

Jailed DySP, ASP Budgam Suspended

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir government on Sunday ordered suspension of two senior police officers including DySP Sheikh Adil, who was recently arrested in a corruption case in Srinagar.

According to an order, J&K home department stated that Adil Mushtaq, Deputy Superintendent of Police, shall be deemed to have been placed under suspension with effect from 21.09.2023.

Adil was arrested on September 21 in case FIR No. 149/2023 under sections 7, 7A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and section 167, 193, 201, 210, 218, 221 of IPC in Police Station Nowgam.

The order stated that he shall remain attached with Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir, during the period of suspension.

In a separate order, the home department ordered suspension of additional superintendent of police Budgam Gowhar Ahmad Khan. **More On P6**

J&K State Taxes Department Inks MoU with ICAI

J&K's GST Revenue Growth Much Higher Than National Average: LG

Observer News service

Srinagar: J&K State Taxes Department today inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for knowledge sharing and capacity building of the officers of State Taxes Department, in presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

In his address, the Lt Governor complimented the high standards of professionalism by the J&K State Taxes Department and ICAI.

He said the MoU signed today marked the beginning of a new partnership between ICAI and Jammu Kashmir.

The support and assistance of the ICAI to the State Taxes



Department in future policy making and various other aspects related to taxation will strengthen the ongoing

reforms in ease of doing business and economy, he added.

At the inaugural session of the Capacity building

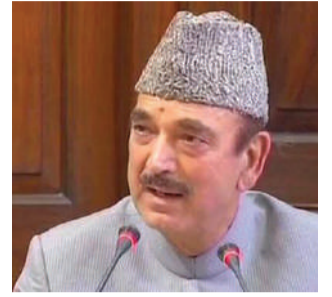
programme on GST, the Lt Governor lauded the honest taxpayers for their contribution in development of J&K and

shared the efforts of the government for creating a favorable environment for economy and business.

The GST revenue growth of Jammu Kashmir has been much higher than the national average and we have reasons to be confident about future prospects due to reforms we carried out in the last few years to accelerate economic growth with social equality, the Lt Governor said.

"New policies, greater transparency in governance and crackdown on cronyism have enabled enterprises, Industries and new-age businesses to grow. We have placed great emphasis to make the economy more competitive, increase the tax base, compliance and strengthen trust between citizens and the **More On P6**

Not In Race For LG's Post: Azad



Press Trust of India

Srinagar: Former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday said he was not interested in becoming the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, dispelling "rumours" in this regard.

The former Congress leader said he was not looking for employment but wanted to serve the people of J&K.

"I will request people not to trust the rumour mills which are working in overdrive. There is a fresh rumour here that Ghulam Nabi Azad is going to be the next LG.

"I have not come (to JK) looking for a job, I want to serve the people," Azad said addressing a rally to mark the foundation day of his Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) which he formed last year after parting ways with the Congress.

Azad said some people were trying to give the impression that he was looking for rehabilitation.

"When I came here in 2005 (as chief minister), I left two prized (Union) ministries Housing and Urban Development and Parliamentary Affairs to serve the people. It was not as if I was without work," he said referring to **More On P6**



LG Joins Citizen-led Cleanliness Drive at Dal Lake

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday participated in the One Hour of citizen-led shramdaan for Swachhata campaign and led the cleanliness and de-weeding drive at Dal Lake. He joined the citizens from all walks of life who were gathered in large numbers to pay

'swachhjanjali' to Mahatma Gandhi.

"The way we see the surroundings becomes the experience of our life. Cleanliness brings happiness, joy and prosperity. It is the door to reach closest to God. I am happy to witness cleanliness turning into **More On P6**

All Officers, Staff Of Hazratbal Shrine Suspended

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson has ordered suspension of all officers and staff of Hazratbal shrine for negligence of duties on the occasion

of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (Pbuh).

According to the order, the action was taken during the surprise visit by the chairperson to Hazratbal shrine on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) in view of

complaints by the people. The order states that it was found that grave negligence of the concerned staff had created a lot of inconvenience to the devotees.

"Despite repeated orders and **More On P6**

NC With INDIA Bloc, Will Talk On Seat Sharing: Omar

Kargil: Discussions on who will contest from the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat will be held during the talks on the seat-sharing arrangement of the INDIA bloc for next year's general elections, National Conference Vice-President Omar Abdullah has said while asserting that his party is with the opposition alliance.

Responding to a question about a pre-poll alliance between the National Conference and the Congress after the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil (LAHDC-Kargil) election, he said on Saturday, "You do not have an assembly... so the road starts and ends here." "We are in the INDIA alliance. When there will be a talk of seat sharing, definitely this (Ladakh parliamentary seat) will come up



for discussion," said Abdullah, who is on a two-day campaign here in support of National Conference (NC) candidates for the October 4 LAHDC-Kargil election.

The NC and the Congress are fighting the elections together.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir said his party supported Congress **More On P6**

30 Residential Sheds Gutted in Parimpora Blaze



Srinagar- At least 30 small wooden residential sheds were damaged in an early morning fire incident on Sunday at Parimpora area of Srinagar, officials said.

An official said that at about 4:15 am in the morning, the control room in Srinagar received a call regarding the fire incident in Parimpora Srinagar and fire tenders rushed to the spot. Upon their arrival at the scene, **More On P6**

LG Greets People on Gandhi Jayanti

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti. In a message the Lt Governor said: "the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi is an occasion for all of us to rededicate ourselves to his teachings of Non-violence, peace, truth tolerance, communal harmony and work for the nation building. Pujya Bapu's lifelong mission was to transform the lives of people and rural India. His life and thoughts represent the eternal values of humanity, which are guiding different societies across the world. The significance of Pujya Bapu's ideas and ideals and his philosophy of Non-violence and Peace is relevant today as never before.

On the occasion of **More On P6**

2 Punjab Residents Held With Cocaine Worth Rs 300 Cr

Banihal/Jammu: Police have recovered 30 kg of cocaine worth Rs 300 crore in international market from a vehicle in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, a senior police officer said on Sunday, claiming to have busted a narco-terror module.

According to the official, two Punjab residents were arrested following the recovery of one of the biggest narcotic haul this year from Banihal area along Jammu-Srinagar national highway. Earlier, the recovered narcotics

was believed to be heroin but after investigation it turned out to be cocaine.

"At about 10.30 pm on Saturday, Ramban police led by Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohita Sharma intercepted one vehicle at Railway Chowk Banihal coming from Kashmir towards Jammu and recovered about 30 kg cocaine, having an approximate value of Rs 300 crore in international black market and apprehended two persons." **More On P6**

2 October

Nation pays tribute to

Gandhi ji and Shastri ji

on their Birth Anniversary

- Narendra Modi



Apple Blames iOS 17 Bug, Apps Like Instagram For Making New iPhones Run Warmer

Apple on Sunday said it has identified a few conditions which can cause new iPhones to run warmer than expected, including a bug in the iOS 17 software update and some third-party apps like Instagram.

The device may feel warmer during the first few days after setting up or restoring the device because of increased background activity, the company said in a statement.

"We have also found a bug in iOS 17 that is impacting some users and will be addressed in a software update," the iPhone maker said.

The new titanium material on iPhone 15 Pro, paired with its aluminum substructure and new system design, result in better heat dissipation than any prior stainless steel Pro models.

iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max do not suffer from overheating



due to their design, contrary to some reports. Apple said that another issue

involves some recent updates to third-party apps that are causing them to

overload the system.

"We're working with these app developers on fixes that are in the process of rolling out," said the company.

Third-party apps that Apple is currently aware of that overload the CPU and cause the iPhone to run warmer than normal include Asphalt 9, Instagram and Uber.

The tech giant will continue to investigate to see if there are others and work with those developers to implement fixes.

Instagram already issued a fix on September 27 (v302) to address its issue.

However, the bug fix coming in iOS 17 does not involve reducing performance to address iPhone temperature.

The new iPhones feel warmer when users set up their devices for the first time, restore from a backup, wirelessly charge their device, use graphics-intensive or processor-intensive apps, games,

or features, including augmented-reality apps; and/or stream high-quality video.

These conditions are normal, and the device will return to a regular temperature when the process is complete or when a user finishes their activity.

If a user's device doesn't display a temperature warning, they can keep using their device.

Those who use a larger USB-C power adapter (20W+) should expect iPhone temperature to temporarily increase while fast charging, according to the company.

The iPhone still regulates power into the device at up to 27W so long as the adapter is compliant with the USB-C PD (Power Delivery) standard.

This temporary increase in temperature will not impact the long term performance of the iPhone and is not a safety or injury risk.

Scientists Use Pollen Data To Decode First Humans' Migration Into Eurasia

Press Trust Of India

Pollen grains analysis helps understand how the first humans migrated from Africa across Europe and Asia, research in Science Advances says.

The pollen data showed that warming temperatures supported forests that expanded into Siberia and facilitated early human migration there, researchers from the University of Kansas, US, said in their study.

They compared Pleistocene vegetation communities around Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia, to the oldest archeological traces of Homo sapiens in the region. Pleistocene period is considered two million to 11 thousand years ago and as the time of human evolution.

In this study, the researchers use the "remarkable evidence" to tell this migration story from about 45,000-50,000 years ago.

"This research addresses longstanding debates regarding the environmental conditions that early Homo sapiens faced during their migration into Europe

and Asia around 40,000 to 50,000 years ago," said co-author Ted Goebel, professor of anthropology at the university.

"It provides critical insights into environmental conditions at Lake Baikal, using pollen records to reveal surprising warmth during this period," said Goebel.

Dispersal of people occurred during some of the highest temperatures in the late Pleistocene, which also would have featured higher humidity, the ancient pollen record suggested, said the researchers, adding it also showed that coniferous forests and grasslands characterised the region, supporting foraging and hunting by humans.

However, the environmental data, combined with archeological evidence, tell another story, said Goebel.

"This contradicts some recent archaeological perspectives in Europe," said Goebel.

"The key factor here is accurate dating, not just of human fossils and animal bones associated with the archaeology of these people, but also of environmental

records, including from pollen.

"What we have presented is a robust chronology of environmental changes in Lake Baikal during this time period, complemented by a well-dated archaeological record of Homo sapiens' presence in the region," said Goebel.

The researchers also connected the pollen data to evidence in the archeological record of early human migration.

Goebel said the emergence of full-fledged Homo sapiens in the archaeological record corresponds to changes in culture and behaviour.

Early modern humans of this period were making stone tools on long, slender blades, working bone, antler and ivory to craft tools including some of the first bone needles with carved eyelets for sewing and early bone and antler spear points, the researchers said.

"Some of us argue that as the anatomical changes were occurring, as evidenced by the fossil record, there was a simultaneous shift in behavior and cognition," said Goebel.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore
 Short term e-Tender

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-49 of 2023-24

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturer/authorized distributors/ dealers/ workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money	Time of completion	Programme Head	Technical Sanction No. & Date	AAA No. and Date
1.	Electro-mechanical works to be carried out at WSS Nesbal/Sumbal Sonawari under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 1000.00	Rs 37.496		45 Days		13 of 09/2023	Budgetary Provision under M and E Plan-Capex
2.	Electro-Mechanical with allied works at WSS Zaingeer under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 1000.00	Rs 48.00	02% of the estimated cost of work	--do--	M and E Plan-Capex	Awaited	
3.	Mechanical and electrical works of different nature to be executed at WSS Augmentation Baramulla under M and E Plan Capex	Rs 1000.00	Rs 37.60		--do--		14 of 09/2023	

The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from **28-09-2023 (02:00 pm)**.

The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website <https://jktenders.gov.in> from **28-09-2023 (02:00 pm)** to **05-10-2023 (6:55 pm)**.

Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the **Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore** on **06-10-2023** at **02:00 pm** after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case of holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day.
The complete bidding shall be online.
 The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/5469-76
 DIPK-9610/23
 dated: 30-09-2023

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
 Sopore

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Chief Executive Officer,
Tourism Development Authority Gulmarg,
 Email-Gulmarggda@gmail.com Tel-01954294416

E-Bid Document (Auction ID: 7705)
 Out-sourcing of "Summer Zorbing in Children Park at Gulmarg "through GeM Portal for a period of 03-years.

No:GDA/F-40/2023/ 823 dated 19/08/2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, E- Auction are invited online through GeM Portal forOutsourcingthe"Summer Zorbing in Children Park at Gulmarg,for a period of 03-years. The details are as under:

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1.	PQ(Pre-Qualification) Submission Start Date	03.10.2023 10:00AM	Nil
2.	PQ(Pre-Qualification) Submission End Date	09.10.2023 03:00PM	Nil
3.	PQ(Pre-Qualification) Assessment Date & Time	10.10.2023 04:30PM	Nil
4.	EMD Start Date	16.10.2023 10:30AM	Nil
5.	EMD End Date	20.10.2023 03:30 PM	Nil
6.	EMD(Bid Security) Amount	Rs.5000/- (Five Thousand Only)	To be pledged in favour of Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority
7.	Bid Submission /Auction Start Date	21.10.2023 12:00PM	Nil
8.	Bid Submission/ Auction End Date & Time	25.10.2023 03:30PM	Nil
9.	Reserve Bid Amount	Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand Only) per year	Nil

The e-auction shall be finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the E- Auction process.

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GeM-PORTAL)

01. The bidder shall have to upload Certificate of Registration for Hotel or Restaurant duly issued by the Tourism Department under J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act and/or Relevant qualification (Degree/Diploma/Certificate Course) in /or having experience in the Hospitality sector with documentary uploaded. Preference shall be given to the candidates fulfilling all three criteria.

02. The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC) or Police Station. The validity of character certificates shall have to be Six Months from the date of issuance.

03. The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.

Specific Condition:

01. The bidder participating in the e-bid process must apply in his name or the firm duly registered in his name. There is no scope what so ever of executing any partnership deed in the outsourcing deed

02. The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs. 0.50 lacs Per Year with 10% escalation for each successive year there after to be deposited before the start of every year.

03. The bid offers should be above the minimum reserve bid viz.Rs.50,000/=Thousand fixed for the job.

04. The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e-bidding process and the physical position of the asset as such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.

05. Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e-bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs.5,000/-pledged in favour of Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority.

06. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 100% of the approved bid amount for the 1st year within a period of seven days after the culmination of bidding process otherwise the claim shall get forfeited.

07. In case the successful bidder fails to make payments, the 2nd highest bidder shall be offered to deposit the highest bid amount on the same conditions of payment. However, the outsourcing committee shall have sole discretion for any final decision.

08. The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 10% compound escalation within 07-days from the date of completion of each year satisfactorily. The department is in its right to cancel the contract.

09. In case the successful bidder fails to complete the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/nonpayment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.

10. The safety, security and upkeep of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcee during the period of contract.

11. The out-sourcing committee reserves the right to reject any or all three-bids without assigning any reason therefor.

12. The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the Department from time to time.

13. The bidder should not be employee of any Govt. Deptt. or a Public Sector undertaking.

14. The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement with the department on non-judicial Stamp Paper regarding adherence to the instruction/terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period.

15. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing this agreement/ license deed.

16. The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for executing this agreement/ license deed.

18. The successful bidder shall have to provide the catering facilities for the full period of license and not on seasonal basis only.

19. The successful bidder shall be under an obligation to make arrangement for safe disposal of solid/liquid waste etc. And meet other requirements of pollution control/protection of environment.

20. The licensee has to insure the property through any Nationalized insurance Company in the name of the Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority shall be issued by this office. The premium on this account shall be borne by the licensee.

21. The successful bidder shall have to hand over the property to the Tourism department after completion of contract period with the list of inventory, received by him at the time of allotment/ taking over.

22. The license shall not make any alterations or additions to the space / unit allotted, without seeking written permission from the competent authority of the department.

23. The successful bidder shall arrange on his own all necessary stationery, staff or any other requirements for providing efficient services to the clients.

24. The Licensee shall provide necessary uniform & name plates to the staff working in the premises & shall be responsible for any act of the staff member for which, he shall be liable for criminal /civil action under rules/law if any required.

25. The Watch and ward of the property, maintenance of lawns and other subsidiaries and landscape if any is the sole responsibility of the licensee. No departmental employee will be posted/stationed at the site for this purpose.

26. The rates to be charged on account of various catering items and other activities to be carried in the premises will be approved by the licensor.

27. Defaulters shall not be allowed to participate in the E-auction process.

28. The equipment shall be eco-friendly, and the same can be installed only after obtaining proper approval from the Authority. Allottee in command is directly responsible for the safety of clients and the ground staff and the agency shall ensure first aid equipment at the site.

29. The licensee shall not, in any case, sub-let the premises to any other party. It shall vacate the premises allotted on the expiry of allotment. However in case the party intends to vacate the premises before the expiry period, he/she shall have to deposit it full amount of the successive year and has to give three months advance notice for the same. And during this period, it shall carry on with the allotted arrangement on the terms and conditions as prescribed.

30. The successful bidder shall have to provide services to the be stasis faction of tourists/locals. The bidder shall have to ensure that there isn't any complain to fmis behavior with the visitors/locals or by any of the staff member employed by the bidder in this regard. In case any complain is received, action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the bidder and necessary penalty will be imposed.

31. In case of any negligence in running the service or complaint pertaining to bad performance, the contract shall be terminated without any notice by the department.

32. The allotted premises shall be inspected periodically by the departmentally authorized officers and in case the services of the licensee are not found satisfactory, the contract shall be liable for cancellation without any notice.

33. Any damage caused to the Government property at the site will invite penalty amounting to double the cost of damage or replacement of the same whatever the case may be, as per assessment to be made by the Engineering Wing of the Tourism Department.

34. The applicants / tenders should not be working in any Government Department or a Public Sector undertaking.

35. The Department shall reserve the right for using the space for any purpose or function or event, as it may deem fit and no fee shall be charged by the licensee in this regard.

36. The successful bidder will have to abide by all the orders/communications issued by Department from time to time during the period of contract as may necessitate in light of public law and order, security and in case of any other Administrative requirements.

37. The Successful bidder shall have to ensure liaison with the duty staff of Tourism Deptt. working at the site if any forthematters pertaining to the services in the allotted asset.

38. The successful bidder shall ensure arrangement of furniture, electricity back up and availability of standard crockery/cutlery in the unit on his own.

39. The offer should be unconditional. The conditional offers will be rejected outrightly.

40. During the contract period the maintenance of the asset/area, watch and ward as well as upkeep and daily cleaning/sweeping shall be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder. In case of any default/complaint the licensor shall be at liberty to take appropriate measures including engagement of another agency for operating the asset at the risk and cost of the licensee

41. That in case any dispute arises between the executants the same will be referred to the Arbitrator. The Administrative Secretary Tourism shall be the Arbitrator and his decision shall be final and binding on both the parties.

42. If any minor repairs of the Departmental assets such as electrification, sanitary maintenance etc. are to be done, these will be carried out by the licensee at his own cost however, after seeking permission from the competent authority as per the direction of the inspecting authority from time to time which will help in maintenance of the asset.

43. The licensor shall be within its right to cancel the contract at any time subject to giving one month's advance notice to the licensee conveying intention to take over the premises and in such eventuality the licensee shall be entitled for refund of the licensee fee of the remaining period for which he has deposited with the licensor and in case the licensee has not deposited the license fee for the period then no refund shall be made to him.

44. Gestation period of forty five (45) days or actual commencement of commercial operation whichever is earlier, will be permitted.

45. No extensions shall be granted. The asset shall be outsourced afresh at the end of the license term.

46. The successful bidder shall provide the standard service with known brands.

No:GDA/F-43/2022-23/
 DIPK-NB-3449/23 Dated: 30-09-2023

Sd/-
 Chief Executive Officer
 Gulmarg Development Authority.

Classrooms To Communities

DLSA Srinagar Conducts Swachh Bharat Drive

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a heartfelt tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar (DLSA), participated in the national campaign "Swachhata Hi Sewa-2023 (SHS-2023)" by orchestrating a series of inspiring activities.

This noble endeavor marked the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a visionary who championed cleanliness, sustainability, and social responsibility.

DLSA held a Cleanliness drive and awareness at Muslim Public School, Srinagar. The grounds of Muslim Public School, Srinagar, bore witness to a remarkable transformation as DLSA Srinagar joined hands with the institution for a sweeping cleanliness drive.

The initiative drew the enthusiastic participation of staff members, teachers, Para Legal Volunteers and students who tirelessly worked to restore the school's surroundings to their pristine glory.

Vice Chairperson of the institute, Asrar Ali, delivered an impassioned address during the campaign, emphasizing the profound importance of sustainability and the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives.

His words resonated deeply with all participants, highlighting the vital role that educational institutions play in shaping environmentally conscious citizens.

Also, a cleanliness drive and awareness Event was held at City School, Nowgam.

This multifaceted endeavor united staff members, teachers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), and enthusiastic students in a collective effort to clean and beautify their surroundings.

The highlight of the event was an inspiring address by Adv. Suhaila Ali, a distinguished resource person from DLSA Srinagar.

She eloquently conveyed the paramount importance of sustainability and effective waste management for the protection of our environment.

Her powerful words left an indelible mark on all attendees, reinforcing the responsibility we all bear in preserving the beauty of our planet.

These activities undertaken by DLSA Srinagar under the banner of SHS2023 not only pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi but also serve as a clarion call to the community.

They remind us all of the enduring values of cleanliness, sustainability, and collective responsibility that the Father of the Nation stood for.

Amar Singh College Organizes Mega Cleanliness Drive

Srinagar: Amar Singh College Cluster University, Srinagar organized a massive cleanliness drive themed "Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath" in tune with the vision of the Honorable Prime Minister and conducted a series of events.

Concurrent with the spirit of the nation this year to build 'Garbage Free India', the first event was a Shramadaan of one hour, conducted under the able leadership of Prof. (Dr) Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, principal Amar Singh College and Nodal principal Kashmir Division Colleges.

The objective of the event was to make a valuable contribution to the nation in terms of cleanliness of surroundings.

Institution organized a Plogathon, in the morning from Mehjoor Nagar footbridge to Amar Singh College, which was flagged off by Prof. (Dr) Yasmeen Ashai, Director Colleges UT of J&K.

The members from the Teaching faculty, Non-Teaching staff, students and parents participated in the event. The Worthy Director encouraged the participants by dedicating one hour for shramadaan alongside her colleagues.

JD Information Receives Certificate Of Appreciation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Sunday awarded Certificate of Appreciation to Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam for his contribution in Shramadaan for Swachh Bharat under an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission.

The selfless contribution of JDI Kashmir for advocating & fostering the environment of cleanliness at different forums and under his official capacity has been given recognition by the J&K Government.

The Deputy Director Information & PR; Assistant Director Field Publicity Unit, Cultural Officer and other staff members congratulated Joint Director for the achievement and acknowledgement of his endeavors in Swachh Bharat Mission.

Mohammad Aslam has been very particular

about the sanitation and neat & clean environment as he gives emphasis on the disposal of waste in an eco-friendly way to reduce pollution. Meanwhile, Joint Directorate Information Kashmir under the leadership of JDI, Mohammad Aslam today conducted a cleanliness drive in the office premises and in the vicinity under Swachhta Hi Sewa campaign and under Ek Ghanta Ek Tareekh Ek Saath programme.

All the officers and officials of the department participated in the cleanliness drive and collected the plastic & other solid waste material which was later disposed of in a proper manner.

On the occasion, Swachhta Pledge was also held to ensure cleanliness in the surroundings and protect the environment from pollution.

'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign: Cleanliness organised at Mira Sahib



After prolonged dry spell in Kashmir, farmers harvesting paddy in a field in Telbal area on the outskirts of Srinagar on Sunday. KO Photo, Majid Nabi

Predawn Blaze Guts 30 Residential Sheds In Parimpora

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: At least 30 wooden residential sheds were damaged as a result of a massive blaze that broke out at Parimpora area on the outskirts of Srinagar on Sunday, officials said.

The fire incident, officials said was reported around 4:15 am at Parimpora area on the city outskirts, following which a massive firefighting operation was launched by the department of Fire and Emergency Service in the area.

He said the firefighting operation was launched after the Police Control Room (PCR) Srinagar received a distress call with regard to the incident in which 30 wooden residential

sheds were completely destroyed.

"A distress call with regard to the fire incident was made to PCR Srinagar following which men and machinery were rushed to the spot to douse

staff prevented the blaze from engulfing other nearby structures. However 30 residential sheds were destroyed in the tragic incident," a senior F&ES official told Kashmir Observer.

He said the firefighting operation was launched after the Police Control Room (PCR) Srinagar received a distress call at 4:45 am with regard to the fire incident in which 30 wooden residential sheds were completely destroyed.

off the flames. The incident occurred around 4:45 this morning. The prompt action by the fire and emergency service

He said that police have taken cognizance of the incident and set investigation into motion to ascertain the cause of fire.





WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

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

Critical care ambulance services can help to improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote or underserved areas. This can help to reduce health disparities and improve the overall health of the population.



9484100200/ 01942310018

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 15 Rabi-ul-Awwal 1445	PRAYERS
	FAJR 5:05
	ZUHR 12:22
	ASR 4:35
	Magrib 6:21
	ISHA 7:41

This Day In History

- 939 - Battle at Andernach: King Otto & Hermann of Zwaben beat Eberhard of France & Giselbert of Luthrans
- 976 - Hisham II appointed kalief of Cordoba
- 1187 Sultan Saladin captures Jerusalem from Crusaders
- 1540- Venice and Turkey signs peace
- 1760 - Russian and Austrian army evacuates Berlin [NS=10/13]
- 1799 Duke of York & Russians capture Alkmaar in Netherlands
- 1835 Battle of Gonzales fought between Texan settlers and Mexican forces. First engagement of the Texas revolution
- 1851- The pasilalinic-sympathetic compass(a contraption built to test the pseudo-scientific hypothesis that snails create a permanent telepathic link when they mate) is demonstrated but proves to be a fake.
- 1870- Italy annexes Rome & Papal States; Rome made Italian capital
- 1895- 1st cartoon comic strip is printed in a newspaper
- 1901- First Royal Navy submarine launched at Barrow-in-Furness
- 1904- German General Lothar von Trotha issues order to exterminate Herero people of Namidia, first genocide of the 20th Century, will kill 65,000 Herero and 100,000 of the Nama tribe
- 19100 1st 2 aircraft collision (Milan Italy)
- 1919- US President Woodrow Wilson has a stroke, leaving him partially paralyzed
- 1920- The Chinese sign an agreement with the Russo-Asiatic Bank, largely French and Russian controlled, which will oversee the Chinese Eastern Railway, but give local supervision to China
- 1923- British occupying army leaves Constantinople
- 1924- League of Nations approves protocols of Geneva
- 1935- Mussolini's Italian army attacks Abyssinia (Ethiopia)
- 1939 - Prototype for the Ilyushin Il-2, world's most-produced military airplane designed by Sergey Ilyushin, takes it first flight. Over 36,000 made for Soviet airforce in WWII.
- 1940- 17 German aircraft shot down over England
- 1940- British liner Empress, loaded with refugees for Canada, sunk
- 1941- 6 Paris synagogues are bombed by Gestapo
- 1941- Germans launch attack on Moscow
- 1942- RMS Queen Mary, carrying thousands of US troops, slices cruiser HMS Curacao in half, killing 239
- 1942- WWII: British Royal Navy boards floundering German U-boat U-559 retrieving abandoned Enigma code machine before it sinks; 2 British sailors go down with the sub
- 1943- Japanese troops leave Kolombangara, Solomon Island
- 1944- Polish resistance fighters capitulate in the Warsaw Uprising, with some 250,000 people killed
- 1949 - USSR recognizes People's Republic of China.
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-18 crashes near Black Sea resort of Sochi, kills 105
- 1977 - Pakistani general Zia ul-Haq bans all opposition
- 1980 - 38 year old Muhammad Ali comes out of 2-year retirement to challenge undefeated world heavyweight champion Larry Holmes at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas; Ali pounded unmercifully for 10 rounds before corner throws in towel.
- 1981 - Ali Khamenei elected president of Iran
- 1984 - 3 cosmonauts return after a record 237 days in orbit
- 1986 - Sikhs attempt to assassinate Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- 1990 - WW2 Allied nations cede any remaining rights as occupiers of Germany
- 1990 - Chinese plane explodes, about 100 die
- 1994 - Pakistan cricket batsmen Inzamam-ul-Haq & Mushtaq Ahmed put on 57 runs in 8 overs for highest last-wicket partnership ever to win a Test, as the home team beats Australia by 1 wicket in the 1st Test in Karachi.
- 2001 - NATO backs US military strikes, following 9/11

Non-Violent Activism of Gandhi

Impact and Relevance

Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parray

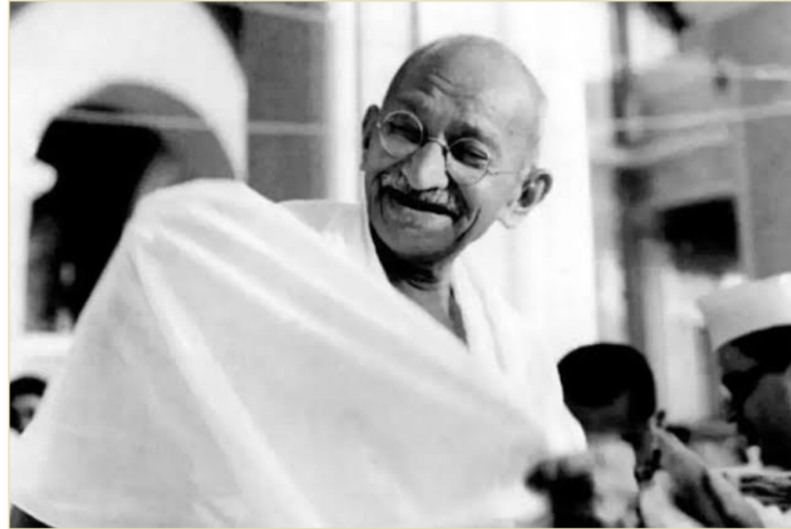
“
He is the person who has influenced a number of world renowned personalities, including Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, etc. at the global level and many Indians (including Muslims) at the national level

Present age is the age of violence, intolerance, oppression, aggression, political crisis, and whatnot. Therefore, the need of the hour is to look at the values, concepts, ideas and ideals like non-violence, justice, kindness, tolerance, pluralism, communal harmony and other such positive values and concepts.

These concepts and notions have been preached not only by almost all religions and religious traditions but have been preached, propagated and practiced by many thinkers and leaders, irrespective of their religion, race, region, era, ethnicity, language, etc. The thinkers and leaders of India are no exception to this. It is an undeniable fact that 20th century India produced a number of thinkers/ leaders who have influenced not only their native people but have made an imprint globally as well. These personalities, belonging to various religions/ religious beliefs, like Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, etc., have left an enduring mark on the life and thought of masses and leaders alike.

Among these prominent Indian personalities who have contributed enormously to the ideas and ideals like non-violence/ ahimsa, Education, Satya/ Satyagraha truth/struggle for truth is Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi (2nd October 1869–30th January 1948) aka Mahatma Gandhi. His birthday is celebrated as “Gandhi Jayanti” in India; and in 2007, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared it as “the International Day of Nonviolence”.

Encyclopedia Britannica describes him in these words: “Mahatma Gandhi ... Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India. ... Gandhi is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of nonviolent protest



(satyagraha) to achieve political and social progress.”

The terms “non-violence” and “truth” are so closely allied as to be virtually interchangeable. “Ahimsa and truth”, wrote Gandhi, “are so intertwined that it is practically impossible to disentangle and separate them. They are like the two sides of a coin, or rather a smooth unstamped metallic disc. Who can say which side is the obverse and which the reverse?” He is the person who has influenced a number of world renowned personalities, including Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Barack Obama, etc. at the global level and many Indians (including Muslims) at the national level. For example, among the Muslims, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888-1958)—an Indian Muslim scholar, journalist, educationist and political leader—was highly influenced by his thought and philosophy of non-violence and in the present times one such example is Rached al-Ghannouchi (b. 1941)—Tunisian thinker, politician and co-founder of Ennahda Party.

Ramin Jahanbegloo (an Iranian philosopher, journalist and a specialist on Gandhian thought), in his article “Gandhi and the struggle for non-violence” (published in The UNESCO Courier, June 1992: 18-22) has rightly said: “The influence of Gandhi’s teachings has been felt throughout the world. Martin Luther King’s struggle for the rights of black Americans is a particularly notable example of it.... [for he] adopted Gandhi’s non-violent techniques in all his protests” (p.22).

Martin Luther King described Gandhi’s influence in “Pilgrimage to Nonviolence” in his book Strength to Love (1963) in these words: “The whole Gandhian concept of satyagraha ... was profoundly significant for me. As a delved deeper into the philosophy of Gandhi, my skepticism concerning the power of love gradually diminished, and I came to see for the first time that the Christian doctrine of love, operating through the Gandhian method of nonviolence, is one of the most potent weapons available to an oppressed people in

their struggle for freedom” (p. 169).

Similarly, in Non-Violent Activism in Islam: Message of Abul Kalam Azad (2021) authored by Hayat Alvi (Associate Professor in the National Security Affairs Department at the U.S. Naval War College, USA) stated that “Azad embraced and practiced Mahatma Gandhi’s strategy of ahimsa (nonviolence) and satyagraha (civil disobedience), which, in turn, solidifies Islam’s compatibility with nonviolent activism” (p. 43). Deliberating further on this impact, she further writes: Azad and his like-minded figures have found “inspiration for nonviolent activism from their respective faiths” and their “faith-based messages to the masses proved effective in mobilizing them to participate in their respective morally credible causes” (p. 139).

With reference to various other protests and campaigns in the world, Jahanbegloo further writes that “various forms of nonviolent action in Latin America, South Africa and the Middle East have shown the topicality and the relevance of the Gandhian heritage in the fight for freedom and justice” (p. 22).

These few examples suffice to show the relevance, and impact of, Gandhian philosophy on personalities of repute—irrespective of region and religion. The ideas and philosophy of non-violence as preached and practiced by Gandhi is highly relevant in the current scenario.

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

Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, Government Degree College Sogam (Kupwara)

Facing Ethical Dilemmas

Public safety vs individual privacy continues to vex facial recognition technology

Siddharth Pai

I am an amateur photographer and sometimes practice a genre named “street” photography. As its name suggests, it means that I am walking around the streets taking photographs of everyday life as it unfolds. This was one way to relieve the boredom during the days of the pandemic. I would walk around at different times of the day and night and take photographs of what life was like when thrown out of gear. People like to see photos of other people.

As I developed my craft, it became clearer to me that there is also an ethical aspect to this type of photography. As long as I was taking photographs of people who were willing to pose for me, I was on sure ground, but what about the instances when I was taking furtive shots of people going about their daily business? The ethical lines there are less clear.

No festive holiday for the RBI: Volatility is certain to increase with conflicting domestic and global forces

Over time, I am developing a style where I post photographs of people who can be recognised only if I have their permission to do so, or if they have knowingly walked into a frame where it is abundantly clear that I am shooting. Otherwise, I try to desist from posting such photographs online unless the people in them are not readily identifiable.

This is a continuing ethical conundrum for me, and it has started defining my style as a street photographer. My style has turned dark, underexposed, mostly monochromatic, and uses shapes and negative space without focusing too much on the human face.

Apart from the qualms of photographers, the ubiquitous nature of facial recognition technology has thrown up ethical implications which vary depending on the political, social, and legal milieu of a country.

For example, in the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and India, facial recognition technology has grown differently while being used for various purposes, from law enforcement to border control to citizen services. The ethical debates in each country reflect differing concerns about privacy, civil liberties, and state surveillance.



In the US, the primary concern around facial recognition technology is the infringement on individual privacy. While there are legitimate uses for the technology, such as in locating missing persons or identifying suspects in criminal cases, critics argue that its widespread use can turn public spaces into zones of constant surveillance. There is also the issue of racial bias; studies have shown that some facial recognition systems misidentify people of colour at higher rates than white individuals, leading to fears of racial profiling, wrongful arrest and other such ills.

Various states and municipalities in the US have taken action to regulate the use of facial recognition. Some have banned its use by local agencies altogether, while others have passed laws requiring companies to obtain consent before collecting biometric data, including face scans. Some companies (such as IBM) have sworn off. Others profit from it.

The lack of a national regulatory framework means that the ethical guidelines surrounding facial recognition remain fragmented and inconsis-

tent across the country.

In stark contrast, in China, facial recognition technology is ubiquitous and considered a norm in society. Cameras are placed in public places, schools, and even residential areas, with the stated aim of maintaining public safety.

However, this widespread deployment has serious ethical implications concerning privacy and state control. The technology is used not just for crime prevention but also for monitoring the general population. Concerns around mass surveillance are not unfounded.

There is little public debate on its ethical use, largely because dissent is not well-tolerated. Moreover, in regions like Xinjiang, there are reports that facial recognition technology has been used as part of a broader state surveillance apparatus to monitor and control the Uighur Muslim minority, raising human rights concerns.

Interestingly, the United Kingdom has one of the highest numbers of surveillance cameras per capita in the world. While there are regulations governing

their use, including a “Data Protection Act”, concerns about public surveillance remain. Police in London and Wales have conducted trials using facial recognition cameras in public spaces to identify individuals wanted for serious crimes.

Civil liberties groups argue that such uses infringe upon the privacy of individuals who are not suspected of any wrongdoing and create a “chilling effect” on free speech and public assembly.

However, there is a significant public debate and legal scrutiny of facial recognition in the UK, and

the technology has faced challenges in the courts. In 2020, the Court of Appeal found that the use of facial recognition by the South Wales Police was unlawful, setting a precedent for its regulation.

In India, facial recognition is emerging as a significant tool for various applications including law enforcement and voter identification. It is also a technology that allows us greater convenience as we go along, with applications like DigiYatra which allow quicker access for travellers.

However, ethical issues remain. Like the US, there is also a concern about the technology’s accuracy, especially in a racially diverse country. Our public discourse is only just catching up to the ethical implications of the technology’s rapid adoption, and legal frameworks to ensure that its use aligns with firm ethical standards are only now beginning to take hold.

In each country, the ethical considerations involving facial recognition technology pivot on a fulcrum between public safety and individual privacy. While each nation has unique circumstances influencing its approach, all share common ethical dilemmas—namely the potential for abuse, data security, and the erosion of civil liberties.

While there are clearly local nuances to how this technology is used, there is a need for a nuanced approach to the deployment and regulation of facial recognition technology worldwide.

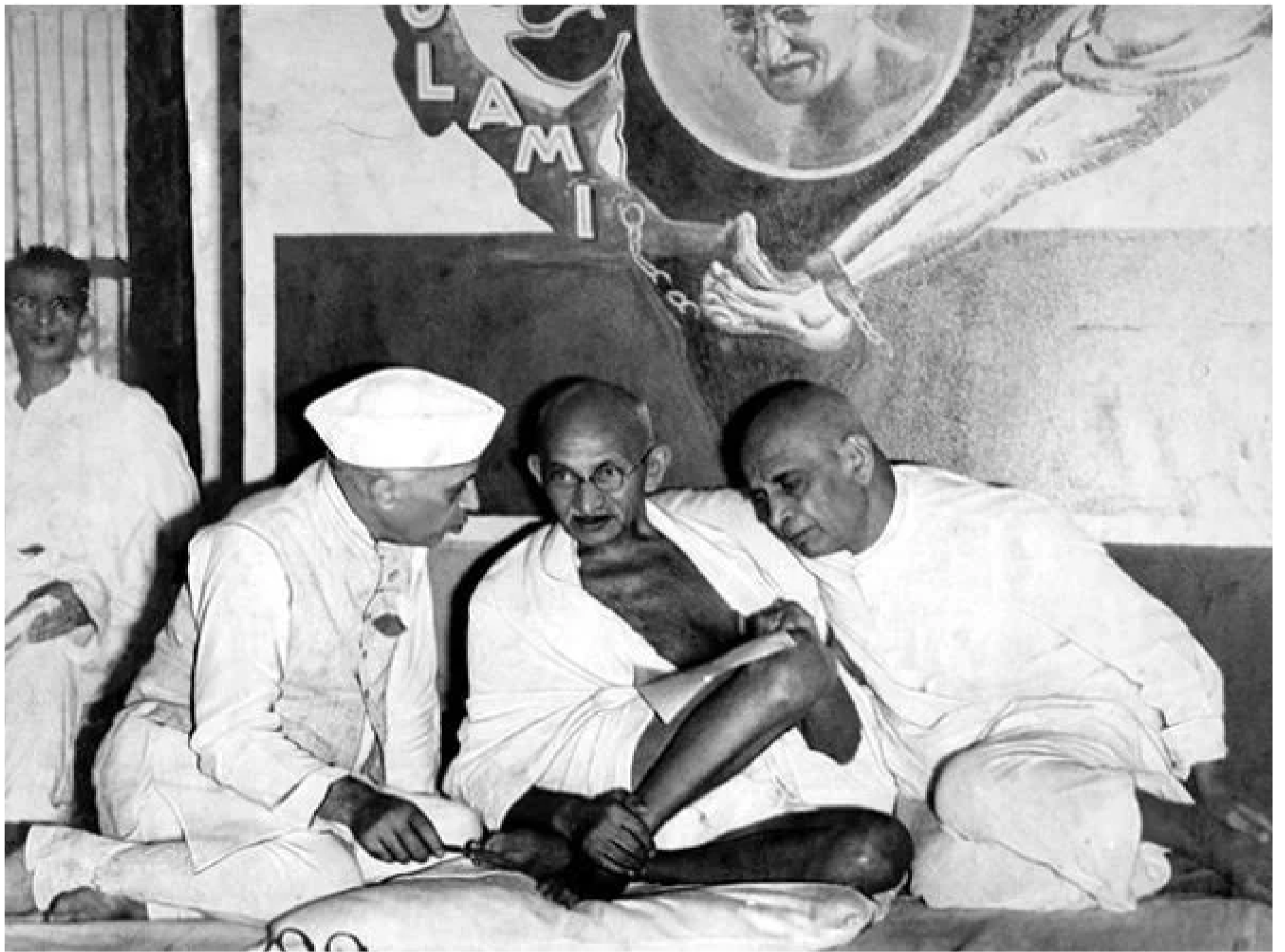
Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

Gandhianism

A Melioristic Idea Of A 'Universal Gadfly'



What is palpable is the chasm that the world is encountering with the rise in nationalistic fervour, intolerance, moral hypocrisy, violence and political populism across the globe. If this is the current status quo then it is important to not only give prominence to Gandhi's theories and philosophies but to utilize them in order to dust off the menaces prevailing all across the globe



Salika Rashid

The above lines were articulated by one of the towering figures of the world whose instrument of transforming the society was based on the notion of love, courage, self-analysis, patience, tolerance, humility, ahimsa and Satyagraha.

This eminent figure practised the already present principles and philosophies of non-violence and truth by experimenting with them in every facet of life. The man whose moral dictums became the symbol of "resolute will and determination" and the courage of conquering "evil with good" against apartheid in South Africa made people to confer upon him the cognomen, Mahatma. American historian, Will Durant, best known for writing *The Story of Civilization*, rightly remarked that "Not since Buddha has India so revered any man. Not since St. Francis of Assisi has any life known to history been so marked by gentleness, disinterestedness, simplicity of soul and forgiveness of enemies. We have the astonishing phenomenon of a revolution led by a Saint".

Mohan das Karamchand Gandhi, a lawyer by profession, eliminated the darkness of colonialism by becoming the torchbearer of freedom moment and ultimately making people drink the pearl of liberation. Although he was influenced by Russian author Leo Tolstoy, English art critic John Ruskin and American writer Henry David Thoreau but his philosophy had the "freshness and originality". He was deeply inspired by the sacred religious texts which include the Quran, the Bible, Gita and Upanishads. Buddhism and Jainism also left profound impressions on his mind. Tolstoy enunciating on social service, power and Thoreau's self experiments and civil disobedience gave Gandhi the technique of utilising non-violence for solving major and minor social and political issues. Thus these influencers implanted in him the seed of "simple and service-oriented personality" and he polished them in a remarkable way. Gandhi not only propounded or emphasised the notion of Non-violence and Truth but he walked through these principles; he engrained and absorbed these tenets to the depth of its core.

NON-VIOLENCE AND TRUTH: THE KERNEL OF GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY

According to Gandhi, Non-violence and Truth are inextricably bound together and it's hard to untangle them; he allots a superior position to the latter one because he contends, it is the end which can be achieved by the means of ahimsa. He highlighted 'means' and 'end' in order to assert the significance of journey and destiny; both are unalienable to each other. Furthermore, underlining the notion of ahimsa, Gandhi defined negative and positive element of it where the latter aids in discerning the essence of the former. The word ahimsa is inferred as a non-injury to any living being but Gandhi goes beyond this by defining ahimsa, a method of avoiding violence in any form whether thought, action or deeds. Gandhi took the notion of non-violence from Jainism but he didn't heed to its rigid perspective rather he opined non-violence in certain circumstances is inevitable. He states "injury to any life can be an act of violence under certain conditions which include anger, pride, hatred and bad intention". Thus, the negative connotation of ahimsa is non-injury. Gandhi posits,

"In non-violence, one restrains all impulses. There is non-violence in violence as in the case of using violent methods to restrict the activities of a drunkard. As long as we live a mundane life, we cannot escape violence, but it is possible for us to restrict ourselves. Ahimsa is thus the highest type of renunciation".

Gandhi explained non-violence as the soul-force, a weapon of the strong while violence as the sign of weakness. He elucidates that the one who is violent conceals his/her anger under the cloak of violence accordingly exhibiting his inward fear through outward anger/violence. One can contend that Gandhi finds non-violence like a "radium, which works silently and ceaselessly, and transforms the whole mass of the diseased tissue into a healthy one"; similarly an infinitesimal quantity of true ahimsa can bring out an egalitarian society. Drawing inspiration from the Gandhi film director and producer Lord Richard Attenborough said, "When asked what attribute he most admired in

human nature, Mahatma Gandhi replied, simply and immediately, 'Courage'. 'Nonviolence', he said, 'is not to be used ever as the shield of the coward. It is the weapon of the brave.' Thus, one can speculate that Gandhian Ahimsa is based on the foundation of courage, love, self-restraint, and faith in God.

Love which is the strongest force in the world becomes the substratum for Gandhian philosophy of Ahimsa. Gandhi believes it is the love which cleans the inner self and elicits the feelings like "compassion, tolerance, generosity and sympathy for others". The absence of ill-will that Gandhi defends is not only confined for near ones/relatives but also for the opponents; according to Gandhi "Ahimsa is the largest love and the greatest charity".

Gandhi associates the concept of God with Ahimsa. He contends that true faith in God will assist an individual in achieving the tenet of ahimsa. It is prerequisite to generate the inner strength for attaining the faith, which eventually will act as a catalyst for developing the love for humanity. Gandhi says,

"Non-violence succeeds only when we have a living faith in God. Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, they were all warriors of peace in their own style. We have to enrich the heritage left by these world teachers. God has His own wonderful way of executing His plans and choosing His instruments. The prophet and Abu Bakr trapped in a cave were saved from their persecutors by a spider which had woven its web across the mouth of that cave. All the world teachers, you should know, began with a zero".

It is essential to comprehend the paradigm of ahimsa that Gandhi has put forth. The ending of desires and the elimination of evil from the hearts, acquired the highest seat in the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence. The simplicity and profundity of his message of love pellucidly make one realize that being selfless in love without any motive of gaining in return, elevates an individual to the highest state of ahimsa. As Gandhi rightly asserted, "Love never claims, it ever gives. Love ever suffers, never resents never revenges itself."

Gandhi was a strong votary of truth, he placed truth before non-vi-

olence. He claimed, "As a Jain muni once rightly said, I was not so much a votary of ahimsa as I was of truth, and I put the latter in the first place and the former in the second. For, as he put it, I was capable of sacrificing non-violence for the sake of Truth. In fact, it was in the course of my pursuit of Truth that I discovered non-violence".

He calls truth as the "moral virtue" which can be acquired through "fearlessness and nonpossession" because of these two one can stand against the injustice. And this will aid in realizing the truth in "metaphysical sense in which it is identical with God". He states the truth is "a cornerstone of the edifice" that leads to the path of God. He asserted "Ahimsa is my God, and Truth is my God. When I look for Ahimsa, Truth says 'Find it through me'. When I look for Truth, Ahimsa says, 'Find it out through me'. But he made a distinction between the relative and absolute truth; according to him the glimpses of the former one can be achieved but the absolute truth is hard to achieve.

On this Gandhi opines, "The relative truth must, meanwhile, be my beacon, my shield and buckler. Even the Himalayan blunders have seemed trifling to me because I have kept strictly to this path. I have gone forward according to my light. Often in my progress, I have had my faint glimpse of the Absolute Truth, God and daily the conviction is growing on me that he alone is real and all else is unreal...he who would go in for novel experiments must begin with himself. That leads to a quicker discovery of Truth, and God always protects the honest experimenter".

What is theoretical can be brought to practice when the true emphasis is laid upon values that Gandhi put forth. Therefore, it is imperative to understand the technique of ahimsa in order to achieve the moral virtue of life. He expressed that the truth should be of the speech, action, thought and it could be achieved through constant effort and discipline. It is in the truth, all knowledge is encapsulated and what is outside it is not the truth and hence is not knowledge. He calls Satyagraha as the truth-force against "violence, evil and injustice". It is this force which can create an equi-

librium, that is, evil can't be demolished with evil rather what Gandhi propounded, eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind stands true in this context.

In Satyagraha, the method of "conversion" is used instead of "coercion". Gandhi believed that there is no enemy or opponent but just wrongdoers who would come to the right path only by the force of love and "change of the heart" should be the objective for achieving an end. Gandhi while differing to relate passive resistance with Satyagraha, propounded Satyagraha does not involve any element of force not is there any element of injury. Moreover, it has the highest respect for the law- Law of Truth and God. It is based on the notion of appeal rather than force.

In a nutshell, it postulates the annihilation of the disease, not the one who is affected by it. The base of Satyagraha is love, suffering, divine love - God. And the Satyagrahi has to be disciplined, honest, open-minded, determined and fearless. It is worth to mention what Former US Vice-President and environmentalist Al Gore stated, "Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of satyagraha can be translated to mean truth force. It is this truth-force which can help us to fight this battle honestly and with people's participation."

IS GANDHIAN PHILOSOPHY UTOPIAN?

It is important to question the pertinence of Gandhi in the contemporary time period. Many claim that Gandhian philosophy at present is limited to the classroom and books; they are sceptical if at all it can ameliorate the social, economic and political havoc generated not only in the Indian subcontinent but also in the world. What is palpable is the chasm that the world is encountering with the rise in nationalistic fervour, intolerance, moral hypocrisy, violence and political populism across the globe. If this is the current status quo then it is important to not only give prominence to Gandhi's theories and philosophies but to utilize them in order to dust off the menaces prevailing all across the globe.

Gandhi came as a herald to bring the political transformation in a country which was scuffling with

so many other challenges. Gandhi believed that attainment of political emancipation from the colonist won't suffice the cause until the social disparity and antagonism are not eradicated from its core. It is the essence of diverse India one finds mélange of culture, religion and ethnicity in camaraderie with each other. But when it is in threat then it is indispensable for us to assimilate Gandhian teaching into practice.

The social disparities in the form of atrocities against the women, minorities- Dalits and Muslims are proliferating day by day. The mushrooming of lynching cases has become the new normal for India. Hyderabad gang rape, Asifa or the recent Hathras gang rape - all such horrendous atrocities - call for Gandhian doctrines. Gandhi rightly said, "The day a woman can walk freely on the roads at night, that day we can say that India has achieved independence." Gandhi emphasised on education - the only way of eradicating perils from society.

Furthermore, one concedes that resentment breeds vengeance and when this takes the shape of political colour then tolerance, sympathy and love which is the sine qua non for unity becomes elusive. In one of the article of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, Fulfilling Gandhiji's unfulfilled mission states, "In this world, unity is achievable only by learning to unite in spite of differences, rather than insisting on unity without differences. For their total eradication is an impossibility. The secret of attaining peace in life is the tolerance of the disturbance of the peace".

Therefore, Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence is the elixir which can stabilize the society plunged into a disastrous dungeon. Gandhi the progenitor of non-violence enunciated on every issue that threatened India's stability. From being secular to the promotion of peace or importance of ethics Gandhi voiced on every subject. His idealism or utopianism was "completed by realism".

The author is a student of Delhi University

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

NIT Srinagar Leads 'Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign with Enthusiastic Cleanliness Drive and Drawing Competition

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Sunday organized a special cleanliness drive and drawing competition as part of the 'Swachhata Pakhwada - Swachhata Hi Seva' 2023 campaign.

The event, titled 'Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath,' drew enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and staff, showcasing their dedication to Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean and self-reliant India. The event, held at the sprawling campus, brought together students, faculty, and staff for a day of dedicated cleaning and awareness activities.

The Swachh Bharat program commenced early in the morning with a pledge towards cleanliness followed by a cleanliness drive.

The program received resounding support from the institute's leadership, with Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Sudhakar Yedla, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari, Dean Student Welfare Prof. Abdul Liman, Prof. Atikur Rahman, Dr. Yashwant Mehta, and Nodal Officer SHS, NIT Srinagar Dr. Jitendra Gurjar gracing the mega cleanliness event with their presence.



Under the banner of 'Swachhata Hi Seva' participants armed themselves with brooms, dustpans, and waste disposal equipment to embark on a comprehensive cleaning mission. The campus witnessed a flurry of activity as students, faculty, and staff worked tirelessly to ensure every nook and corner was spotless. The initiative extended its scope to include waste segregation and responsible disposal, promoting sustainable practices. In addition to the cleanliness drive, a special painting competition was organized on the

campus, attracting participants not only from NIT Srinagar but also from nearby schools participated, including Delhi Public School Srinagar & Badgam and G.D Goenka Public Srinagar, Foundation World School, Srinagar and Iqra education institute Srinagar.

This competition encouraged artistic expression while reinforcing the values of cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari highlighted the importance of raising

awareness about pollution and filth. Cleanliness was one of his core beliefs, and today, we pay our tribute to him by actively contributing to a cleaner and greener future, he said.

"Such campaigns are the need of the hour, bringing hope for a cleaner and healthier environment," he said.

Dean of Students Welfare, Prof. Abdul Liman, actively participated in the cleanliness drive and inspired others with his dedication to the cause.

He emphasized the significance of Gandhi Jayanti, said it is

JKEDI organizes cleanliness drives across UT

Srinagar, October 01: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) took a determined step towards cleanliness today by organizing an extensive cleanliness drive as part of Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2023 initiative.

The drive was carried out across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as a heartfelt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on the eve of his birth anniversary on October 2, 2023.

Dir JKEDI, faculty members, and officials of the Institute actively participated in various swachhata activities on the ground, exemplifying their commitment to the principles of cleanliness and sanitation as advocated by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

The participants across all offices also took a Swachh Pledge to make this initiative a success and a part of daily lives.

The comprehensive cleanliness campaign spanned across the offices of JKEDI located in the UT of J&K. The drive was carried out at both the regional offices of JKEDI, located in Jammu and Srinagar, Centre for Women Entrepreneurship, situated in Jammu and Srinagar

and across all 20 district offices of the Institute.

Ajaz Ahmad Bhat Director, JKEDI, expressed profound gratitude towards all participants and emphasized the organization's unwavering commitment to the values and principles held dear by Mahatma Gandhi.

He underscored the paramount importance of such initiatives in building a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous future for the Union Territory. He reiterated that this cleanliness drive represents a sustained and ongoing effort by the Institute to positively contribute to the communities it serves. It reflects JKEDI's unwavering commitment to nurturing a clean and sustainable environment.

Participants ardently worked towards maintaining the hygiene and cleanliness of these locations. This widespread initiative aimed to raise awareness and instill a sense of responsibility for cleanliness at the grassroots level. The significance of the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign goes beyond the physical act of cleaning. It symbolizes a collective commitment to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Jailed DySP,

with immediate effect.

"Pending enquiry into his conduct Gowhar Ahmad Khan, Addl. Superintendent of Police Budgam, is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect. It is further ordered that the Officer shall remain attached with Zonal Police Headquarters Kashmir, during the period of suspension," reads the order.

J&K State Taxes

Government," he said.

The Lt Governor appreciated the State Taxes Department for making tax-paying process seamless and friendlier in every district and spreading awareness on tax regime.

He urged the department and the citizens of the UT to play a constructive role in pushing forward to industrialisation and making J&K one of the engines of Viksit Bharat.

The Lt Governor also assured all the necessary support by the administration to the ICAI for establishing their Centre of Excellence in the UT.

The Lt Governor released the revised edition of GST Acts and Rules - Bare Law and felicitated the consumers under 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' campaign.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance; Dr Rashmi Singh, Commissioner State Taxes Department; Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal, Vice President ICAI; Sushil Kumar Goyal, Chairman, GST & Indirect Taxes Committee; Umesh Sharma, Vice Chairman, GST & Indirect Taxes Committee; senior Officers; members of ICAI; representatives of Trade & Industry Associations and heads of educational institutions were present.

Not In Race For

criticism by some quarters that he returned to JK politics at the behest of the BJP.

Azad said unemployment and inflation were two main problems facing Jammu and Kashmir which he wants to address by exploiting the tourism potential of the region.

"Inflation is on the rise. It is true that inflation is not specific to India. Europe has the highest inflation but they have other means to tackle it. We are a poor state.

"Unemployment is on the rise. There are no jobs. Government is advertising posts but interviews are not held. Educated youth have no jobs and their parents have exhausted their savings on their education," he said.

The former chief minister said tourism has the potential to provide a livelihood for all sections of the society.

"One Tulip Garden (which was made in 2007) has provided livelihood to thousands of people. As CM, I had a plan to develop 10 to 12 tourist locations in each district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I had plans of providing loans to people for setting up homestay facilities which could provide earning opportunities to them," he added.

Referring to the abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A by the Centre in 2019, Azad said it was a "great mistake".

"There were some political mistakes over many years which have pushed the state backwards, instead of going forward. In the last nine years, another great mistake was made - Article 370 and Article 35A were removed.

"Article 35A, subsequently Article 35B, was not promulgated after Independence. It was brought by the Maharaja (Hari Singh) in 1925. I said this in Parliament that had the BJP known that they would not have touched Article 370 and Article 35A. This mistake pushed us further back. There was an uncertainty whether the land will stay with us or not," he added.

Azad asked party leaders not to make personal attacks against opponents.

"I have said earlier also that we were subjected to a political fraud but why should I comment on someone's appearance?" he said.

He demanded the death penalty for those involved in running drug mafia in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Drug abuse has become a major problem. Many people have become millionaires by dealing in drugs. They should be hanged to death," he said.

All Officers,

instructions from the officers and the ground staff concerned have failed to provide adequate facilities to the devotees. In view of this all the officers and the staff of Hazratbal shrine have been placed under suspension with immediate effect for the grave negligence in their duties," reads the order.

The order stated that inquiry team headed by the chairperson has been constituted to probe into the issue.

LG Joins Citizen-led

the ambition of society and Garbage-free cities and villages are no longer imagination but a reality," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor called upon the people to make united efforts and contribute to realize the vision of 'Garbage-Free India'.

"Swachhata Hi Seva' Campaign, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has become a Jan-Andolan in the UT of J&K. It is our collective responsibility to protect our surroundings, our lakes & rivers and spread awareness on cleanliness, the Lt Governor said.

He said the Swachh revolution across J&K is also creating new livelihood opportunities, generates more revenues and improves the quality of life, and reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to strengthen the Swachhata movement in the UT.

At the UT-level event, the Lt Governor congratulated the citizens and the administration on achieving ODF PLUS status for 100% villages of J&K under the 'Model' category.

He said this historic milestone underlines our united resolve of building dream villages with new potential, possibilities and full of self-confidence, he added.

The Lt Governor administered the Swachhata Pledge to the officials and the citizens. He also flagged off the fleet of Shikaras and participated in the cleanliness drive at Char Chinari.

At Golden Island in Dal Lake, the Lt Governor interacted with school students and encouraged them to become 'Swachhagrahi'.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, SMC; Sh Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; senior officials and eminent personalities from diverse fields participated in the Shramdaan.

Padma Shri Dr SP Varma, members of Gandhi Global family and several other civil society groups and organizations were also present.

NC With INDIA

in the 2019 parliamentary elections but lost the seat to BJP.

Abdullah alleged that he had to leave his security at the Zero Point en route to Kargil and Drass to address the public meeting on the directions of the authorities.

He said this was his third visit to Kargil after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories -- Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is the first time that I had to leave my security at Zero Point. I do not have any grudge as I know they (BJP) are panicking. I know the people are with us and we have full faith in the Almighty."

The National Conference claimed that Abdullah's security was stopped at Zero Point near Mini Marg -- the entry point to Ladakh on the Srinagar-Leh Highway.

"Ladakh UT administration's cowardice was seen today when J-K NC Vice President Omar Abdullah's convoy was stopped at Zero Point Mini Marg and his security was not allowed to proceed," the party said in a statement. It also alleged that the party vice president was "forced" to move ahead without security for his two-day visit to Kargil.

30 Residential

about thirty small wooden residential sheds were found involved in the fire, and due to timely and swift action by the fire and emergency services, the fire was soon brought under control. However, all the sheds have suffered damage in the incident.

He further added that the cause of the fire is being ascertained.

LG Greeted

Gandhi Jayanti let us take a pledge to follow the path of Peace, Truth and Non-violence and strive to remove social inequities in our society".

2 Punjab Residents

Additional Director General of Police, Jammu zone, Mukesh Singh said.

He said the successful recovery resulted in the busting of a narco-terror module.

A case under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered at Banihal police station and investigation set into motion, Singh said.

"This operation was developed on intelligence generated by SSP Ramban and her team who have been continuously waging war against drug smugglers and peddlers," the ADGP said.

He said a large number of notorious peddlers and smugglers have already been booked by the team of Ramban police.

"A total of 104 cases (under NDPS Act) have been registered in 2022 while 36 such cases were registered in 2023 till date following the recovery of 2,500 kg poppy straw, 10 kg charas, 200 grams heroin and 200 tablets," Singh said, adding 158 accused have been arrested and three detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in NDPS Act.

Banihal Station House Officer Mohd Afzal Wani identified the arrested smugglers as Sarabjeet Singh of Jhalandhar and Honey Basra of Phagwara in Punjab.

While three kilograms of the narcotic was found hidden on the top of the vehicle, 27 kgs were recovered from their luggage, he said.

Wani said the smugglers tried to escape when signalled to stop

and were chased and subsequently arrested.

The officials said the high-grade cocaine was smuggled from across

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Skill Development Workshop on Bakery Technology held at IUST



AWANTIPORA: The Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Department of Food Technology, IUST, organised a two-day Bakery Skill Development Workshop. Cream Bell and Shalimar Bakery were the industrial partners of the event. The workshop inaugurated by Dean Research Prof A.H. Moon was attended by students, professionals and bakery enthusiasts. The workshop covered various topics, including advanced baking techniques, pastry making, cake decoration, and bakery business management. Mr Joseph Lawrence, a renowned chef and NSDC approved Master Trainer with extensive expertise in bakery and confectionery was the Master trainer. Participants had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience and receive practical guidance from Mr. Lawrence, making it a truly immersive learning experience.

In the valedictory session, Prof. A. H. Moon, reiterated the vision of Vice Chancellor IUST, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo towards skilling, promoting innovation and making multidisciplinary part of mainstream education in line with NEP 2020. He also appreciated the role of Director CIED and FT department in organizing such workshops with Industry collaborations to promote entrepreneurship and start-up culture amongst IUST students. Director CIED, Dr. Parvez Ahmad Mir, said that Innovation and entrepreneurship are the mantra for progress and prosperity. He highlighted various initiatives taken by CIED IUST in spreading the awareness among different sections of society as well as extended support to the incubates under the seed grant scheme. Among others Dr Tariq Ganie, Dr Darakshan Majid, Dr Basharat Nabi, Dr Amir Dar, Dr Tahmeed Aijaz from the department of Food Technology also deliberated during the workshop.

Kashmiri Youth Keen On Joining NCC

Air Force Unit Coming-up in Udhampur: Official

JAMMU: The Center is planning to increase the vacancies across the country and the youth in Kashmir are very keen on joining the uniformed youth organisation, a senior officer of NCC on Sunday said. Deputy Director General of NCC directorate Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Brigadier V K Sharma said the organisation is setting up an Air Force unit in Udhampur, while one each battalion is coming up in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions to accommodate more youth. Talking to PTI on the sidelines of a function here, he said that overall there is a vision of increasing the strength of NCC cadets in both the Union Territories of J-K and Ladakh. "The central government is planning to increase the vacancies in NCC across the country in general and J-K in particular. We have an air force unit coming up in Udhampur, besides one additional battalion in Kashmir and Jammu. The Ladakh battalion will also get an increase in the number of cadets," Brigadier Sharma said. Asked about the response of youth in Kashmir, he said, "I must say they are coming forward and they are very keen on getting into NCC." He said there is a sanctioned strength of 27,000 cadets and there are some vacancies for both boys and girls. "Our directorate performs

activities round-the-year by organising various camps, holding social awareness campaigns and national integration camps where cadets from outside states get an opportunity to interact with the local youth," Brigadier Sharma said. He said they are getting active support from both the central government and the J-K administration. Brigadier Sharma visited the NCC training camp in Nagrota to felicitate winning cadets who have performed well during the just concluded All India Thal Sainik camp in New Delhi. Around 1,547 cadets (867 boys and 680 girls), drawn from 17 NCC Directorates covering all the States and Union Territories participated in the 12-day camp from September 19 to 30. "Our directorate had done very well during the competition. Overall, our directorate has come 4th from the boy's side and 14th from the girl's side. A lot of medals have been won by the directorate," he said, adding the cadets from four categories -- senior division and senior wing (boys) and Senior division and junior wing (girls). He said the cadets participated in various competitions including firing, tent pitching, field craft and battle craft, health and hygiene and obstacle course.

PCCF reviews working of Forest Deptt in Awantipora, Lidder Divisions

SRINAGAR: The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Force, J&K Roshan Jaggi, inspected Lidder and Awantipora Forest Divisions and reviewed the working of the Forest Department today. He also reviewed the ongoing developmental works being executed in these Forest Divisions. He informed that under flagship Green J&K Drive programme, the plantation target of 1.75 crores will be achieved this year in J&K. He said a planting target of 15 lacs has been set up for this year for South Forest Circle. The PCCF stressed on Chinar planting and low-cost greening initiatives. He informed that South Forest Circle achieved a

plantation target of 14.00 lacs last year. He directed for greening initiatives to be accelerated for rehabilitation of degraded forests here. During the tour, PCCF inspected various ongoing development works in both the divisions including Shade Net Structure for Pampore Nursery. He also laid foundation stones of Block officers hut at Gossanard Pampore, New Forest Control Room building at Awantipora and of New Range office building in Bijbehara. The newly renovated Range Office Pampore was also thrown open to public services by the PCCF. An information brochure on forest fire management in Awantipora Division was also released on the occasion.

LG Chairs a high-level meeting on 'Future-Ready Governance'

Integration of Artificial Intelligence and new technological tools will enable to plan schemes more effectively and to make public services more efficient: LG



SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting and discussed the key issues related to 'Future-Ready Governance', at Raj Bhawan. The meeting was attended by Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Anurag Goel, former Union Secretary; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Nilofer Khan, VC Kashmir University; Dr Nazir A. Ganai, VC SKUAST Kashmir; Dr BN Tripathi, VC SKUAST Jammu; Anurag Goyal, Advisor, NITI Aayog; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Department; Dr Mandep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Administrative Secretaries; HoDs and senior officers. The prime objective of the workshop conducted earlier and today's meeting organized by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department was to draw a roadmap integrating technological advancements into the system to create more values through good governance. "Change is the only constant and every sector has to im-

agine a future in the backdrop of increasing role of humans and machines and their collective strength for growth," the Lt Governor said. He underlined the need for integration of Artificial Intelligence and new technological tools to plan schemes more effectively and to make public services more efficient. Technological adoption and increased human & machine collaboration will also enable informed decision making, improve policy making processes, target resources and services urgently required for quality living of citizens and speedy implementation of projects, he said. The Lt Governor emphasized on adopting strategic and integrated approach to effectively tackle the various growing challenges like climate change, cyber threat and issues in health, education and agriculture. The Lt Governor asked the Planning Development & Monitoring Department to prepare for the significant shift to maximize the benefits of government schemes for

the citizens and minimize the risk and loss. Besides improving policy performance, managing the complex challenges of the future and addressing disruptive changes that will occur in the future, the integrated approach will help us to develop a system of Citizen-Driven Policies, he said. In order to achieve the vision of developing J&K and India by 2047, first we need to set the goals for the next 3 years with Agriculture and Education as two priority sectors. I am confident that we will be able to bring transformation in the coming years, the Lt Governor added. Anurag Goel, former Union Secretary and Advisor IIT Jodhpur gave a detailed presentation on 'Future-Ready Governance'. The meeting also discussed the establishment of a nodal cell in the Planning Department. Dr Raghav Langer, Secretary Planning Development & Monitoring Department briefed the meeting on the proposed initiatives and the future strategy.

JKSA Seeks Amit Shah's Intervention In DBU Scandal, FIR Against Chancellor

Agencies
SRINAGAR: The one-year student exchange programme between Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir, as part of an integration programme, wrapped up way ahead of schedule, as students were sent back to their respective schools following reports of alleged assault by local students. Matters took a violent turn as a group of 18 students from Jammu and Kashmir who had come to Jhansi to participate in a cultural exchange program were forced to leave the city. With tensions escalating, the J&K Students Association (JKSA) has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, requesting his assistance in the case of the alleged assault on 18 Kashmiri students in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, as well as similar incidents across the country. Nasir Khuehami, the Association's National Convener, issued a statement condemning the heinous act and demanding an immediate inquiry into the assault in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. According to Khuehami's letter, "A group of 18 students from J&K were enrolled at a branch of Jawahar Navodaya in Jhansi as part of an integration program. However, Navodaya Vidyalaya in Jhansi witnessed a regrettable incident where class 9th students from Jammu and Kashmir participating in a cultural exchange program became victims of an alleged assault. They were sent back to their home region after being brutally thrashed. The incident occurred in the aftermath of an altercation involving students from Jhansi at Navodaya Vidyalaya in Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir. Local students in Jhansi gheraoed the hostel where the visiting students from the Kashmir valley were staying and raised slogans against them. The locals demanded that the visitors be handed over to them and resorted to stone pelting. This incident has deeply shaken the peace and harmony among students and requires your urgent in-

tervention." The letter highlighted the alarming trend of violence against Kashmiri students studying outside their state, causing fear and insecurity among them. The recent assault underscores the urgent need for immediate action. This incident, the sixth of its kind in the past nine months, highlights a growing trend of violence against Kashmiri students studying outside their state, creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among them, Khuehami said. This altercation, coupled with similar incidents in Aligarh Muslim University, Noida, and other areas, underscores the urgent need for immediate and decisive action to address this escalating problem, he emphasised. The students of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those from Kashmir, are facing immense difficulties due to relentless harassment and ruthless beatings they have been subjected to on numerous occasions. These incidents have caused severe stress and mental trauma among the students. Despite bringing this matter to the attention of the concerned authorities, no concrete steps have been taken to ensure the safety and security of these students, Khuehami stated in the letter. He said, "It is distressing to note that even though the Home Ministry had previously issued advisories to take strict action against those responsible for such incidents, the harassment continues unabated. The hostile and irrational practice of inducing fear in society through such culture must be curbed immediately." "The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association strongly condemns these heinous acts and demands a thorough and time-bound inquiry into the facts, circumstances, and nefarious designs, if any, behind the continuous attacks, intimidation, and harassment of Kashmiri students. We urge that those found guilty be held accountable through criminal proceedings. Additionally, we insist that authorities responsible for their lackadaisical attitude in ensuring a safe

and conducive atmosphere for JK students, especially those from Kashmir, be held accountable," the association convener said.



Event held at Chadoora on Ek Tarekh Ek Ghanta Ek Sath

Govt employees, Civil society members, students present

CHADOORA: In order to mark the 10th anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission and to pay special tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on eve of his birthday the Municipal Committee Chadoora held an event in the town which was attended by local citizens, students, civil society actors and employees of Municipal Committee Chadoora and other officials. The event was part of the national campaign titled Ek Tarekh Ek Ghanta Ek Sath. Students, civil society members and local citizens marched on the streets of Chadoora town from Municipal office to Doodh Ganga banks near Govt Higher Secondary School. The march was led by MC Chadoora President Syed Fahad Andrabi, Social Activist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat and local senior citizens and employees of MC Chadoora. Students of Govt Higher Secondary School Chadoora along with staff and Principal Ms Humaira participated in the street theatre show presented by Rayees Wat-hoori and Tanveer from Tulkul Arts

and Media Collective group. The students, staff of JK Bank, Hr Secondary School Chadoora and civil society actors participated in the sanitation drive on Doodh Ganga banks as well. Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat while addressing the gathering said that people need to bring behavioural change vis a vis sanitation and waste management. He appreciated the work done by MC Chadoora under its President Syed Fahad Andrabi as they have been collecting waste from each household and shops in double shifts. He also thanked the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Secretary HUDD Prashant Goyal, Secretary Mining Dr Rashmi Singh, DC Budgam Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Athar Aamir for their intervention in protecting Doodh Ganga. Social activists and respected citizens of Chadoora namely Mud-daser Yattoo, Shiraz Ahmad, Sha-keel Ahmad Dar, Riyaz Ahmad Mir, Syed Farhat, Nazir Ahmad Dhobi and others also attended the event. President MC Chadoora Syed Fahad Andrabi thanked the participants for making the event successful. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Chadoora Mohammad Shahid also attended the event.


JDI M Aslam Bags Certificate of Appreciation

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Sunday awarded Certificate of Appreciation to Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam for his contribution in Shramdaan for Swachh Bharat under an initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission. The selfless contribution of JDI Kashmir for advocating & fostering the environment of cleanliness at different forums and under his official capacity has been given recognition by the J&K Government. The Deputy Director Information & PR, Assistant Director Field Publicity Unit, Cultural Officer and other

staff members congratulated Joint Director for the achievement and acknowledgement of his endeavors in Swachh Bharat Mission. Mohammad Aslam has been very particular about the sanitation and neat & clean environment as he give emphasis on the disposal of waste in an eco-friendly way to reduce pollution. Meanwhile, Joint Directorate Information Kashmir under the leadership of JDI, Mohammad Aslam today conducted a cleanliness drive in the office premises and in the vicinity under Swachhwa Hi Sewa campaign and under Ek Ghanta Ek Tareekh Ek Saath programme.

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ODI WC: Team India SWOT Analysis

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: An emphatic performance in the Asia Cup followed by a dominant show with the willow against Australia placed the Indian team in good headspace going into the World Cup but problems remain when it comes to zeroing in on the ideal playing XI.

India begin their campaign against Australia on October 8 in Chennai. Here's the SWOT analysis.

STRENGTH:

Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind that this batting lineup is the best India have had since the historic batch of 2011.

A line-up comprising Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer and Hardik Pandya is as formidable as it gets. And there will be Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav in the dug-out in case there is requirement to replace anyone.

India haven't had such a galaxy of stars in one line-up for the longest time. And with most batters hitting the straps at the right time, the fans could be in for a run-feast on flat batting decks, which are expected to be on offer.

Gill's ODI form, with more than 1200 plus runs in past one year, has been the biggest plus and he didn't let the team feel the absence of a player of Shikhar Dhawan's calibre.

Even more heartening is KL Rahul's full fitness, and the hundred against Pakistan in Asia Cup, which has been the biggest gain ahead of World Cup.

WEAKNESSES:

The spin bowling department might be looking good on paper but there is no way to judge how and the veterans Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will perform on the tracks that will be heavily loaded in favour of batters.

Axar Patel's injury might



have given India a chance to get a right-arm finger spinner in but dropping Yuzvendra Chahal, after carrying him in 50-over cricket for a better part of last one year, and selecting three left-arm spinners does speak a lot about the lack of options. Going by form, Kuldeep Yadav

is expected to feature in every playing XI unless he suddenly loses his touch or there is an injury.

Ashwin's presence on Indian tracks might cheer many but truth remains that on good decks, he has had a tendency of struggling. Yet, for some teams

like Australia, Ashwin plays with the minds of batters and that's his advantage.

In case of Jadeja, he is still a good bowler on helpful tracks but on flat decks, he could go for plenty. Also, both Jadeja and Ashwin are competent Test batters, but the former lost a bit of

mojo when it comes to batting in ODIs, if one looks at his current strike-rate. Ashwin also isn't a consistent power-hitter.

OPPORTUNITIES:

Home advantage is a reality even if it's an ICC event where the global body's curators are always doing a recce of various venues and conditions.

In these conditions, Rohit Sharma will have the perfect setting and best chance of winning the World Cup.

There will be heavy dew in some of the venues and if it comes down to chasing totals, there is no country like India which would make every other team have sleepless nights.

At the end of the day, the Indian team has chase master Virat Kohli in its ranks who is breathing down Sachin Tendulkar's neck with 47 ODI hundreds, and needs three more to get past India's greatest ever batter.

THREAT:

At times, too many options aren't a good thing to have and that could be a problem for the team going into the tournament.

While the bowling attack would certainly be tweaked a bit looking at surfaces, Shreyas Iyer getting the likely nod above Ishan Kishan isn't the most easiest of decisions.

Kishan has performed whatever role has been assigned to him by the team management but now it seems that he might have to sit out as KL Rahul is set to keep wickets and bat at No.5.

Dropping Kishan also means that the only viable left-handed option in the top five is done away with and there would be no variation in the top-order in terms of making opposition bowlers think about changing the line of attack for every second delivery.

Hopefully, India can get the top-order combination right unlike last time when, despite a semi-final appearance, the No.4 batting slot was a complete mess.

6 Matches Played In Provincial U-19 Tourney

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The DYSS-organised Provincial Level Inter District Cricket Tournament for Under-19 boys continued on Day 2 with five matches played at different venues across district Anantnag.

Kulgam played Baramulla in Game 1 of the day. Kulgam batted first and set a target of 116 runs, with Aakash Reyz scoring 42* (28). For Baramulla, Munizar Sultan took 3 wickets. In reply, Baramulla achieved the target with 6 wickets in hand, with Tawfeeq Ali scoring 35* (20). Munizar Sultan was awarded man of the match.

Srinagar took on Ganderbal in the second game. Srinagar elected to bat first and



set a target of 136, with Faizan Fayaz scoring 52. Chasing this target, Ganderbal fell short as Srinagar won the match by 19 runs. Naseer Ahmad scored 41 (16) for Ganderbal. Faizan Fayaz was

the man of the match.

Anantnag met Kupwara in Game 3. Anantnag batted first and set a target of 161, with Junaid scoring 30 of 17 balls. Adnan took 3 wickets for Kupwara. In reply, Kup-

wara won the last-ball thriller by 2 wickets. Tasken scored 75 (37) for Kupwara and was man of the match.

Bandipora took on Budgam in Game 4. Bandipora set a small target of 94 runs

after batting first. Ishrat Khalil top scored for Bandipora with 40 (24). Chasing the target, Budgam registered another win with Abrar scoring 24 (17) and was also declared man of the match.

In another game, hosts Anantnag played Kulgam and set a target of 139, as Junaid scored 47 (28). For Kulgam, Faisal Tasleem took 6 wickets. In reply, Kulgam lost the game by 8 runs despite Zeehan Bilal's 62 (32). Junaid was named man of the match.

Bandipora took on Pulwama in final game of the day. Bandipora fielded first and restricted Pulwama to 111. Chasing the target, Imtiyaz scored 24 and helped Bandipora register a 4-wicket win.

Pulwama Boy Shines In Climbing Competition In Delhi



Observer News Service

Srinagar: A young boy, Kafeel Ul Haq, from Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir has secured second position in Climbing competition in North Zone which was held in Delhi.

Kafeel belongs to Ratnipora village of Pulwama district and studies in Class 9 at Higher Secondary School, Ratnipora.

Kafeel had earlier won Gold medal in the 23rd Climbing UT Level Sub-Junior boys, which was held at Jammu on September 23 and 24. In this competition, 600 climbers had competed for the

medal, but Kafeel with his grit and skill topped them and won Gold.

Following his podium finish, he was selected for North Zone competition at Delhi.

"Today he got the second position by climbing the wall in 17 seconds, losing the first position by a mere one second," Syed Abdul Mohsin, Manager and Senior Coach said, with Junior Coach Yawer Ahmad Reshi along the sidelines.

Mohsin said Kafeel is competing in lead climbing and Bouldering competition on Monday and hopefully he will win two more medals, given his determination and training.

ARCO Beats AG's Office 4-1 In Srinagar Premier League



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two matches were played in the Round 16 of the 2023 Srinagar Premier Division on Sunday.

In the first game, STFC Natipora took on Kashmir Panthers at Bakshi Stadium. The first half remained goalless, but Wungunchan gave Syed Tajjuddin the lead in 47th minute. Musaib doubled

the scoreline in 52nd minute to give STFC a 2-0 win on the day.

The second match saw ARCO FC play AG's Office XI at Synthetic Turf TRC. In a largely one-sided contest, Basit scored four goals (8', 34', 37', 76') to give ARCO a 4-1 win. Ozair scored the only goal (58') for AG's Office.

J&K United FC take on J&K Bank Academy at TRC with kick off at 6:00 pm.

Botakadal Football Academy Launched



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Botakadal Football Academy was launched on Friday at SP College grounds here. The academy is sponsored by Asia Marble and Asia FC.

The football academy was inaugurated in presence of former interna-

national footballer Abdul Majeed Kakroo and several other dignitaries.

The Botakadal Football Academy will contribute to the grassroots development of young footballers in the area.

Kits and training materials were also distributed on the occasion.

J&K Beats Chattisgarh In Sub Junior Boys Nationals

Observer News Service

Srinagar: J&K defeated Chattisgarh 1-0 to register their second win in the Sub Junior Boys National Championship 2023 being played at Ananthapuram in Andhra Pradesh.

Sakib Showkat scored the lone goal of the game in 46th minute to give J&K a crucial win. The team

had to lose Delhi in their opening match, but defeated Telangana in the second game. Goalkeeper Marouf Shah was widely hailed for his performance in the match.

The team is coached by Khalid Qayoom as Head Coach, Azhar Ali as Manager, John Mohammad as Assistant Manager and Ricky as Assistant Coach.

Shadab Khan Floored By Rohit's Talent, Fascinated By 'Singham' & Enamoured By Hyderabad Cuisine

Press Trust of India

Hyderabad: Tackling a marauder like Rohit Sharma is right at the top of leg-spinner Shadab Khan's check-list but when the Indian skipper doesn't occupy his mind-space, the Pakistan vice-captain doesn't shy away from expressing his love for Bollywood movies and local food.

Ajay Devgn would have little clue about how big an impression he had made on Pakistan vice-captain Shadab Khan.

Glancing at the top cop from Hyderabad police manning the media conference room, the leg-spinner couldn't help saying: "Singham bhi aaye hain yaha pe. (I see Singham is also present here)."

The reference of super-hit Bollywood cop movie wasn't lost on anyone as Shadab spoke with a lot of warmth about how the 'City of Nizams' have received their cricket team with open arms.

"The welcome was fantastic at

(the Hyderabad) airport and also a lot of people have been thronging the team hotel and hospitality wise it's been really good," Shadab told mediapersons during the first official media conference organised by the team.

Hyderabad food is meant to tickle everyone's taste buds and Shadab is no different.

"The food has been really tasty and the support staff (all South Africans) are worried that we end up increasing our fat percentage (laughs). Hope, we get the same love in Ahmedabad where we play India (laughs)," said Shadab referring to his team's much-awaited clash against the arch-rivals on October 14.

As the discussion turned towards cricket, the reverence for Rohit was there to be seen. He also picked up Kuldeep Yadav as the most dangerous Indian bowler.

"I admire Rohit Sharma a lot and among the leading batsmen in the world he is the most difficult to bowl to. Once he gets set he becomes very



dangerous. Among the bowlers, since I am a leg-spinner, it will be Kuldeep Yadav given his recent form," said Shadab.

'We have learnt from our Asia Cup mistakes'

Pakistan failed to defend 346 against the New Zealand and have plenty to think about in

the bowling department including the form of premier spinner Shadab who did not bowl in the warm-up but had a forgettable Asia Cup. The next warm-up game is against Australia on October 3.

His form is key for Pakistan in the middle-overs and the 24-year-old had no qualms in

admitting that he did not have the best of times in Asia Cup where four of his six wickets came against Nepal and he ended with an average of 40.83.

"The Asia Cup didn't go well but that's the beauty of cricket you learn from your mistakes and there is always an opportunity to learn and play good cricket. After we lost the Asia Cup we got good rest and I believe it's no more a skill game but a mental game and it's the World Cup situation. You can take good decisions when you are relaxed mentally."

Shadab is already a star but he knows the World Cup provides him with the opportunity of becoming a superstar.

"I do understand that my recent form is not good but I have the skills. Just that when you are not performing you are mentally a bit down but skill wise there is no issue."

"When you wear the green jersey there is a lot of expectation from our people and fans and especially when we play in

India. The World Cup for a player is that if you perform, you will be a superstar," he said.

Shadab is among the majority of squad members who are touring India for the first time. He doesn't have a lot of idea about the conditions but the likened the Hyderabad pitch to the flat deck in Rawalpindi.

"Conditions will change as we will be playing in different venues and we have to adapt to conditions very quickly and also fitness-wise as it's a long tournament and the Asia Cup saw some fast bowlers getting injured (Naseem Shah). So fitness will be a concern for all teams but hopefully not for us as we lost one of the key players already."

Shadab believes in the old cricketing saying that batters win you games and bowlers win you tournaments. He also backed under-fire opener Fakhar Zaman. "Babar, Rizwan, Iman are our consistent players and this is my feeling that the team that bowls well will win the World Cup. It will be difficult to contain the

batsmen and pick wickets given the nature of flat tracks and short boundaries. We have world class bowlers and as a bowling unit if we perform well we will become champions," he said.

Haris Rauf too quick for openers in high-intensity training

All the squad members, including the three travelling reserves turned up for Pakistan's second training session in India.

Pakistan batters get to face the likes of Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf in the nets regularly, ideal preparation for seriously quick fast bowlers in the rival teams.

Even with half a run-up, Rauf was able to trouble Fakhar and Iman Ul Haq while Babar Azam faced him with relative ease.

Team director Mickey Arthur, who joined the team on Sunday, closely watched the batters go about their business and had the biggest praise reserved for Mohammad Rizwan.