated blood sugar) within about two weeks.

Typically when any kind of medical device is implanted in the body, an attack by the immune system leads to a buildup of scar tissue called fibrosis, which can reduce the devices effectiveness. This kind of scar tissue did form around the implants used in this study, but the device's success in controlling blood glucose levels suggests that insulin was still able to diffuse out of the device, and glucose into it.

This approach could also be used to deliver cells that produce other types of therapeutic proteins that need to be given over long periods of time.

"We are optimistic that it will be possible to make living medical devices that can reside in the body and produce drugs as needed," Anderson said.

In this study, the researchers showed that the device could also keep alive cells that produce erythropoietin, a protein that stimulates red blood cell production.

"There are a variety of diseases where patients need to take proteins exogenously, sometimes very frequently. If we can replace the need for infusions every other week with a single implant that can act for a long time, I think that could really help a lot of patients. The materials we've used are inherently stable and long-lived, so I think that kind of long-term operation is within the realm of possibility, and that is what we are working on," Krishnan said.

After building their device, which is about the size of a US quarter, the researchers tested it in diabetic mice. One group of mice received the device

including one that has been tested in clinical trials, feature an oxygen chamber that can supply the cells, but this chamber needs to be reloaded periodically. Other researchers have developed implants that include chemical reagents that can generate oxygen, but these also run out eventually.

A significant advantage of this approach is that it does not require any wires or batteries. Splitting this water vapour requires a small voltage (about 2 volts), which is generated using a phenomenon known as resonant inductive coupling. A tuned magnetic coil located outside the body transmits power to a small, flexible antenna within the device, allowing for wireless power transfer. It does require an external coil, which the researchers anticipate could be worn as a patch on the patient's skin.

After building their device, which is about the size of a US quarter, the researchers tested it in diabetic mice. One group of mice received the device

APPEAL

I, Nazima Akhter, daughter of Late Gh. Ahmad War R/o Nowlari, have applied for the post off AAYA/Helper at Govt. Middle School Nowlari. I belong to a very poor family consisting of three sisters and one brother with no source of income. Now, I appeal to Z.E.O Pattan to engage me as AAYA/Helper at the above mentioned school, so that I can take care of my family.

Nazima Akhter
D/O: Late Gh. Ahmad War
R/o: Nowlari bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son in school records has been wrongly written as Arsalan Nisar Father's Name : Nisar Ahmad Wani Mother's Name: Ameena Bano while the correct name is Arsalan Nisar Father's Name: Nisar Ahmad Wani Mother's Name: Amina Bano 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 Mother's Name bmg_R
 Mother's Name : Amina Bano
 R/o Barzula Tehsil Kwarhama Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of Daughter has been wrongly spelled in Aadhar Card as Ronaq Zaoor while the correct name is Ronaq Zahoor which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Zahoor Ahmad Mir
F/o Ronaq Zahoor
R/o Watalpora Tehsil Magam Budgam bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from Vamiq Rasool to Mirza Vamiq Rasool Beigh, son of Mirza Ghulam Rasool Beigh, R/o Nigeen West, Nawab Bagh, Baghwanpora Lal Bazar, Srinagar. If anybody has any objections, he/she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within 7 days from publication of this notice. No objection will be accepted after 7 days. izko



PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my daughter in school records has been wrongly written as Shahista Jan while her correct name is Akhoun Simran Nisar which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Govt Boys Middle School Ratnipora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this . After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nisar Ahmad Akhoun F/o Akhoun Simran Nisar
 R/o Ratnipora Pulwama laa

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1: LIC HFL Vidyadhan Scholarship 2023

Description: LIC HFL Vidyadhan Scholarship is an initiative of LIC Housing Finance Limited that aims to empower lower-income group students who are pursuing studies from Class 11 to post-graduation.

Eligibility: Open for Indian students who are currently studying in Class 11 and first year of graduation and post-graduation programmes (in the academic year 2023-24). Applicants must have scored more than 60% marks in their previous qualifying examination. Annual family income of the applicant must not be more than INR 3,60,000 from all sources.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 25,000 per year
 Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/LHVC11

Scholarship Name 2: Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2023

Description: Under the CSR Project on Education & Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies, Kotak Education Foundation invites applications for Kotak Kanya Scholarship 2023 from Class 12 passed girl students, who have secured more than 85% and whose annual family income is less than or equivalent to Rs. 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakh). The scholarship aims to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses from acclaimed universities and colleges.

Eligibility: Meritorious girl students who have secured admission to 1st year graduation programmes in



professional courses from institutes of repute (NAAC/NIRF accredited) can apply. Professional courses include professional graduation courses like Engineering, MBBS, Architecture, Design, integrated LLB, etc.

Applicants must have scored more than 85% marks in their Class 12th board examinations.

Annual family income must be Rs. 6,00,000 (Rupees Six Lakh) or less from all sources.
 Prizes & Rewards: Rs. 1.5 lakh* per year

*Disclaimer: Please note, the renewal of the scholarship every year will be at the sole discretion of the Kotak Education Foundation

Last Date to Apply: 30-09-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/KKGS2

Scholarship Name 3: Sensodyne IDA Shining Star Scholarship Programme 2023-24

Description: Haleon India, makers of Sensodyne, invites applications for the 'Sensodyne IDA Shining Star Scholarship Programme 2023-24' to support meritorious and underprivileged BDS students across India.

Eligibility: Open for students pursuing their first year of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme from government and government-funded colleges only. Applicants must have scored a minimum of 60% in their Higher Secondary Education.

Successful applicants must maintain a 60% score in every semester/year to continue availing the benefits during their 4-year course. The annual family income of the applicant from all sources must not be more than INR 8,00,000.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 4,20,000 for 4 years (INR 1,05,000 per year)
 Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/ob-server/SSPPS2





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.



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International Conference On Himalayan Climate Change Concludes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The two day international conference on "Impact of Climate Change on Socio Economics and Ecological Transformation in Himalayan Region" concluded which was attended by around 150 participants from across the country and other foreign delegates.

Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST K was the chief guest of the function. The conference was organized by the Division of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with Mahima Research Foundation Varanasi. The valedictory function was held in the VC conference hall. The function started with the welcome address by Prof. Farooq Ahmad Lone (Convener) of the conference. Dr. Vikas Gupta (Co-Convener) briefed the audience about the proceedings of the conference and also read out the recommendations.

The guests of honors Prof A. Mushunji from University of Fort Hare South Africa and Prof Dina Ratnasekera of University of Ruhuna Sri Lanka also spoke on the occasion. During the function Mahima Research Foundation also gave young scientist awards to Dr Poonam Sharma Div of FST, Dr Jigmet Yangesen of KVK Neoma Leh, Dr Naseema Wani of FoA and Dr Shamim Ahmad Shamim of Division of Environmental Sciences. Besides 12 awards were also given to best oral and poster presenters.

Prof Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor in his concluding remarks congratulated the Division of Environmental Sciences and Mahima Research Foundation for organizing the event. The function concluded with vote of thanks by Mr. Ratnesh Kumar Rao (Organizing Secretary) of Mahima Research Foundation Varanasi.

Dr Jitendra Singh Addresses ICMR-India Diabetes & Joint Diabetes Program At KU

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The two-day conference titled "Genomics towards better health," jointly organized by the University of Kashmir and the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) New Delhi, culminated today in presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) Science and Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space.

The program, held at Kashmir University in Srinagar, witnessed an insightful discourse on the significance of genomics in shaping the future of healthcare.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his speech, commended the organizers for orchestrating a well-designed and highly scientific program that delved into topics of current importance, laying the groundwork for breakthroughs in the field of genomics. India, he noted, is making significant strides in comprehending the role of genetics across various domains, particularly in healthcare.

Highlighting the pivotal role played by the "GenomIndia" project, one of the flagship initiatives of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the efforts of Dr. Ashraf Ganie leading the project, which is poised to improve our understanding and research further in the field.

Addressing the gathering Dr. Jitendra Singh said that both the institutions, CSIR and Kashmir University jointly collaborating for a project here today, have a rich legacy and have marched with the times along with the journey of independent India.

Dr. Singh said that this event is being held when the entire nation is basking under the success of Chandrayan. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, science and scientists have gained immense respect and recognition in India. This underscores the positive developments and advancements taking place in the country, he added.

Dr. Singh talked about the National Education Policy 2020 which will ensure that the coming generation will get the best of the aptitude and talent particularly in the area of research and innovation. Earlier the education system was not flexible and did not give us enough opportunity but now the whole ecosystem is now more favorable and the credit of this bold initiative goes to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

J&K Judicial Academy Organizes Workshop On Gender Sensitization

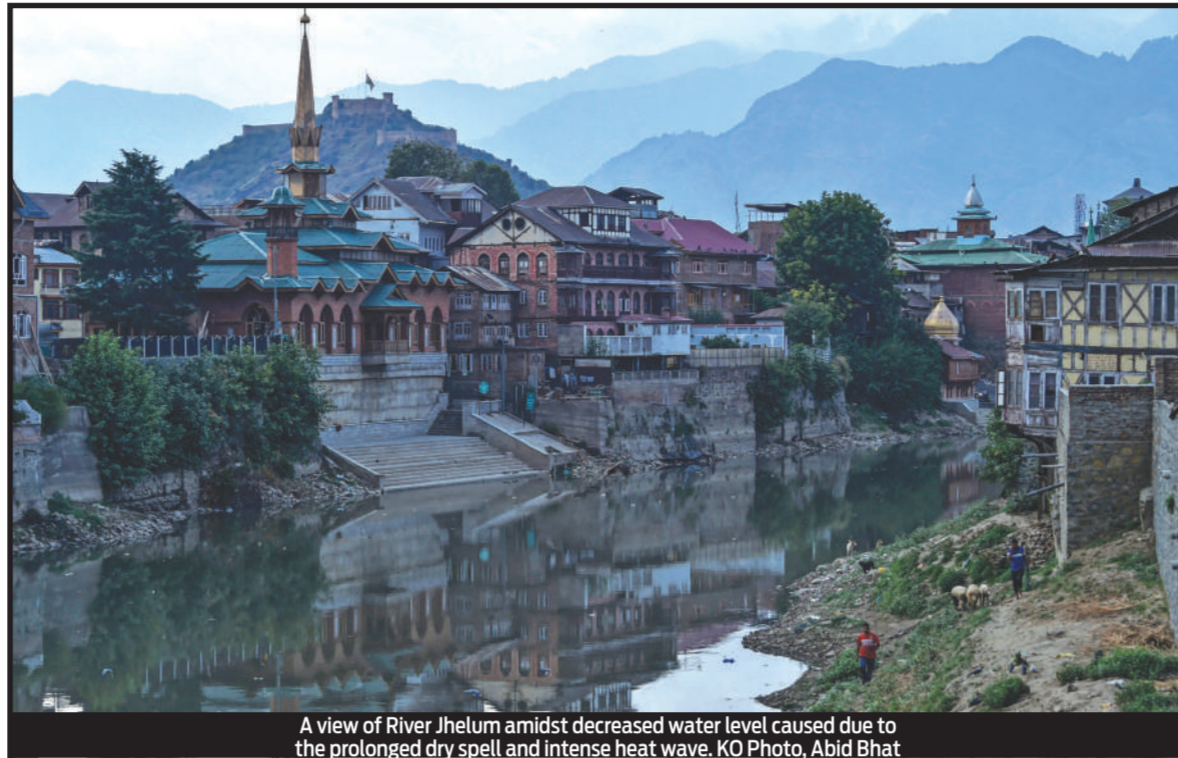
Observer News Service

Srinagar: In an effort to foster a more inclusive and equitable judicial system, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy organized Gender Sensitization Workshop for Judicial Officers (DLA Secretaries), members of Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaints Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, members of Gender Sensitization and Local Complaints Committees of Kashmir & Ladakh today at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness and provide essential insights into gender-related issues and the challenges faced by women in the legal sphere. By sensitizing

judicial officers and committee members, the program sought to create a more inclusive and gender-sensitive judicial system in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The training program was inaugurated by Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee J&K Judicial Academy in presence of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy. Besides, Dr. Shazia Malik, Assistant Professor, Head of Centre for Women Studies and Research, University of Kashmir and Gulafroz Jan, Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Central University of Kashmir, who were the resource persons.



A view of River Jhelum amidst decreased water level caused due to the prolonged dry spell and intense heat wave. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

SMC Corporator Held For Sexual Assault In Srinagar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Srinagar Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a Corporator of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), on the charges of alleged sexual harassment, outraging modesty and online stalking.

A senior police official told Kashmir Observer that the arrest was made on the basis of a complaint filed by the victim alleging that the accused Corporator attempted to tarnish her modesty.

Identified as Aqib Ahmad Renzu, a resident of Nishat area in Srinagar was arrested



Confirming the incident, Srinagar police in a post on X (formerly twitter) said that strong technical evidence in this matter was produced by the victim.

following the complaint filed by the victim at Ram Bagh police station. A formal case FIR

no 50 of 2023 under IPC sections 354, 354A, 354D was registered at police station Ram Bagh and

investigation set into motion.

Confirming the incident, Srinagar police in a post on X (formerly twitter) said that strong technical evidence in this matter was produced by the victim.

"One SMC Corporator Aqib Ahmed Renzu of Nishat Srinagar arrested for sexual harassment, outraging modesty and online stalking. Strong technical evidences in this matter were produced by the brave victim. FIR No 50/2023 U/S 354, 354A, 354D registered in RM Bagh Police station," Srinagar Police wrote on X.

Bandipora Woman Dies In Tragic Road Accident In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A woman, hailing from Bandipora, died after being hit by an over speeding vehicle near Children's Hospital Srinagar,

here this evening, officials said.


An official said that a vehicle hit a woman near Bemina area of Srinagar, leaving her critically injured. The Injured lady was immediately shifted to the nearest

hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival.

The deceased woman has been identified as Muneera, wife of Mehraj-ud-din of Hajin Bandipora in north Kashmir.

FREE

One to one and group mental health counselling services in the clinic as well as in online mode



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- Post Traumatic Stress disorder
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 HIJRI CALENDAR 07Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445	<p>PRAYERS</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>FAJR</td><td style="text-align: right;">4:57</td></tr> <tr><td>ZUHR</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:24</td></tr> <tr><td>ASR</td><td style="text-align: right;">4:44</td></tr> <tr><td>Magrib</td><td style="text-align: right;">6:31</td></tr> <tr><td>ISHA</td><td style="text-align: right;">7:51</td></tr> </table>	FAJR	4:57	ZUHR	12:24	ASR	4:44	Magrib	6:31	ISHA	7:51
FAJR	4:57										
ZUHR	12:24										
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Magrib	6:31										
ISHA	7:51										

This Day In History

- 1493 - Christopher Columbus embarks on his 2nd expedition to the New World, setting sail with a fleet of 17 ships
- 1529 - Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and his Ottoman troops arrive in Vienna, beginning of the siege
- 1688 - France declares war on Germany
- 1706 - Treaty of Altranstadt: Charles XII of Sweden & August II of Saxen
- 1789 - President George Washington nominates John Jay for 1st Chief Justice
- 1789 - US Attorney General Office is created
- 1829 - Russia & Ottoman Empire sign Peace Treaty of Adrianople
- 1838 - Anti-Corn-Law League forms to repeal English Corn Law
- 1841 - British adventurer James Brooke obtains lands around the Sarawak river from the Sultan of Brunei
- 1850 - Ppal Bull issued, establishes Roman Catholic hierarchy in England
- 1853 - France annexes New Caledonia
- 1877 - Battle of Shiroyama, decisive victory of the Imperial Japanese Army over the Satsuma Rebellion
- 1943 - Soviet forces reconquer Smolensk
- 1965 - Saudi Arabian & Egyptian accord over Yemen
- 1970 - Soviet space probe Luna 16 lands on earth after 1st unmanned round trip to moon
- 1971 - 90 Russian diplomats expelled from Britain for spying
- 1975 - OPEC announces a 15% increase in government per barrel revenues
- 1978 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1979 - CompuServe began operation as 1st computer information service
- 1980 - Iraqi troops cross Iran's border, encircling Abadan
- 1981 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1982 - US, Italian & French peacekeeping troops begin arriving in Lebanon
- 1990 - Iraq invades the French and Dutch missions in Kuwait; French President Mitterrand called the action a violation of international law; a U.S. warship boards an Iraqi-flagged tanker bound for the port of Basrah

From KO Archives

Traders Refusing Kashmiri Apple

400 Trucks Lying Unloaded At Azadpur Mandi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR-Nearly 400 trucks laden with Kashmiri apple are stranded at the Azadpur mandi in Delhi, as traders refuse to unload them because of their preference for fruit from Himachal Pradesh.

The situation has sent a wave of concern through fruit traders in Kashmir, and the matter has been taken up with the Delhi government.

A delegation of the Fruit Growers Association said that different varieties of apple are being exported in this season and 400 trucks laden with the fruit arrived in the Azadpur mandi in Delhi four days ago.

"Traders in the capital are declining to unload the trucks because preference is being given to fruit from Himachal over that from Kashmir," it said.

The trucks are stranded at the mandi, causing deep concern among the growers community, it said. The stranding of 400 trucks has caused a shortage of vehicles to ferry fruit to outside the state, and as a result freight charges have jumped through the roof, it said.

"Only a few days ago, the freight per carton from Shopyan to Delhi was Rs 40. This had now been hiked to Rs 50," it said. Sources said that the union minister for water resources, Prof Saifuddin Soz, has conveyed his concern by raising the issue with the horticulture department in Delhi after the matter was brought to his notice by fruit traders.

(Kashmir Observer, September 24, 2000)

Are We Reading Prophet's Seerah Right?

Amir Suhail Wani

English has emerged as the Lingua Franca, not only in worldly matters, but in religious affairs too. The younger generation is fast losing touch with oriental languages like Arabic, Persian and Urdu, which constitute the bulk of Islamic literature

More dangerous than the absence of religion is the malice of secularisation of religion, the creation of false religion, the corruption of authentic tradition and bankruptcy of symbols. Counterfeit symbols, like inauthentic myths and rootless rituals tend to create the cauldron of confusion making people to oscillate between the poles of utter disbelief and militant piety. In an era of intellectual shallowness, when the collection of facts pertaining to the profane order and constricted to the horizontal aspect of human existence becomes the order of the day, not only are transcendental and unifying principles ignored, but are dethroned too. Seerah in modern times and for that matter the entire corpus of Islamic sciences has exhausted itself in Individuals whose scholarship we seriously doubt and whose errors and deviations are evident in axiomatic fashion. Before we come to the principle error in modern day approaches to Seerah and the contemporary understanding of the subject, it is pertinent to set some background in context of "Post-Colonial Muslim World". The tormenting experience of colonialism made Muslims to look back at the Prophetic Model – The model they recognised as the archetype of virtue and just behaviour. But this Muslim urgency to read into the life of Prophet (SAW) the problems of their own time. This "reading-in" not only gave a hermeneutic twist to Seerah alien to its structure, but also pushed the real import of the Seerah into background, shrouding it behind the veils of political or mundane exigencies.

So, what is the true import of Seerah that we are referring to and how its fall into oblivion has brought among Muslims an alienation from the life of Prophet (SAW) and his teachings? This is the metaphysical grounding of Seerah and its comprehension with reference to the transcendental and vertical component that forms the essence and marrow of Prophetic persona. With the profusion of Seerah literature – from both the Muslim scholars and orientalist, the gaze of the reader has been shifted from the spiritual and existential aspects of Seerah to its more mundane and yielding aspects. Attempts have been made to contextualise the life of Prophet outside the framework of Prophethood and to understand him as a social reformer, ethical teacher, political leader or a strategist of worldly affairs. While



these dimensions pertain to Seerah, no doubt, but they are peripheral and revolve in an orbit around the centre of prophetic phenomenon – the phenomenon that doesn't defy the mundane, but goes beyond it into the realm of principles, metaphysical principles to be precise. Muhammad (SAW), as a founder of the last of the Major world religions, stands at the closure of the window of transcendence – the last to have had access to the realm of Being, transcendence and Godhead. In post-Muhammadan era, the revelation has exhausted itself and the mystical experiences, even if they are granted autonomy of content, have to pass through the Muhammadan gateway and they can't be a more than of a hundred-thousandth ray of the sunlight which shineth in the bosom of Muhammad (SAW). Religion, if its truth has to have any value has to etch itself in the experiential landscape of man, but for the fact that modernity treats religion as no more than a socio-historic phenomenon, depriving it of its experiential and existential content, the spiritual aspect of prophethood is either lost or is appropriated and compensated by the naive leaps of parapsychology. Unless the transcendental aspect of prophethood is taken into account, the aspect which roots the teachings of Prophet not in any histori-

cal contingency, but in a timeless transcendental fountainhead, all attempts to benefit from the stream of prophethood and to model our lives after it will end up at the secularisation of religion, a reference to which has been made in the beginning of this article.

The lives of Alexander and Napoleon may be understood without any reference to God and religion; the teachings of Plato and Plotinus may well be explicable without any reference to the transcendental cause, but the lives of Jesus and Muhammad, of Buddha and Moses can never be understood without a reference to God whom they called people to or religion which they established. This phenomenon, which I dare to call "secularisation of Seerah" has not only multiplied our misunderstandings of Seerah, but also deprived those aspects of their essence, which we claim to understand. At this juncture, the first step is to understand the life of Prophet in the light of the mission which he carried out throughout his life and which formed the framework of the religion of Islam. The divine commandments, which Prophet (SAW) identified as binding narrative and which defined the trajectory of his life couldn't be understood in atomic sense, in their socio-historical context deprived of their religious and meta-

physical import. The Quranic dictum "Your fellow man (Prophet) is neither misguided nor astray. Nor does he speak of his own whims", need to be our defining points in any attempt to understand Seerah with its multifarious implications. Every act of Prophet and therefore every inactivity on his behalf could only be understood when these activities are seen in the backdrop of their divine origin. In this regard, Muslim scholars and recently some Orientalists have come up with profound and precise works on the life and teachings of Prophet. Shibli Nomani and Syed Suleiman Nadvi initiated the regime of serious seerah scholarship in Urdu and thence scholars like Idrees Khandelvi, Khalid Maso'od, Jafar Shah Phulwari, Naem Siddiqui, Khursheed Lateef Gaba and others have produced works of merit and serious scholarship.

In recent times, English has emerged as the Lingua Franca, not only in worldly matters, but in religious affairs too. The younger generation is fast losing touch with oriental languages like Arabic, Persian and Urdu, which constitute the bulk of Islamic literature. Scholars have risen up to this change and have started to produce works of Seerah in English. In addition to Muslim scholars, Orientalists, whose language of priority is English have also added to the rich treasure of Seerah literature in English. Starting with Syed Ameer Ali and passing through the classical work of Khalifa Abdul Hakeem, the writers like Martin Lings, Adil Salahi, Karen Armstrong, Barnaby Rogerson, Marshall Hodgson and others have richly contributed to the field of Seerah. While the English authors mentioned here have brought in their biases here and there and tried to distort the import of Seerah, but their works on the whole are objective and scholarly. As we face the modern world with all its attendant intellectual challenges, it no longer suffices to treat Seerah as a mere collection of facts or a chronological look at the life and teachings of the Prophet, but a deeper hermeneutic treatment and an appreciation of Seerah rooted in wisdom is called for.

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

The author is a Srinagar based columnist

The West's Climate Crisis Is Bad News For The Global South Too

Rizwan Basir

The global investment and lending systems are on the verge of a climate-centric metamorphosis as the consequences of global warming on economies around the world become impossible to overlook.

That change should be good news but it is the economically-challenged Global South that could bear the heaviest burden of this shift.

Before 2021, climate change was primarily regarded as a concern that disproportionately affected the Global South. International financial institutions and advanced economies directed significant amounts of their finance earmarked for climate-related mitigation and investments towards vulnerable areas to enhance their ability to adapt.

However, the past two years have brought about a radical shift. The year 2023, specifically, has witnessed an unprecedented surge in dramatic climate change effects across North America, Europe, the Middle East and East Asia. Prolonged heatwaves, floods, raging wildfires and devastating hurricanes have struck these wealthier regions, leaving them bewildered.

Against this backdrop, it should surprise no one if richer nations redirect financing that was previously allocated for the Global South's adaptation efforts, channelling it instead towards domestic recovery efforts.

The shift is already noticeable in mechanisms like multilateral climate funds, as highlighted recently by the struggles of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in securing pledges from rich countries for its upcoming funding cycle. Remember, there are only limited dedicated sources of climate financing to begin with.

And while accessing funding from such platforms is exceedingly challenging, they

play a crucial role and may be the only lifeline for many vulnerable regions. If these funds run dry, the Global South will have no doors left to knock on. The Loss and Damage (L&D) Fund, established just last year, might also fall prey to this changing landscape. To some degree, it already has.

The fund doesn't yet have enough commitments, let alone necessary capital, to address climate change. Additionally, it regularly encounters dismissive comments from rich countries concerning contributions. The United States, in particular, remains opposed to the idea of holding historical emitters responsible for the current climate landscape, or compensating countries affected by disasters.

COP28 is expected to include the operationalisation of the L&D fund on its agenda. It will be intriguing to witness how delegates will navigate the challenge of operationalising a fund that's nearly empty.

Another implication of the climate-driven transformation of financial systems, which could have the most significant impact on the Global South, relates to concessional elements within global debt.

For institutional lenders like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, climate exposures are becoming increasingly evident through an elevated probability of loans that borrowers are not able to repay due to hardships.

Such challenges stem from borrowers facing recurring climate-induced disasters or depreciation of their existing assets caused by the escalation of global inflation, which itself may be driven by climate change.

Lenders face a quandary. On the one hand, their core mandate is to provide financial assistance to countries in need. However, they must also exercise caution when extending loans to countries that may be unable to

Before 2021, climate change was primarily regarded as a concern that disproportionately affected the Global South. International financial institutions and advanced economies directed significant amounts of their finance earmarked for climate-related mitigation and investments towards vulnerable areas to enhance their ability to adapt.

repay them.

Consequently, as a delicate balancing act, institutions are now moving away from the concessional nature of debt instruments, relinquishing their prior leniency.

Pakistan serves as a notable example.

Last year's floods plunged the country into poly-crises, pushing it dangerously close to a sovereign debt default. Ultimately, the economic collapse was averted through the approval of a \$3bn loan program by the IMF.

One would expect that the IMF would provide this amount on favourable terms to help alleviate Pakistan's economic woes. Howev-

er, the reality is quite the opposite.

Reforms tied to the bailout package have resulted in a surge in annual inflation in Pakistan, reaching a historic high of 38 percent in May. Interest rates have also climbed, and the Pakistani rupee has reached unprecedented lows, with a 6.2 percent decline against the US dollar last month.

Climate-vulnerable African nations present other cases in point. According to the IMF's own assessment, 13 African countries are currently teetering on the edge of climate and debt distress. Drought-stricken Zambia and, more recently, flood-prone Ghana have already defaulted on their debt payments.

The prospect of debt pardoning, a plea the debt-burdened Global South fervently advocates for, is not one that lenders like. The climate has changed, not the tenets of capitalism.

"We want to pay," said Kenyan President William Ruto during the New Global Financial Pact Summit in June. "But we need a new financial model," he argued. "The current financial architecture is unfair, punitive and inequitable."

To be sure, the Global South will need to depend on its internal resources for the most part to drive climate investments. These countries must look to break free from the relentless cycle of debt and climate crises.

Yet, to accomplish this, they need a financial system founded not on the principle of survival of the fittest, but rather on equitable opportunities for all.

Mere sympathy from the rich will no longer suffice. What the Global South needs, and rightfully deserves, is systemised empathy.

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 Al Jazeera

Exploring Delhi

My Experience in a Dynamic Metropolis



DELHI IS A CITY OF CONTRASTS, WHERE HISTORY COEXISTS WITH MODERNITY, AND TRADITION DANCES WITH PROGRESS. It's a place where the echoes of emperors reverberate through ancient monuments and where the dreams of a modern India shine bright in the glass facades of skyscrapers



Muhammad Waseem Bhat

It was in July 2016 when I first moved to Delhi for my higher studies. The valley was in mayhem back then having no internet connectivity, the mob blocking the roads and pelting stones. The schools were shut and students were back to the playgrounds seeking some solace in playing cricket. Amidst all this conundrum, I ventured on a new journey which probably changed my fortunes for the rest of my life to say the least. However, as life happened, after spending almost seven years in Delhi I do share a love-hate relationship with it but there's no denying that Delhi has many charms to steal the show and those quirks make it one of the best cities in the world. Even when I thought of writing about my first hand experience in Delhi, it was quite a struggle to begin with given the plenitude of thoughts carving a way out as if asking me to write down at length. However, the art is long and words

alone won't suffice to do justice to the art. And for me, writing about the place built over 2000 years of settlement also called as Shahjahanabad or The walled city, is no less than describing an art in its entirety or if you think mayhem could be a concern as it is not just a city but a pulsating essence that rubs off and enlivens the souls of all those who get a chance to connect with it. An architectural brilliance and a representative of the Indian artistic nuances, there is no dearth of experiences in this capital city of India that often appears to be overwhelming. Nestled along the banks of the Yamuna river, this metropolis of over twenty million people is a vibrant mosaic of ancient heritage and contemporary dynamism. Delhi stands as a testament to India's rich tapestry of traditions, cultures, and aspirations. A city that embodies the past, present, and future of this remarkable country. Delhi's history is a living testament to the rise and fall of empires. From the grandeur of the

Mughal era to the colonial rule of the British, the city's monuments and structures narrate tales of power, art, and architecture. The majestic Red Fort, the towering Qutub Minar, and the serene Humayun's Tomb transport visitors back in time, offering a glimpse into India's regal past. Delhi's history is a captivating narrative that spans over a thousand years. It has been the seat of several powerful dynasties, including the Mughals, Delhi Sultanate, and British Raj. Each era has left an indelible mark on the city's architecture, cuisine, and traditions. This diversity is reflected in the array of festivals celebrated throughout the year, from Diwali's luminous splendor to Eid's joyous feasts. Delhi, with its intricate blend of history, culture, and modernity, is a city that defies easy categorization. It is a place where ancient temples coexist with skyscrapers, where traditional craftsmanship thrives alongside tech startups. As Delhi continues to evolve, it remains a symbol of India's enduring spirit,

where the past and the future converge in a vibrant, ever-changing present. People from all corners of India call this city home, bringing their traditions, languages, and cuisines with them. You can savor the flavors of India in the bustling markets of Chandni Chowk, shop for textiles in the colorful bazaars, and witness the spirituality of the Jama Masjid. As they say, Delhi is certainly a gastronomic paradise. Its streets are a treasure trove of culinary experiences, from savory chaats to succulent kebabs. The city's food scene caters to all tastes, whether you're indulging in the buttery goodness of paneer tikka or savoring the fragrant biryani. The age-old Parathe Wali Gali in Old Delhi is a foodie's pilgrimage. The capital city of incredible India, Delhi gives you an insight into the rest of the country with its edges brimming with a multitude of cultures from across the subcontinent. At first glance, the Indian capital can seem an overwhelming place to ne-

gotiate but give it time and you'll feel the chaos subside, revealing delicate vignettes of daily life and layer upon layer of ancient history, built up over 2000 years of settlement. Delhi doesn't just live in the past, it thrives in the present. The city boasts a world-class metro system, glittering shopping malls, and a burgeoning tech industry. Areas like Connaught Place and Cyber Hub buzz with activity, offering a blend of international brands and homegrown talent. Delhi's emergence as a global city is evident in its rapid development and cosmopolitan outlook. Yet, Delhi faces its share of challenges, including air pollution, traffic congestion, and social disparities. These issues have spurred initiatives for cleaner air, better public transportation, freebies and inclusive development. The city's leaders are dedicated to creating a more sustainable and equitable future for its residents. Delhi is a city of contrasts, where history coexists with modernity, and tradition dances with progress.

It's a place where the echoes of emperors reverberate through ancient monuments and where the dreams of a modern India shine bright in the glass facades of skyscrapers. Delhi invites all who visit to explore its vibrant streets, savor its diverse flavors, and embrace its dynamic spirit. It's a city that embodies India's remarkable journey through time, and it continues to evolve, offering a glimpse into the boundless possibilities of the future. This multifaceted city invites visitors to explore its many facets and uncover the layers of history and culture that make it truly unique. As you explore its myriad facets, you'll discover that Delhi is not just a place; it's an experience, an emotion that leaves an indelible mark on your heart and soul.

The writer is a recipient of two National Awards and a literature student at University of Delhi. He hails from Badliera Lolab and can be reached at waseembhat037@gmail.com

Anything but Cocomelon! 9 Alternative Content Channels for Kids

SHIRINE EL ZAATARI

If you are a mother of children under ten years old, you've probably heard of Cocomelon. Here is how my son got introduced to it: my son had very bad eczema when he was around 5 months old. Getting him dressed after a shower would be a race as he would constantly reach for different parts of his body to itch... until I discovered Cocomelon. Cocomelon hypnotised him, made him freeze and forget all his itchy skin. Four months later, he wanted to watch nursery rhymes from Cocomelon (and other similar shows) all the time. He was obsessed and I admit it was endearing, at first. However, his strong attachment to Cocomelon made me wonder, what makes it so appealing to young children? Why can't it stop replaying in my own head too at the end of the day?

IS IT THAT BAD?

It is understandable that parents fall into the Cocomelon trap. After all, it is an easily accessible resource that is free. It teaches our kids a lot about colours, numbers, food, etc. Your child will memorise a lot of vocabulary to repeat at family parties and impress everyone. Some research even suggests that Cocomelon can be helpful as an intervention in improving

the language skills of 6-year-olds (Ules, 2022).

WHY IS IT ADDICTIVE?

Cocomelon is designed to make your child addicted by capturing attention from a bottom-up fashion, using sensory stimulation rather than content and meaning. It uses short scenes that are no more than two seconds, fast camera movements, dancing subtitles, and multiple sound effects (music, talking, laughter) playing simultaneously (Soni, 2022). This in turn causes executive function (EF) deficit, attention deficit, limited social interaction with children and emotional dysregulation. These are all functions related to the prefrontal cortices (Soni, 2022).

In short, children exit the Cocomelon "portal" dazed, moody, and tired, rather than refreshed and vibrant. That's because their brain is depleted by the effort necessary to take in rapidly changing scenes and events.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

We do not want another no-screen-time preacher, as we know sometimes it is necessary to distract the child in a safe and reliable way as we get some things done. Not all screen time is bad. Children can learn a lot from visual content. There are plenty of things that they

would never have seen if not for screens, such as animals in the safari or penguins in the arctic. How do you identify good content? First, the content needs to deliver respectable morals, language and message. Second, it needs to be slow-paced, the more it resembles real-life, the better.

HERE ARE SOME OPTIONS:

For those living in the UK, BBC's Cbeebies contains a wealth of good shows, like Let's Go for a Walk, Number/Alpha-Blocks, Big Cook Little Cook, etc. However, for those who do not live in the UK or who don't have a TV licence, here is a list of shows you can find on Youtube, some of which are Islamic or are available in Formal Arabic.

OMAR & HANA

A show that follows the adventures of a Muslim family and the two children Omar and Hana. Each episode includes a moral lesson and a song.

- In Arabic
- Each episode is around ten minutes long.
- Available in many languages including English and Arabic. They are suitable for toddlers and young children.

MimiMuslims CHANNEL

A channel posting Qur'an,



Islamic Songs and Islamic Stories with slow animations for children.

- The episodes are of varying lengths, ranging from three minutes to six minutes.
- The content is made in English and suitable for a wide range of ages. The stories are suitable for 4- to 8-year olds, while the songs are suitable from toddlerhood.

LEARN WITH ZAKARIA

This channel teaches children Arabic vocabulary, from colours and numbers to vegetable and kitchen utensils. It also includes animated Quran for kids.

- Each episode is around five minutes long.
- Most episodes are in Ara-

bic, and some include interactive games.

ONE4KIDS

The channel includes slow-paced cartoons and Islamic songs available in English and Arabic.

- The episodes range from four minutes for the nasheeds to ten minutes long for the cartoons.
- The content is suitable for 5- to 10-year olds.

IQRA CARTOONS

Islamic slow-paced cartoons about moral stories, seerah, stories of the Prophet, Quranic tafsir.

- Each episode is five to ten minutes long.
- Episodes are in English, and suitable for 5- to

10-year-old children.

SOME NON-ISLAMIC, BUT ARABIC OPTIONS:

HEROES OF THE CITY

A channel following the daily adventures of cars and vehicles in a city as they go on missions to save the day. It is not Islamic, but it is morally sound.

- Each episode is around ten minutes long.
- It is available in many languages, but notably formal Arabic. They are recommended for children who are passionate about vehicles.

OCTONAUTS

A popular TV show following a team of investigators as they solve natural problems around the world. The show teaches kids important lessons about the planet and its amazing creatures.

- Each episode is around ten minutes long.
- It is available in Arabic and other languages as well.

SIRAJ

Each episode revolves around one letter in the Arabic alphabet, where Rashid and Noura meet some animal characters and join them on their adventures. It also teaches about different occupations as each

animal has a different job, e.g. painter, fisherman, nurse, hairdresser, architect, etc.

- Each episode is around fifteen minutes long.
- The show is available in Arabic.

BARAEM

An Arabic TV channel for children with programs such as bed-time stories, animal exploration, songs about animals, etc.

- All episodes are in formal Arabic and with varying lengths.

I wrote this article with the intention to gently remind Muslim parents that superior content options exist for their children. At the end of the day, we want our children to grow up as good Muslims. Engaging in high quality content consumption not only enriches children's knowledge and language, but also nurtures cognitive development, cultivating qualities such as patience, good behaviour and politeness. The eyes and the ears feed the brain and the heart, and just as we are responsible for feeding our children Halal and Tayyib food for their stomachs, we should expose them to Islamically sound and psychologically healthy content to feed their souls.

The article was originally published by Amaliah

Canada shared evidence of 'credible allegations' on Nijjar's killing with India 'many weeks ago', seeks to establish facts: PM Trudeau



Toronto: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said that Canada shared with India "many weeks ago" evidence that it may have been behind the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil and wants New Delhi to commit constructively with Ottawa to establish the facts in the "very serious matter."

Trudeau, however, did not elaborate on the evidence that he says has been shared with India.

"Canada has shared the credible allegations that I talked about on Monday with India. We did that many weeks ago... We hope that they engage with us so that we can get to the bottom of this very serious matter. That's important," he said on Friday in a press conference with the visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"And what we are asking is for India, to commit constructively with Canada to establish the facts on this situation. We're there to work with them. And we have been for weeks now," Trudeau said in response to a question.

When asked about Canada sharing any information in the case with India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi said: "No specific information has been shared by Canada on this case, either then or before or after. We have, you know, as we have said, or I think we have made very clear, we are willing to look at any specific information."

"We have conveyed this to the Canadian side and made it clear to them that we are willing to look at any specific information that is provided to us. But so far we have not received any such specific information," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in New Delhi.

Tensions flared between India and Canada early this

week following Trudeau's explosive allegations of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistan extremist Nijjar on his country's soil on June 18 in British Columbia.

India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020.

India angrily rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated" and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat in a tit-for-tat move to Ottawa's expulsion of an Indian official over the case.

Trudeau said Canada is working with its partners over the matter. US Ambassador to Canada David Cohen also confirmed that "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" had informed Trudeau of the possible involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

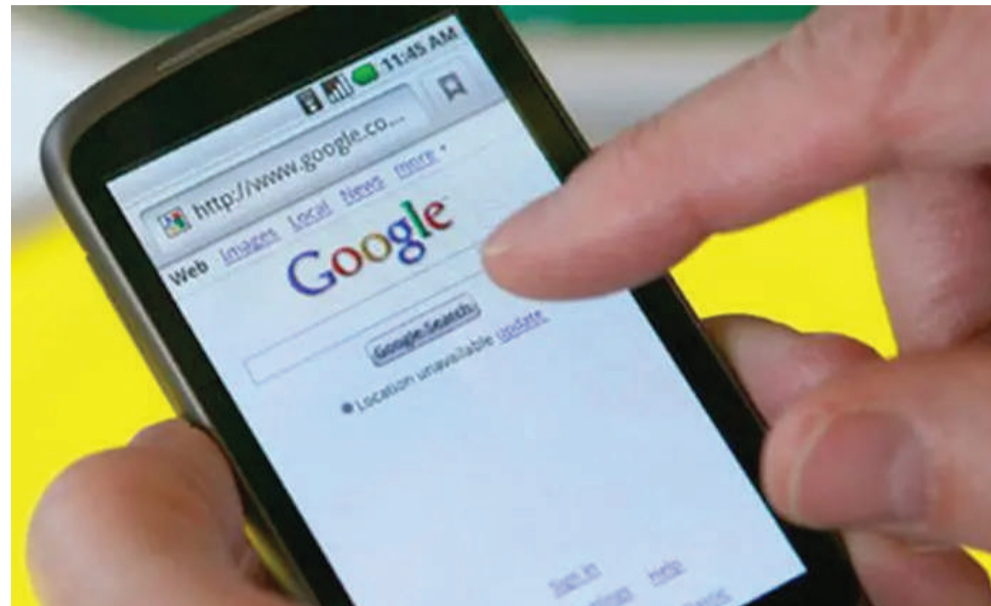
This is the first admission by any US government official about the sharing of intelligence by Five Eyes partners with Canada even when there were multiple unofficial and non-official reports about the same, CTV News channel reported.

Five Eyes' network is an intelligence alliance consisting of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. It is both surveillance-based and signals intelligence (SIGINT).

"He (Cohen) made this comment while denying a Washington Post report alleging that weeks before Trudeau's bombshell declaration, Ottawa asked its closest allies, including the US to publicly condemn the murder and that overtly was rebuffed," the CTV said.

"Very bluntly, I will say that and you know me well enough that I'm not in the habit of commenting on private diplomatic conversations," Cohen was quoted as saying.

Mobile internet services restored in Manipur after over 4 months



Imphal: Mobile internet services, which were suspended as ethnic violence erupted in Manipur in early May, were restored after over four months from Saturday.

The services resumed hours after Chief Minister N Biren Singh made an announcement in this regard in the morning.

He also called for the cancellation of the free movement regime that allows people residing close to both sides of the India-Myanmar border to venture 16 km deep into each other's territory without any document.

Addressing a press conference here, Singh said, "The government had suspended mobile internet services on May 3 to check the spread of fake news, propaganda and hate speech. However, with the improvement of the situation, mobile internet services will be restored across the state from today."

The services were restored from around 3 pm, an official said.

The chief minister said the government will continue to deal with the influx of "illegal immigrants" and stressed the need for complete fencing of the India-Myanmar border.

"The Union Home Ministry has taken steps to fence 60 km

of the international border in Manipur," he said.

The CM claimed that the present situation was a result of unplanned policies of the previous governments and not an immediate aftermath of any recent decision.

"Our government has requested the Union Home Ministry to cancel the free movement regime. Also, security forces have not properly guarded the border. Instead of being deployed at zero point, they were found guarding the border 14-15 km inside Indian territory," he claimed.

The CM also came out strongly against the bandh culture and incidents of "rampant verbal abuse against MLAs, ministers and police officials, which has diverted people from real issues and created conflict among ourselves".

"Over the last two months, the situation has improved and the frequency of firing incidents has come down with the deployment of security forces in vulnerable areas," he said.

Singh claimed that a countywide survey has found a rise in drug and substance abuse among youths of the state, which was the reason why his government launched a 'war on drugs' in 2018.

"This will continue... it will be carried out more strongly to destroy poppy plantations in the hills," he said.

Singh said that incidents of extortion, kidnappings and perpetrating other crimes by miscreants impersonating policemen have increased.

"We have to stay focused on real issues in the state, namely dealing with influx of illegal immigrants, taking up welfare activities for internally displaced people and fighting massive poppy cultivation," he said.

"With the objective of establishing the rule of law in Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Moreh and Imphal, our government is taking up multiple initiatives," Singh added.

More than 175 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal valley, while tribals, including Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill districts.

When our govt comes in 2024, first we will amend women's reservation bill: Cong chief Kharge



Jaipur: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said his party would amend the women's reservation bill if it comes to power at the Centre in 2024.

There are no major legal complications in implementing the bill right now but the Narendra Modi government putting it off for 10 years, he said.

While supporting the bill in Parliament, the Congress demanded that it be implemented with immediate effect and a quota for women from Other Backward Classes (OBC) be included in it.

"When our government comes in 2024, the first thing we will do is make amendments to the bill," Kharge said, addressing a party rally in Jaipur in poll-bound Rajasthan.

The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, which seeks to reserve a third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women, was passed by Parliament earlier this week. It was the first bill to be taken up and passed in the new Parliament building.

In his address, Kharge alleged that the then president Ram Nath Kovind was not invited for the foundation laying of the new Parliament building because he is "untouchable".

"If the foundation laying was done by an untouchable, then naturally it would have to be washed with Gangajal (water from the Ganges)," he said, referring to the former president's caste.

Kharge said President Droupadi Murmu was not invited for the inauguration of the new Parliament building while many others, including actors, were invited.

"This is an insult to the president," he said.

"...Lok Sabha is summoned

by the president and not by the prime minister. But there is no place for (the president) and then they say that they respect women a lot," he said.

The Congress leader also questioned the Narendra Modi government's intention behind bringing the women's reservation bill, saying the BJP does not want to give reservation to women even though it does not say so.

Kharge said Sarojini Naidu was the first woman president of the Congress and asked, "In 100 years, has any woman become president of BJP or RSS?"

He said the BJP thought of the women's reservation bill just ahead of elections as several opposition parties have formed the INDIA bloc.

"When Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and I together came up with the idea of INDIA, the women's bill came to their mind," he said.

Kharge said the special session of Parliament was called for five days because Prime Minister Modi had to show off the new Parliament building and it ended in four days. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are for discussion on people's issues and resolving them, not for the purpose of "exhibition", he added.

Targeting the BJP over the women's reservation bill, Kharge said when the erstwhile Congress-led government brought a bill for women reservation the BJP had opposed it. "...it was stopped because of them and today they are roaming around as heroes. These people are smart," he said.

"These people neither have clear intentions nor clear policies. They just make speeches. We supported the bill, but it will be implemented in 2030... In 10 years, neither Modi nor others will be there," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Valley Records

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, KCC&I Chairman said since the ground situation in Kashmir has improved to great extent, tourists are expected to arrive in hordes, besides, he said the unwavering efforts by the government and successful G20 meeting led to the huge footfall of foreign tourists to the valley.

"I represented KCC&I during the G20 working group meeting and urged the delegates to impress upon their respective governments to remove travel advisories to Kashmir. The valley has witnessed the significant change in the last few years that encouraged foreigners to move to Kashmir. We expect more and more foreign tourists to visit the valley," he added.

President Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo appreciated the UT government's efforts in reviewing tourism industry in Kashmir, saying the valley has witnessed record arrival of foreign and domestic tourists in the last few years and that the people associated with tourism anticipate more and more tourists in the years to come.

"Not only G20, but the government's tireless efforts, I must say, boosted the tourism industry in Kashmir over the past few years and I hope tourists from Europe and other nations will move to Kashmir in hordes," he said.

Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon, Chairman Houseboat Owners Association told Kashmir Observer that there has been a considerable shift on the ground, when it comes to foreign tourist arrival in Kashmir.

"In the upcoming years, we anticipate a record increase in tourists to help J&K recover from the losses it suffered in the last 35-years," Pakhtoon said.

He said that the valley has grown to be one of the most popular tourist attractions of the world, following a successful G20 working group meeting.

Not only the tourism industry, Pakhtoon said huge tourist arrival in Kashmir has benefited hoteliers, restaurant owners, cab drivers and shopkeepers as well.

Two Doctors Fired

of Medical Officer," the order mentions.

As per Circular No. 08-JK(GAD) of

2021 dated 13.02.2021, the General Administration Department has clarified that prior permission of the competent authority for leaving the station shall be mandatory when a government employee intends to visit a foreign country on private affairs.

The services of Dr Kawaldeep Kour, Medical Officer, were also terminated.

As per the order, Kour had submitted an application for sanctioning of study leave for a duration of one year to GMC, Baramulla, but after the lapse of her leave, she did not rejoin her duties.

Her services were terminated by invoking Article 128 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Regulations, 1956, and she has been discharged from government services w.e.f. April 01, 2021 - from the date when she resorted to "unauthorised absence" from duty--(KNO)

India Blasts

cross-border terrorism and shut down its infrastructure of terrorism immediately. Second, vacate Indian territories under its illegal and forcible occupation, and third, stop the grave and persistent human rights violations against the minorities in Pakistan.

In his address earlier, Kakar said Pakistan desired peaceful and productive relations with all its neighbours, including India. "Kashmir is the key to peace between Pakistan and India," he said.

Gahlot reiterated that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are an integral part of India.

"Matters pertaining to the UTs of J and K and Ladakh are purely internal to India. Pakistan has no locus standi to comment on our domestic matters."

The young Indian diplomat asserted that as a country with one of the world's worst human rights records, particularly when it comes to minority and women's rights, Pakistan "would do well to put its own house in order before venturing to point a finger at the world's largest democracy".

India stressed that Pakistan has become a "habitual offender" when it comes to misusing the august forum of the United Nations to peddle "baseless and malicious" propaganda against India.

Gahlot said the member states of the United Nations and other multilateral organisations are well aware that Pakistan does so to "deflect the international community's attention away from its own abysmal record on human rights".

Citing a "glaring example" of the systemic violence against minorities in Pakistan, Gahlot referred to the large-scale "brutality" perpetrated against the minority Christian community in Jaranwala in the country's Faisalabad district in August 2023, where a total of 19 churches were gutted and 89 Christian houses burnt down.

"Similar treatment has been meted out to the Ahmadiyyas whose places of worship" have been demolished. The condition of women belonging to minority communities in Pakistan, notably Hindus, Sikhs and Christians, remains deplorable, she said.

According to a recent report published by Pakistan's own human rights commission, an estimated 1000 women from minority communities are subjected to abduction, forced conversion and marriage in Pakistan every year, Gahlot added.

A Pakistani diplomat took the floor to exercise Islamabad's Right to Reply to India's response.

India fields its young female and male diplomats posted at its Permanent Mission in New York to give scathing and hard-hitting responses to Pakistan's Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers, who repeatedly raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in their annual addresses to the high-level General Assembly sessions.

BJP Ready For

reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

The Union minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) also said "there have been no incidents of stone-pelting (in Jammu and Kashmir) for so many years now. Encounters do not take place while walking on the roads. The status of tourism is such that houseboats and hotels are full of tourists".

Singh said Jammu and Kashmir has an important role to play in India's growth story as it emerges as a powerful country in the next 25 years, as envisaged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The prime minister says India

will emerge as a powerful nation in the world in the next 25 years and in that journey of development, Jammu and Kashmir has an important role to play," he said.

400 Acre Land

added that the combined results were used for delineating and demarcating the land.

Various specialised agencies, including irrigation and flood control department, directorate of ecology, environment and remote sensing, and National Institute of Hydrology Centre, Jammu, were consulted during the process.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had set up a three-tier committee for delineation and demarcation of lands.

"The process has been set in motion and various areas are currently in consideration for delineation and demarcation," the official said.

PM Gives Credit

witness to the virtuous deeds and management of goddess Ahilyabai Holkar and hence, after the historic Nari Shakti Vandana Adhinyam was passed in Parliament, I came to Kashi first to seek blessings from all of you. It is my good fortune that you are blessing us in such large numbers," he said.

The prime minister added that the festival of Durga Puja is around the corner and pointed out that the preparations for Durga Puja pandals have begun at various places in Varanasi. "The passage of the Nari Shakti Act during this time has increased the enthusiasm of Navratri manifold," he said.

Modi hoped that the law would open new avenues for women's development in the country.

"The presence of women will increase in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. I heartily congratulate you, the mothers and sisters of the country, for this achievement from the holy land of Kashi," he said.

The prime minister reached the venue of the programme after laying the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi. Modi is currently representing Varanasi in the Lok Sabha for a second consecutive term.

The 128th Constitution amendment bill to reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women received the

Parliament's nod on Thursday.

Follow Ideals

genre of heroism and courage in Hindi literature. His deep commitment to social values, public aspirations and welfare is unparalleled," he said.

At the commemoration event, Sinha asked the youth to follow the ideals of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, tread the path of righteousness and contribute in nation-building.

"Dinkar Ji is the soul of literature and he mesmerized the nation by the brilliance of his patriotic compositions. Even today we can see the reflection of Dinkar Ji in the aspiration of India's strength and courage, in its ideals, resolve and self-confidence," he said.

"His words inspire and illuminate our path to progress. History is witness to the fact that as a Member of Parliament, Dinkar Ji's oratory gave voice to the common man and various other issues of national importance," he added.

The LG also spoke about the life-long campaigns of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar to promote public welfare, women empowerment, and preservation of Hindi and other regional languages.

In his address, Giriraj Singh paid tributes to the Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar. He said the high ideals of Dinkar are a link between literature and politics and a source of inspiration for the generations to come.

Prominent personalities from diverse fields, members of Rashtrakavi Dinkar Smriti Vikas Samiti, family members of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and the people in large numbers were present.

VDG Member

declared him dead.

Meanwhile, police have filed a case and started further investigation under relevant sections of the law in this regard. (KS)

Landslide Blocks

motor vehicles and trucks were stranded along the both sides of the highway as efforts were intensified to make the highway through.

Two Terrorists

Baramulla and investigation was taken up.

On receipt of this information,

based on human/technical intelligence, the spokesperson said, a joint team of Police, Army & CAPF during MVCP checking at Tapper Pattan apprehended Shah.

From the accused, he said, incriminating materials, arms and ammunition including 1 Pistol, 1 Pistol Magazine and 8 live rounds were recovered.

During questioning, the spokesperson said, he disclosed the name of his other associate as Parvaiz Ahmad Shah of Takiya Wagoora.

"Accordingly, joint parties of Baramulla Police, Army & CAPF raided his residence and subsequently arrested him. Upon his disclosure, 2 Hand Grenades were also recovered from his possession," he said.

Today, he said, during the further course of interrogation of Shah and on his disclosure, 1 Pistol, 1 Pistol Magazine & 8 live rounds were also recovered from his house at Janbazpora.

"Investigation so far has revealed that these 2 terrorists were operating on the directions from Pakistan based handlers and were planning to recruit more terrorists and carry out terrorist activities in Baramulla and nearby areas. The investigation is at the initial stage and more arrests and recoveries are expected," the spokesperson added.

Man Slips

over to her family members for the last rites," an official told a local news agency KNO

Mason Falls

the doctors could operate upon him.

Sudhanshu Pandey

year as the Union secretary, department of food and public distribution, Pandey is the common election commissioner appointed for the Union territories of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Lakshadweep, the spokesperson said.

The LG congratulated Pandey on assuming the charge of the SEC of Ladakh and wished him the best.

Mishra later discussed various issues with the new SEC, including the preparations for the upcoming elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Union Territory, the spokesperson said.

India-Canada Row Political Gimmick: APSCC

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A Kashmir-based Sikh body on Saturday said the India-Canada row was "a political gimmick" by the establishment to garner votes in the elections and that the community was an integral part of the country.

"Everything is politically exploited. Sikhs are an integral part of this country. Since

issue was a narrative, built on lines of Kashmir issue for political mileage. "A political scenario has been created like for Kashmir, Pakistan scenario has been formed and now in Punjab, Khalistan scenario is being created."

"It is never liked by any Sikh. It has only come out from the mouth of the politicians not from the people," he said about Khalistan.

The APSCC Chairman said



RSS came into power, the only agenda it has is that they will talk about 'gharwapsi' whether it be in Muslims, Sikhs or anybody. We are not going to tolerate it," All Parties Sikh Coordination Committee Chairman Jagmohan Singh Raina told reporters here.

"The India-Canada situation is a political gimmick as elections are coming up. It is to garner votes during elections and nothing else. The community is progressive, it is working hard for the country and it will continue working like that," he said.

He alleged that the Khalistan

that for last several years, the organisation supported different political parties in a hope that the Sikhs will get its due.

However, the APSCC has now decided to boycott the political parties and their leaders, he said.

Raina said the body will search for ideal candidates to serve it through a mass contact programme that would be carried out across the state.

"We will come up with candidates from among the community. This will ensure that the power lies with the community and it is not used as a vote bank anymore," he said.

President AJUIAK, Social Activist Sajjad Kargili Meet LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: President of Jamiat ul Ulama Isna Asharia, Kargili, Shiekh Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi, and Social Activist Sajjad Kargili met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd).

The meeting was also attended by Advisor to LG, Dr Pawan Kotwal, IAS.

During the meeting, Shiekh Nazir Mehdi and Sajjad Kargili discussed several important issues and made specific requests to the LG.

Shiekh Nazir Mehdi and Sajjad Kargili informed the LG that they had recently visited the Turtuk block and requested his intervention for the sanctioning of a Government Degree College in the area.

This suggests a desire to enhance educational opportunities in the region. Shiekh Nazir also requested LG Ladakh for early completion of the Turtuk-Hanu Road, which is likely essential for improving connectivity and infrastructure in the area.

Meanwhile, LG BD Mishra directed Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education, Ladakh, Padma Angmo to examine the matter related to the opening of a degree college at Turtuk. This indicates a commitment to assessing the feasibility and need for such an educational institution in the region.

The LG also assured Shiekh Nazir Mehdi and Sajjad Kargili that efforts would be made to expedite the ongoing work on the Turtuk-Hanu Road.

Cong Seeks ULBs, PRIs Polls Under Single Election Authority

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress on Saturday questioned the Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to hold urban local body and Panchayati Raj Institution polls under separate election authorities.

Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vikar Rasool Wani, in a letter to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, demanded holding the elections to municipal corporations and other urban local bodies under the state election commission, like those of panchayats, as mandated by 74th amendment of the Constitution.

"The Congress has taken exception to the exercise for the conduct of ULB (urban local body) elections being undertaken without the superintendence and control of the (state election) commission, which is a clear violation of the 74th constitutional amendment," he said.

It is surprising that elections to rural panchayats are being conducted by the state election commission while those to urban local bodies will be under the chief electoral officer, the Congress leader said and called it "illegal and against the spirit of the Constitution".

"We urge the Lt Governor to immediately set right the constitutional wrong being committed and hold the elections

to the municipal corporations and other urban local bodies under the superintendence and control of an independent state election commission on time," Wani said.

He questioned the two norms being followed in the Union Territory for the same set of the institutions of the Panchayati Raj system -- one for rural areas and another for urban areas.

Wani referred to the Congress' contribution in bringing the 73rd and 74th amendments of the Constitution and their implementation in Jammu and Kashmir, like other parts of the country, guaranteeing 33 per cent representation for women in all three tiers of rural panchayats and urban local bodies, apart from proportional representation for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

"Besides this, there is another important component of these amendments which mandated the holding of elections to these basic institutions of democracy under the superintendence and control of an independent state election commission, which though has been duly constituted in Jammu and Kashmir but having powers and jurisdiction over the panchayats elections only but not the urban local bodies so far," he said.



SPARKS FLY AS AN IRONSMITH sharpens knives inside his shop in the Old City of Srinagar on Saturday.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Union Minister Presides Over Workshop On Communication In Healthcare

Effective Healthcare Communication Is Non-Negotiable Aspects Of The Profession: Dr Jitendra Singh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Healthcare professionals, educators, and trainee doctors from around the country gathered in Srinagar on Saturday for a transformative workshop on Communication in Healthcare organised by National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) Science and Technology was the Chief Guest of the event.

In his address, Singh underscored the profound importance of effective communication in the field of healthcare. He emphasized that healthcare is not just a science but an art, one that encompasses not only the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses but also the delicate and compassionate act of communicating with patients and their families.

The Union Minister expressed happiness in selecting Srinagar as the venue for this workshop and highlighted the rich legacy of healthcare of J&K. He said that the region has always been considered as the seat of medical learning and has been way ahead in this field even when disturbances came up in 1990s. A series of successful meetings have led to this positive perception and an evidence of the fact is that more and more events are taking place in the valley.

The LG also assured Shiekh Nazir Mehdi and Sajjad Kargili that efforts would be made to expedite the ongoing work on the Turtuk-Hanu Road.



attendance of delegates. All the official and nonofficial events marked the success of G20 with a huge media presence. Recent two-day conference in administrative reforms also garnered a good response and is a testimony of a fact that we are marching ahead.

Singh enlightened the audience that the Diplomat of National Board (DNB) programme took a little longer time to implement in this region but we are marching ahead at a smooth pace even in the times when so much transition is taking place. We have seen a shift from communication based healthcare to non-communication based one due to many factors including technological interventions, Singh added.

"The technological revolution has paved a way into healthcare sector and has now an influence on how medical healthcare is imparted to the patients. Healthcare may have become more effective and easier but individual contact has been lost," he said.

Singh said that India being a heterogeneous country, these facilities of no or less commu-

nications have come as a boon as well. Telemedicine too is also changing the scenario in the peripheral areas while citing example of a remote area of Kathua District.

Talking about bringing in human touch as a priority of the government, the Minister spoke about Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) and how a human touch is induced after every complaint is resolved to give it a human angle.

He underlined the necessity to draw an optimum balance in an age when communication comes at a cost and has developed into a lucrative business. We all were always taught to communicate well with patient, it was not of the benefit of patient but also for the self-growth and that has to be kept in mind always.

He applauded the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir government and NBEMS for their dedication to enhancing healthcare in the region, significantly increasing the number of PG seats and courses available, allowing citizens to receive high-quality treatment within the UT.

Maharaja Hari Singh's Birth Anniversary Celebrated Across Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The 128th birth anniversary of last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh was celebrated with enthusiasm across Jammu on Saturday with various political and social groups holding public events to pay rich tributes to the "great social reformer" of his times.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had last year declared the last Dogra ruler's birth anniversary as a public holiday in response to a long agitation headed by the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS).

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid his tributes to the maharaja and expressed hope that his "legacy continue to guide us towards a brighter future".

"Humble tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on his Janm-Jayanti. He was a towering man of ideas & ideals, a harbinger of change, who dedicated his life to welfare of people & made remarkable reforms to uplift society. May his legacy continue to guide us towards a brighter future." Office of LG J&K wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Ranjvijay Singh, the trustee of Dharmarth Trust, founded by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1846, visited the life-size statue of Hari Singh near the main Tawi



bridge in the heart of the city and celebrated the birth anniversary of his great grandfather with 128 kg laddu.

"I am praying to god to help us tread the path shown by the Maharaja and keep Jammu and Kashmir prosperous," he said.

The YRS activists, attired in their traditional dress with some carrying swords, took out a huge motor rally from Bantalab to Tawi bridge, covering a distance of over 10 km and garlanded the maharaja's statue amid chants of "Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Amar Rahe" (Long live Maharaja) and "Jai Duggar Jai Dogra".

Besides social organisations, the leaders and workers of different political parties, including the BJP, Congress and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) visited the venue separately and paid floral tributes to the maharaja. They also

organised cake-cutting ceremonies amid drum beats.

"Maharaja is a torch-bearer for us and we will continue to follow his path," Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina said.

Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani accompanied by other party leaders also paid rich tributes to the maharaja at Tawi bridge and recalled his contributions to the region as a ruler.

Wani said that Jammu and Kashmir became an "integral part of India" under the maharaja's signature.

"Unfortunately, the historical state that he ruled has been disbanded, divided and downgraded, and all rights and protection to the permanent residents of his state have been removed arbitrarily and unilaterally by the BJP government at the Centre," he said.

DAK Urges 3 Vaccines To Prevent Triple Virus Threat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday urged people to get vaccinated against Covid, flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

"The triple vaccine could ward off this winter's triple-demic of respiratory illnesses," said influenza expert and DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"We could be facing a triple virus whammy of Covid, Flu and RSV this winter. The trio of vaccines could help reduce hospitalizations and deaths due to these viruses," he said.

Dr Hassan said most of us are familiar with annual flu shots. We have an updated Covid-19 vaccine this fall. New to the menu this year is a vaccine for RSV which is often associated with young kids but sends elderly to hospitals.

He said RSV vaccine is recommended for people aged 60 years and older.

"RSV season generally starts in the fall and peaks in the winter, but last year RSV peaked

several weeks early and circulated for longer. So people eligible for vaccine should get it as soon as possible," he said.

The DAK President said everyone 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine before the start of flu season which begins in October. Since it takes 2 weeks for the flu vaccine to become fully effective, it is best to get the vaccine now.

"While flu vaccine is recommended for all, it is especially needed in young children, elderly, pregnant women and people with medical conditions," he said.

"Updated Covid vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older," said Dr Nisar.

Updated vaccine has been reformulated to target newer XBB variants of the virus.

He said people can get Covid, flu and RSV vaccines at the same time.

"This means people don't have to make multiple trips to a clinic or pharmacy as they can get all three vaccines on same day," he added.

3-Day Trekking Expedition To Gurez Flagged-Off

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad flagged off a 3-day trekking expedition of girls from Mini Secretariat Bandipora to Gurez Valley.

The expedition for girl contingent of different age groups

from all five educational zones of Bandipora are participating in the event.

The DC was informed that a contingent, comprising boys of different age groups recently completed 3-day trekking expedition to Gurez who were earlier flagged off this week from Mini Secretariat Bandipora.



is being organised by Youth Services and Sports department Bandipora.

Officials from district youth services and sports department were present on the occasion.

Organized under the banner of "Meri Maati Mera Desh, as many as 50 young female stu-

The DC Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmad on the occasion wished best of luck to the participants

and emphasized in his address that such expeditions provide an opportunity to connect with the natural beauty of their homeland while fostering teamwork and physical fitness.

Kashmir's First Auto-Cross Motorsport Event Being Held In Srinagar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A three-day auto-cross motorsports event is being held in the Kashmir valley

forms so they can showcase their skills," he said.

"This is second day of event and more than 100 (have) participated till now. More entries



from Friday, which aims to provide a platform for both established and aspiring racers.

The motorsport event, from September 22-24, is through collaboration between the J&K Motorsport Federation (JKMSF) and the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India (FMSCI).

The event is being held on a two-kilometre long close circuit track at Nowgam, in the outskirts of the city. On specially designed circuits, head-to-head competitions are taking place that demand precision, agility, and split-second decision-making.

"We have brought professionals to make this track, FMSCI officials are here to regulate this event, we have taken care of all safety measures here like ambulances, fire tenders etc.," Amrit Pal Singh Bali, an official with the JKMSF, told PTI.

Bali said the Kashmir valley is full of talent but lacks platforms to showcase skills.

"We want those youths who are wasting time and energy on roads, to come on these tracks and show their skills. We have talent here but we need plat-

(are) coming as people are unaware about the auto cross, (but) they came to know through social media etc.," Bali added.

Shiekh Yasir, one of the organisers of the event, said they had not expected such a response. "I was surprised to see people turn up. They are actually showing interest and coming all the way to this place to participate in it," he said.

Yasir informed that they are planning motocross and other events for bikers.

"This for the first time this motorsports is happening here and especially for the first time in Srinagar. It will be helpful for us," said a participant named Mehboob-ul-Hussain.

Another participant, Kaiser Ahmeda said, "We also request the government for support, to provide us proper space for practice etc."

"The youth should not do stunts on roads which (could be) fatal, they should participate in events like these and learn it in proper way. There is good scope in these sports if the government supports us," he said.

India Rises To No 1 In ODIs



Press Trust of India
DUBAI: India became the top-ranked side in all three formats of the game following their win against Australia in the series opener elevated them to the number one spot

in the ODI rankings. Following their five-wicket win over Australia on Friday, India (116 rating points) displaced arch-rivals Pakistan (115) at the top of the rankings. Already leading the Test

and T20 chart, India now reign supreme across all formats. This is only the second time in men's cricketing history that a side has achieved the No.1 ranking across the formats. Prior to this, only South Africa had

achieved the feat back in August 2012. Australia (111) remains third in the ODI list despite dropping two points. India and Australia play the second of the three ODIs on Sunday.

Pakistan Cricket Team Awaits India Visa For World Cup Travel



Press Trust of India
INDORE: Players and team officials of Pakistan's World Cup-bound contingent are yet to get visas for their scheduled travel to India on September 27, two days before their opening warm-up fixture. The Pakistan squad was supposed to reach Hyderabad via Dubai where a two-day team bonding exercise was planned before travelling to India on September 27. The Babar Azam-led side is scheduled to play its first warm-up game against New Zealand on September 29. PCB sources told PTI that the team bonding trip to Dubai has been cancelled as players await their visas from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad. Sources also confirmed that

the PCB has raised the matter with the International Cricket Council (ICC). Pakistan last visited India for the T20 World Cup in 2016. The arch-rivals only play each other in Asia Cup and ICC tournaments due to the tense relations between the two countries. "PCB had sent its officials to Islamabad for passport collection yesterday but the visas are still in process. That has forced the board to cancel the team bonding trip in Dubai. If the visas come through, the team will reach Hyderabad on September 27 via Dubai," said a source. Another source privy to the matter added: "the visas will come through after due vetting process. When it comes to issuing an Indian visa to a Pakistan passport holder, clearances need

to come from three ministries - home, external affairs and sports. That process takes time but it will happen." A total of 33 members of the Pakistan contingent, including players, three travelling reserves and team officials, are awaiting their visas. Tournament host BCCI could not be reached for a comment. Pakistan's second warm-up will be against Australia on October 3, also in Hyderabad. They will remain in the city for their opening two World Cup games against Netherlands and Sri Lanka on October 6 and 10 respectively before flying to Ahmedabad for the big game against hosts India on October 14. Only two members from the current Pakistan squad have toured India for cricket - Mohammad Nawaz and Salman Agha.

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone Of International Cricket Stadium In Varanasi



Press Trust of India
VARANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on Saturday. Former India cricketers, Sachin Tendulkar and Ravi Shastri, BCCI President Roger Binny, its vice-president Rajiv Shukla and secretary Jay Shah were present on the occasion. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also attended the function. The Uttar Pradesh govern-

ment said that it has spent Rs 121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium while the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will spend Rs 330 crore on its construction. To be built near the Ring Road in Rajatalab area, the stadium is likely to be ready by December 2025. The spectators' gallery of the stadium would resemble the steps of the ghats of Varanasi. This will be Uttar Pradesh's third international cricket stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow.

Harmanpreet, Lovlina Lead Indian Contingent At Asian Games



Press Trust of India
HANGZHOU: Blending elements of artificial intelligence and environmentally friendly technology, the Hangzhou Asian Games began here on Saturday with a one-of-a-kind opening ceremony, headlined by a spectacular futuristic light show. The dazzling programme, held amid a diplomatic row over the denial of entry to three Indian athletes from Arunachal Pradesh, was a melange of technology, cultural history of China, and the spirit of the continent's unity. In keeping with the main theme of 'Tides Surging in

Asia', the ceremony was about the intermingling of China, Asia and the world in the new era, as well as the unity, love and friendship of the Asian people. The water element through the surging tide of Qiantang river—which flows through Hangzhou—was the underlying theme of the grand evening which lasted nearly two hours. Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the Games open as more than 12,000 athletes from 45 countries gear up to fight for top honours till October 8. The Olympic Council of Asia's (OCA) acting president Randhir Singh,

Martin Wins Indian GP Sprint

Agencies
Pramac Racing's Jorge Martin won Saturday's sprint race at the inaugural Indian Grand Prix ahead of Ducati's championship leader Francesco Bagnaia after pole sitter Marco Bezzecchi crashed on the first turn at the Buddh International Circuit. The sprint was delayed due to wet conditions following a spell of torrential rain earlier in the day but apart from a few damp patches on the track, dry conditions greeted the riders with the sun low on the horizon. VR46 Racing's Bezzecchi had not put a foot wrong to claim his third pole of the season but following a poor start, he crashed on the first corner when he was clipped by his team mate Luca Marini. Martin started second on the grid but he had a perfect launch to take the lead going

into the first corner ahead of Bagnaia and the two Hondas of Marc Marquez and Joan Mir. Mir had looked good in qualifying but he made a mistake on turn three after three laps and lost his balance, allowing Brad Binder in the Red Bull KTM to move up to fourth and pressure Marquez for the final podium position. Bezzecchi managed to rejoin the race and the Italian was a man on a mission as he worked his way up the grid, setting multiple fastest laps. But with only 11 laps in the sprint, he ran out of time but still managed to finish a creditable fifth. With Martin and Bagnaia cruising, the biggest battle on the final laps was Marquez keeping Binder at bay for third place and it was the Spaniard who eventually came out on top for just his second sprint podium of the season.



Blossoming Dreams: Street Children On Road To Cricket World Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI: In the bustling streets of Delhi and its blighted slums, there exists a group of young individuals who are set to represent India in the upcoming Street Child Cricket World Cup. Sania, Shruvan, Jannat, Sandhya, Farzana, and Karan, are going to embark on a remarkable journey towards the Street Child Cricket World Cup, transcending poverty and trumping fate. The upcoming Street Child Cricket World Cup, organised by Street Child United, will be held in Chennai from September 23 to 30, just ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. The unique tournament is not just about cricket, it's about promoting the rights and well-being of street children worldwide by giving them a platform to shine on the international stage. This year's event, second such, is particularly special, with teams comprising street girls and boys from 17 countries, including India, England, Burundi, Hungary, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Nepal, Rwanda, Mexico, Sri Lanka, and South Africa.



Part of this Indian team is a 15-year-old Jannat. Jannat's father works as a daily wage labourer, while her mother used to work as a domestic help till she was forced to stop working due to a foot-related condition. The development threw her family's financial affairs in disarray and Jannat was forced to drop out of school and started shouldering her family to help it prop back up. Jannat's sister Rukhsana too took up sewing to help family survive and Jannat resume her education, which she did, excelling in her 11th grade. "My foremost aspiration is to secure victory in this tournament. We are not just playing

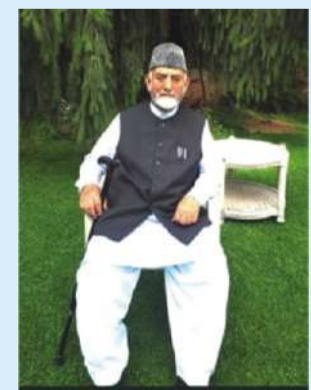
for ourselves, but representing our nation. Beyond cricket, I am focused on making a positive impression. I am keen on engaging with other participants, and I want us to present ourselves as proud representatives of India," she said. Sania, a 14-year-old with an avid curiosity, lives in Nehru Camp. Her education was briefly halted by the pandemic, but she's back in school. "I am looking forward to representing India at a global stage," she said. Shruvan, 15, from Madhubani district of Bihar was spotted by children NGO CHETNA while playing in a park. He ran with the opportunity and is now on the path

to becoming a professional cricketer. "Through cricket, I have come to comprehend the profound impact of teamwork and cooperation," he said. Sandhya, 13, hails from Shivaji Park in Delhi. Her father being a ragpicker and her mother a domestic help wasn't exactly the lottery of birth one wishes one was born with. But matters were alleviated somewhat by her relatives' efforts and gave the teen enough time to inculcate a love for cricket. Now she is thrilled to be part of the Street Child Cricket World Cup. "I have consistently been drawn to sports, particularly those involving running. When introduced to this opportunity, I was genuinely eager to become a participant," she said. Karan, 15, who hails from a slum in west Delhi's Shakurbasti area doesn't know what it feels like to live in a stable household with his father moving from one menial job to another. Youngest in his family, Karan is currently in the 10th grade, and hones his cricket skills along a dusty stretch by railway tracks. He believes the world

cup is his ticket out of the poverty. Most of these children have been supported by child rights NGO CHETNA which identified them and motivated them to try for the team. "Street Children are like 'Sadak ki Google', poised to navigate an unpredictable path till presented with the right opportunity. Over the past three months, we have witnessed profound transformations in a group of ten children, selected from among 50," Sanjay Gupta, Director of Childhood Enhancement through Training and Action, or CHETNA. "They have emerged as heroes within their peer groups and communities, challenging gender stereotypes, displaying remarkable resilience in adverse circumstances," he said. Each of these children has a unique journey, but they all share a common determination to rise above their circumstances and succeed at the Street Child Cricket World Cup, he said. The second edition of the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023 will welcome 23 teams from 17 countries to take part in the mixed-gender cricket tournament.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED FATHER

Three years have passed since we bid farewell to a remarkable man.



We miss your love, affection, wisdom and guidance. Besides your memories, we are only living up to your good moral that you left behind.

We make sure that your legacy lives forever. You will always remain in our thoughts and prayers.

REMEMBERED BY

Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Shah | Er. Riyaz Ahmad
Er. Nisar Ahmad Shah | Er. Ishtiaq Ahmad Shah
AND
Grandson's & Granddaughters.