

Power Situation Back To Normal: PDD

J&K Buys Electricity From U.P To Tackle Crisis



Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Faced with acute power shortage resulting in frequent and long power cuts, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has started to purchase electricity from Uttar Pradesh to tide over the crisis.

Principal Secretary of Power Development Department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad told Kashmir Observer on Wednesday that the power crisis in Kashmir is almost over as the department has purchased electricity from Uttar Pradesh government to meet the electricity demand.

"Around 250 MW electricity has been purchased from the UP government on banking bases. We have also taken-up the matter with the central government and the winter allocation quota has been granted," Prasad said.

He further said that currently the UT has over 1900 MW of

electricity and that is almost close to what it was last year. "The situation is normal now, any gaps will be addressed in the coming days," he added.

The administration's move to buy electricity comes at a time when strong resentment is brewing over the frequent power cuts since last week.

Complaints have been pouring in from the rural and urban areas of the Valley that the PDD has failed to provide adequate electricity amid the dip in temperature. The situation is equally bad for both metered as well as the unmetered areas.

"The unscheduled power cuts are taking a toll on students, patients and the business community," said Hilal Ahmad, a resident of Shalteng in the city outskirts.

"Even if we clear the electricity bills timely, we don't get the adequate power supply," he added. Notably, the

77.61 Percent Turnout In Kargil Hill Council Polls

Agencies

Srinagar: A voter turnout of 77.61 was recorded in the high-stakes electoral battle of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil on Wednesday.

As per the details, 74026 votes were polled in the election today in which NC-Congress combine are locked in a direct fight with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The highest voter turnout was recorded in Bimbhat seat (4468) followed by Shargole (3768) and Ranbirpora (3760).

Voters across age groups turned out in large numbers since early morning to cast their vote in the 5th LAHDC elections in which 87 candidates are trying their luck for 26 constituencies.

Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Shrikant Balasahab Suse



said, "We have a total of 278 polling stations. Arrangements have been made to carry out free and fair elections. Out of the 278 stations, 114 are

hyper-sensitive and 99 are sensitive polling stations."

Queues were seen at polling stations since early morning with many elderly voters among

the first to cast their vote.

The counting of votes is scheduled for October 8 and the new council will be in place before October 11. **More On P6**

2 Terrorists Killed In Kulgam: Police

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two local terrorists of Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) were killed in an encounter with security forces in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said on Wednesday.

Acting on a specific input regarding the presence of terrorists, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, Army's 1 Rashtriya Rifles and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Kujjar area of Kulgam, a police spokesperson said.

During the search operation, he said, as the joint search party approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired indiscriminately upon them, which was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter.

"In the ensuing encounter, 2 terrorists linked with proscribed terrorist outfit HM were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter," the **More On P6**

Student Injured In Terror Attack

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A student was shot and injured on Wednesday by suspected terrorists in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

16-year-old Sahil Bashir Dar was shot at and injured by unknown terrorists in his native village of Watrigram on Wednesday evening, reports said. A class 10th student, Dar sustained injuries in the surprise terror attack.

He was immediately rushed to a nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to district hospital Anantnag for advanced treatment.

"#Terrorists fired upon one person named Sahil Bashir Dar son of Bashir Ah Dar resident of Wanihama in #Anantnag district. The injured person is being shifted to hospital for treatment. Area cordoned off. Further details shall follow," **More On P6**

8 Dead In Sikkim Floods, 69 Missing

Press Trust Of India

Gangtok: At least eight people died and 69 others, including 22 army personnel, went missing on Wednesday after a cloudburst over Lhonak Lake in north Sikkim triggered a flash flood in the Teesta River basin, officials said.

Three of the dead were washed up in north Bengal, they said. The flood in Sikkim that started around 1.30 am was made worse by the release of water from Chungthang dam, the officials said.

"Five bodies have been recovered from Golitar and Singtam region," Gangtok Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mahendra Chhetri said.

Another official said besides the 22 **More On P6**

J&K Witnessing Revival Of Its Cultural Identity, Spiritual Traditions: LG

Inaugurates Branch Of Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt At Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing revival of its cultural identity and spiritual traditions which have always promoted co-existence of almost all major religions, spiritual streams known to humankind and gave the ideals of humanism, communal harmony and peace to the world.

Sinha made these remarks



during the inauguration of Saraswathi Bhandaram Digital Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya Library and **More On P6**

Inaugurates Projects Worth Rs 110 Cr In Shopian

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated and laid foundation stone for various development projects worth more than Rs 110 crore at Shopian. The LG congratulated the District Administration, PRI representatives and the local residents on the occasion. He said the projects dedicated to the people will strengthen the infrastructure and empower all sections of society. "The new sports infrastructure projects **More On P6**

6 IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE COMPELLED TO RESORT TO POWER CUTS. During the daytime, we wait for water to accumulate and then activate the turbine during peak hours."

Intiaz Ismail Appointed DIG SSB



Srinagar: Intiaz Ismail Parray, a 2009 AGMUT IPS, was on Wednesday appointed as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) on deputation basis in Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The appointment of Parray is being made against an existing vacancy, the order said.

The appointment of Parray, as per the order, will be on a deputation basis for a period of five years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The communiqué has requested the office concerned to relieve the officer immediately to enable him to join the new assignment at the Centre.

Man Chargesheeted For Selling State Land

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Crime Branch of police on Wednesday filed chargesheet against a man for allegedly selling state land to a woman in North Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The charge sheet was produced by the Special Crime Wing before the Court of Sub Judge Pattan on September 30 against Mohammad Ashraf Wani of Utikoo village of Baramulla for his involvement in commission of offences punishable under section 420,511 RPC, an official spokesperson said.

He said the case FIR No. 06/2022 against Wani was registered last year.

Giving further details of the case, the spokesperson said that



a complaint was lodged by a woman claiming that she purchased a piece of land measuring 7 Marlas under survey NO.666 at Utikoo village of Tehsil Karhama on March 1, 2016 from Wani for a price of Rs 2.10 lakh under a proper sale agreement.

The complainant, he said, further alleged that when she applied for the registration and revenue extracts of the land, the revenue department refused so by saying that **More On P6**

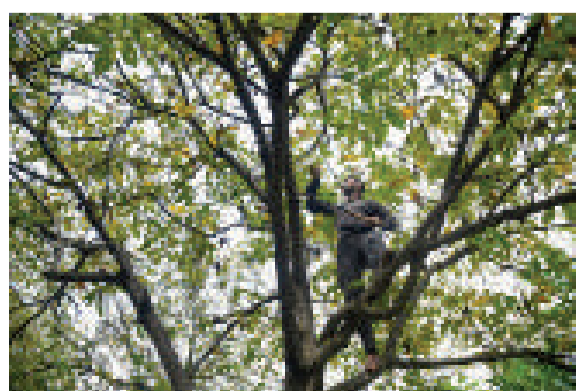
Traditional Walnut Harvesting Methods Cost Climbers Dear In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Walnut, the organic super food from Kashmir, is in global demand with prices peaking during the harvesting season but the trade is taking toll on the poor climbers who risk their lives as they use traditional methods and ignore advisories on their safety.

At least five climbers in Kashmir have lost their lives and scores injured during walnut harvesting in Kashmir this season and the count is growing with reports from different areas reflecting on deaths due to use of traditional methods.

One among the cases reported this season was of 35-year-old Ali



Muhammad Waloo of North Kashmir's Nowgam village who climbed barefoot on a majestic walnut tree on September 1 and fell down resulting in grievous injuries and died on way to hospital in Sumbal

area of Bandipora district. "He used to climb the trees barefoot for the last three years but never had any injury. But this season was his end," said Abdul Majeed, his brother-in-law. Ali Muhammad, the lone

bread earner, leaves behind his wife and six children.

Majeed revealed that due to substantial amount in the trade, he left carpet weaving job and took walnut harvesting job.

Ali Muhammad was not alone who died during harvesting this year but Kashmir Observer has obtained a record of persons in Kashmir who succumbed to injuries while climbing and thrashing walnuts.

They have been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Najar of Bijhama Baramulla (September 19), Abdul Gani Dar of Pingleish Tral (September 15), Mohammad Akbar Sheikh of Gulgam Kupwara (September **More On P6**

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DIPK-NB-3481/23 Dated: 4/10/2023



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla
Fax No: 01952-234426 e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender
NIT No: M&HDB/TS/2023-24/02/438-44
Date: 03-10-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item wise basis from Registered / reputed / experienced firms with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State / Central Governments for the below mentioned repair works:

Table with 8 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of Doc. (In Rupees), Time of Completion (in days), Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees), AA Accorded vide No., Technical Sanction No., Position of Funds. It lists 6 items of work related to hot water generator plant maintenance and overhauling.

- 1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from 03.10.2023 (06.15PM)
2. Uploading of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 03-10-2023(06.30 PM) to 17-10-2023 (06.55 PM) in two (02) covers.
3. Opening of Bids: The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 18-10-2023 at 13.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla.
4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

- I Tender Fee Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One thousand only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement excluding mPay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher.
Bank: J&K Bank.
Branch: T.P Baramulla.
IFSC Code: JAKAOTESHIL
Account No.: 0213010200000051.
II EMD Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/ FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla. EMD of successful bidder shall be released on receipt of 7% Performance Guarantee from (LI) and execution of agreement with the Department. EMD of un-successful bidders shall be also released as per rules provided in J&K Engineering Manual 2020.
III Terms & Conditions Scanned copy of the Annexure- "A" & "B" duly accepted by the bidder.
IV Tax Registration Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
V GST/Latest GST clearance certificate Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
VI Undertaking Undertaking as per format at Annexure "C" that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department.
VII Experience The Bidder Shall submit documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature of work amounting to 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last 07 years in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous institutions alongwith satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be considered.

Note: - Successful Bidder (LI) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

No: - M&HDB/TS/e-tender-02/438-44
DIPK-9769/23
Dated: - 04-10-2023

Commercial Tree Planting Not Biodiverse Enough, Environmentalists Advocate For Conserving Intact Ecosystems

Press Trust Of India

Environmentalists argue that commercial planting of trees to offset carbon emissions might come with costs for biodiversity and other ecosystem functions.

Instead, they advocate for conserving and restoring intact ecosystems in their study published in the journal Cell Press.

"Current and new policy should not promote ecosystem degradation via tree plantations with a narrow view on carbon capture," write the authors, led by Jesus Aguirre-Gutierrez, Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford, UK.

Tropical ecosystems, including forests, grasslands, and savannahs, are attractive sites for tree plantations because their climate and physical features promote rapid tree growth, meaning rapid carbon capture, their study said.

While some tree plantations involve reforestation of degraded land, in many cases forests are planted in undegraded and previously unforested regions such as grasslands, which is "afforestation", they said.

Tree planting for carbon capture is often assumed to benefit biodiversity and enhance socioeconomic benefits.



However, the authors argue that this is not always the case.

Naturally existing tropical ecosystems are highly biodiverse, providing multiple ecosystem services, such as maintaining water quality, soil health, and pollination.

In comparison, the commercial plantations are usually monocultures and are dominated globally by just five tree species - teak, mahogany, cedar, silk oak, and black wattle - grown for timber, pulp, or agroforestry, they say.

For the private companies, carbon is easy to measure and monetise, compared to parameters such as biodiversity and ecosystem services, and thus, they invest in carbon-capture through plantations, the authors write.

They further argue that such plantations are limited in their ability to capture carbon, as opposed to their ambitious commitments.

"An area equivalent to the total summed area of USA, UK, China, and Russia would have to be forested to sequester one year of emissions," they said in their study.

Instead, we should prioritise conserving intact ecosystems, they say.

Tropical grasslands and savannahs are already carbon sinks.

When intact, tropical grasslands and savannahs store large quantities of carbon below ground. In contrast to the commercial plantations, which predominantly store carbon above ground, these below-ground carbon sinks, which get lost when afforested, are less susceptible to disturbances such as drought and fire, the authors write.

Thus, they say that overemphasising the benefits of tree planting for carbon capture "can disincentive the protection of intact ecosystems and can lead to negative trade-offs between carbon, biodiversity, and ecosystem function."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the parentage of my daughter namely Sundas Suhail in her School Records at Mallinson Girls School Sheikhbagh Srinagar in Class 9th, Section Yellow from Aaliya to ALLIYA NAZEER. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the Principal of said School within a period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Suhail Ahmad Dar F/O Sundass Suhail
R/O Green Lane, Azad Basti, Natipora, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the parentage of my son namely Mohammad Muqaddas in his School Records at Tyndale Biscoe School Sheikhbagh Srinagar in Class 9th, Section Yellow from Aaliya to ALLIYA NAZEER. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact the Principal of said School within a period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

Suhail Ahmad Dar F/O Mohammad Muqaddas
R/O Green Lane, Azad Basti, Natipora, Srinagar

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (Fresh to NIT No.45)

eNIT No.66 of 2023-24/3847-56/R&B Uri e-tendering DATED: 04-10-2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are being invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

Table with 8 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees), E/Money, Time for completion of work, Time & Date of Opening of Bid, Class of Contractor, M.H of Account. It lists work 01: Construction of HWC NTPHC at Churanda.

Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Baramulla.

Position of funds: Available

Position of AAA/TS/Recorded

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

Table with 5 columns: S.No, Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees), E/Money. It lists work 01: Construction of HWC NTPHC at Churanda.

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan/ CDR (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the Allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of the Tender receiving authority.

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in/acquit bid submission on process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury challan pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (the date of challan should be in between the date of start of bid and Bid submission end date) must be uploaded with the bid. The original Treasury challan (cost of tender document), and related documents etc must be uploaded with the documents of the bid.

The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and taxes:- The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and any others pecified project the relevant guidelines/standard bidding document shall be followed.

13. Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

a. All bidders shall upload the following information and documents with their bids.

b. All bidders shall upload copies of original documents defining constitution / legal status. Place of registration and principal place of business with cell No. : and correspondence address.

c. All bidders shall upload treasury challan.

d. All bidders shall upload Bid security Declaration form.

e. All bidders shall upload GSTIN No. and PAN card.

f. All bidders shall upload Valid GSTIN along with latest sales tax clearance certificate Form GST-3B for the Proceeding Month / proceeding i.e January - March

No:-2023-24/3847-56

DIPK-9814/23 Dated: 04-10-2023

Sd/ = Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Uri.

اذنیات پہاڻ
مضمون: درخواست ذمہ داران خیرین و خیرات کے لئے درخواستیں جمع کرنا اور ان کی جانچ پڑتال کرنا۔

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معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سال کے ایک درخواستیں جمع کرنا اور ان کی جانچ پڑتال کرنا۔

اذنیات نائب تحصیلدار تلگام
مضمون کاغذات و درخواستیں منجانب عبدالرشید خان ولد صد خان

Rutba Rashid (DOB: 08-06-2010)
Rehnuma Rashid (DOB: 04-03-2015)
Mohammad Uzair (DOB: 15-12-2019)
Ainain Rashid (DOB: 01-03-2022)
اشہار برادار گاہی ہر خاص و عام

DC Inspects Ongoing Re-Sectioning Works Of Padshahi Bagh Canal

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR OCTOBER 04: Continuing its endeavour to bring Administration at the door steps of the people for on spot resolution of their developmental issues, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad Wednesday held a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Padshahi Bagh area in South Tehsil of the District under a Public Outreach Programme, Weekly Block Diwas.

tween SMC and RDD, augmentation of water supply, electricity utilities, street lights and drainage system in the area, upgradation of healthcare facilities and School infrastructure, development of playground, upgradation of sports infrastructure, setting up of Patwar Khana, mitigating the issues of solid waste and sanitation facility in the area, providing ATM/banking, settlement of revenue records, macadamization of Meh-



The Public Grievance Redressal Camp witnessed a large participation of people from Padshahi Bagh and other adjoining areas of Tehsil South of Srinagar District.

During the Grievance Redressal Camp, local representatives, public delegations and individuals projected various issues and demands before the Deputy Commissioner.

The demands and issues put before the DC include resolution of jurisdictional issues be-

joor Nagar-Gulshan Abad road, repairs & construction of protection bund along Jhelum, providing e-rickshaw services, besides other development issues were flagged-off during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

The Deputy Commissioner after giving patient hearing to the issues and demands of the public, sought on the spot response from the concerned District Officers present during the Grievance Redressal Camp.

KU Students Create 'Intelligent Pillow System' To 'Revolutionise' Sleep Technology

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: In a significant stride for sleep technology, a team of innovative minds has collaborated to develop an exceptional solution for sleep enthusiasts in pursuit of the perfect night's rest.

According to the news agency, Dr Javaid Ahmad Sheikh, Senior Assistant Professor from the University of Kashmir, along with Umhara Rasool, Saqlain Mushtaq, Syed Kashif Jee-lani Alvi, Khadim Adil Hussain Mir, and Jehangir Hameed Lone, has unveiled a cutting-edge innovation poised to transform the sleeping experience – the 'Intelligent Pillow System'.

Dr Javaid, Senior Assistant Professor from the Department of Electronics and Instrumentation Technology, KU, elaborated on this smart pillow, describing it as a repository of invaluable information capable of reshaping our un-

derstanding of the science of sleep. He emphasised the critical role quality sleep plays in our physical and mental well-being, stating that sufficient sleep allows our brain and organs to rest and rejuvenate, significantly impacting our immune system, stress levels, and cognitive functions. "This groundbreaking invention could aid doctors in treating patients struggling with sleep disturbances, showcasing the potential impact on healthcare," he noted.

Umhara Rasool Khan, a fellow innovator from Kashmir University, highlighted the limitations of conventional pillows. She pointed out that despite advancements in the sleep industry, existing solutions fall short in addressing a range of sleep-related challenges such as snoring, discomfort, temperature regulation, and overall health monitoring during rest.



Government Rescues 14 Child Beggars in Surprise Raid at Lal Chowk

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Acting swiftly after receiving repeated complaints about child begging in the capital city of Srinagar, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of the district Wednesday swung into action and conducted a "surprise raid" in the city centre Lal Chowk where 14 child beggars were rescued and taken for counselling.

This was for the first time that a 'special surprise drive' against child begging was launched by the CWC at Lal Chowk. "We had been receiving complaints about frequent child begging in various parts of Srinagar. Today, we decided to conduct a surprise check at Lal Chowk where we caught hold of 14 child beggars including four girls," CWC head for Srinagar, Dr Khair-un-Nisa told news agency.

She said while they were taking the child beggars to a shelter home at Nishat 'their parents

started begging for the release of their kids. "This is what makes our job tough. There is a nexus between parents and kids. Ironically, the parents of the kids rescued today were also beggars," Dr Nisa said, adding that "we will counsel all the 14 kids (all of them minors) and handover them to the CWCs of their respective districts/Stater."

Asked about any tentative number of outside beggars in Srinagar, she said there is no accurate data available as the same may be lying with the Labour department. "Majority of these beggars are from Punjab, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh," she said. "In three months, we have rescued 32 child beggars including today's 18."

Dr Nisa said that the special drive will continue in the days ahead as complaints of large numbers of street children including those indulging in begging outside major shrines and markets of Srinagar.

"So far, the previous cases

have been transferred to CWCs of other places outside J&K for their rehabilitation as almost all among them were non-J&K residents. All of them were migrants and were shifted to their native places," she said.

She said an eight-year-old domestic helper was also rescued from Srinagar after a neighbour called the CWC. "Our primary job is to counsel and rehabilitate the rescued persons and hand them over to their respective CWCs," Dr Nisa said. She said that all the residents of Srinagar who have minor domestic helpers at their should voluntarily approach the CWC. To a query about how she feels to lead the drive against children in street situations being a woman, Dr Nisa said that she has done LLB and being a law-aware person, she forgets about gender and focuses on her duty while on the streets."

B'pora Family Protests In Sgr Against Alleged Murder Of Their Beloved

KO NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: The family members of a youth from Kema village of Alooosa in north Kashmir's Bandipora district staged a protest on Wednesday in Srinagar, demanding action against the person involved in the

alleged murder of their beloved. Scores of family members gathered at Srinagar's press enclave today and raised slogans in favour of their demands and demanded a probe into the alleged killing of their beloved on September 22, 2023.

While speaking to the news agency, the family of 19-year-old Tasaduk Dar, who was allegedly murdered in Bandipora, said, "Our son worked as a carpenter in a factory in Bandipora for the last two years, and he was killed by the factory owner," alleged his father.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES, J&K
Tourist Reception Centre, Srinagar/Nowabad Canal Road, Jammu
(Email-jkfdjmu@gmail.com, Phone No. 0194-2500106, 0191-2951670)

Sh. Sanjay Kumar,
S/o. Prem Nath
R/o. 51-Bhandarkoot Kishtwar.
(Multitasking Staff (Class IV))

No: DOF-ESTB/124/2023-05 Dated: 04 -10-2023

Sub: Unauthorized absence from duty -Final Notice thereof

Whereas, you were appointed as Multitasking Staff (MTS) vide Government Order No: 282-JK (APD) of 2022 dated: 29.10.2022 on probation for a period of two years and directed to report Directorate of Fisheries, J&K for further duties.

Whereas, you, joined the Camp Office, Directorate of Fisheries, Jammu on 23.12.2022 and; Whereas, you were deputed to Chief Project Officer, Gagribal for undergoing six months special training course at Trout Farm Dachigam Srinagar vide Order No-810-Fisheries of 2022 dated: 24.12.2022 with instruction to report concerned for the training

Whereas, Chief Project Officer, Gagribal Srinagar, intimated that you did not report / joined the said training course and thus remained on unauthorized absence from duty w.e.f. 24.12.2022.

Whereas, in view of your continued absence from duty, you were served several notices, commanding upon you to explain the reasons of noncompliance of orders and un-authorized absence from duty; and Whereas, the last notice was served upon you vide letter No. DOF/Estb/124/2023-05/Misc dated: 17.07.2023 in terms of which you were again directed to join the training course immediately; and

Whereas, the reply submitted by you in response to above notices was examined by this office and same was found without any merit and without just cause; and

Whereas, it has been observed despite issuance of several notices commanding upon you to join the training course you have shown utter disregard to the orders of the Government and the notices issued upon you and have willfully remained on authorized absence w.e.f. 24.12.2022 and.

Whereas, in view of your noncompliance of orders and showing your conduct and being on probation, you are liable from termination from services in accordance with the relevant rules governing the subject and.

Now, therefore, before taking an appropriate action in the matter against you, you are given last and final opportunity to join your duties at Chief Project Officer, Gagribal Srinagar, within 15 days failing which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve in the Department and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you.

DIPK-9811/23
dated: 04-10-2023

Mohammad Farooq Dar, JKAS
Director Fisheries, J&K

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


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 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
18 Rabi-ul-Awwal
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:06
ZUHR	12:20
ASR	4:31
Magrib	6:16
ISHA	7:37

This Day In History

- 1957 - USSR launches Sputnik I, 1st artificial Earth satellite
- 1958 - Fifth Republic of France is established.
- 1959 - Netherlands beats Belgium 9-1
- 1959 - USSR Luna 3 sent back 1st photos of Moon's far side
- 1964 - 3 cars of a commuter train derailed in South Africa killing 81
- 1965 - USSR launches Luna 7; crash lands on Moon
- 1967 - Omar Ali Saifuddin III of Brunei abdicates in favour of his son, His Majesty Sultan Hassanali Bolkiah.
- 1968 - A Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) delegation meet with the Derry March organisers and try to have the march cancelled; eventually it was decided to go ahead with the march.
- 1975 - A Cessna 310Q airplane crashes over Wilmington, North Carolina, killing the pilot and severely injuring several pro wrestlers affiliated with the NWA's Mid-Atlantic promotion. One of the survivors is the legendary Ric Flair.
- 1976 - Official launch of the Intercity 125 High Speed Train (HST).
- 1978 - Funeral services held for Pope John Paul I
- 1982 - West German parliament officially confirms Helmut Kohl as the country's new Chancellor
- 1985 - Free Software Foundation is founded in Massachusetts, USA
- 1990 - Regional elections held in East Germany
- 1993 - Troops of President Boris Yeltsin occupy Russian White House (parliament)
- 1994 - Soyuz TM-20 launches
- 1996 - Shahid Afridi scores century in 37 balls for Pakistan v Sri Lanka
- 2006 - WikiLeaks is launched, created by internet activist Julian Assange
- 2011 - US State Department lists Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (ISIL) as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist with a \$10 million reward for information leading to his capture
- 2012 - Turkey's parliament approves cross-border military operations in Syria

From KO Archives

IAS Officer, Others Face Prosecution For Fraud

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Kashmiri officialdom was never very particular about how contemptibly low it stoops to plunder public funds, but it must have required an unusual degree of meanness to cheat backward Gujjars and Bakarwaals of their paltry government compensation for losses suffered due to hailstorms and heavy rain. In this 7-year-old case, the then deputy commissioner Pulwama - incidentally, a senior IAS officer - S. D. Lone; another deputy commissioner, Muhammed Akram Hajam; the then assistant commissioner, revenue, and presently director, land records, Srinagar, Muhammed Afzal Bhat and the then tehsildar Pulwama, Habibullah Mir, along with nearly half-a-dozen petty officials of the district DCs office have been challenged by the vigilance organisation for misappropriating Rs 15 lakh which the state had sanctioned as relief to the nomads for livestock losses during natural calamities in the hilly areas of Shopy-an and Pulwama. The entire amount had been placed at the disposal of the then DC, who had been charged with the responsibility of disbursing it to the deserving members of the community after proper verification.

Vigilance investigations revealed that the officers named in the case, in collusion with four private persons (who have asked been charge sheeted had manipulated records to show that Rs 14,80,940 had been distributed among 652 members of the Gujjar and Bakarwaal community.

Sixty-two persons among the supposed beneficiaries selected at random by the VO, denied having received any relief, and the finger impressions on acquaintance rolls did not tally with the fingerprints. Expert established that thumb impressions supposed to be the marks of 181 different recipients were in fact the thumbprints of only a few people repeated over and over on the rolls. The VO also found that recipients who were shown belonging to the Udhampur and Rajoun districts were only fictitious names and that Rs 3,75,090 were deposited with Reshi Gas Agency rather than going to a sufferer.

Having prima-facie established the officers' involvement in the fraud; the VO has pressed charges against them under relevant laws before the special anti-corruption court in Srinagar.

(Kashmir Observer, October 05, 2000)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that timing of stoppage of train no. 19027/19028 Bandra Terminus - Jammu Tawi - Bandra Terminus Weekly Express at Gotan station has been revised as under:-

Train No. 19027		Train No. 19028	
Bandra Terminus - Jammu Tawi Exp.		Jammu Tawi - Bandra (T) Exp.	
From 30.09.2023		From 02.10.2023	
Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
02:31	02:33	00:08	00:10
Gotan			

Any inconvenience caused to the passengers is deeply regretted.

Download RailMadad App from www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

In reference to Notice inviting open tender (tender notice no. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 dated 26.09.2023) through E-process (IREPS) for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train from Dhandari Kalan to Agartala and back to Dhandari Kalan on round trip, published in newspapers on 27.09.2023 and corrigendum published on 30.09.2023, following changes have been made:-

Due to administrative reasons, the Tentative Time Table Schedule (Annexure-D) for Dhandari Kalan - Agartala - Dhandari Kalan PCET is revised in tender document. The same has been withdrawn and the revised Final Time Table Schedule (Annexure-D) with tender document is uploaded on official website for e-tendering i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

All the prospective bidders are advised to note accordingly and submit their bids as per revised tender document.

No. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 Dated: 03.10.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

3062/23

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 05-10-2023

Shrinking Paddy Land

The past decade has witnessed a worrisome trend in the Valley's farm sector: While the rice yield per hectare of paddy land is increasing, the paddy land itself is diminishing at an alarming rate, as revealed by a report published in this paper. According to official figures, over the past seven years, Kashmir has lost a staggering 6,000 hectares of paddy land, reducing the total land under paddy cultivation from 1,35,000 hectares to 1,29,000 hectares. Although there has been a significant increase in rice yield, this trend of diminishing paddy land demands immediate attention.

What has led to this state of affairs? Many people rightly blame the conversion of farmland into real estate and the increasing urbanization. However, the senior officials from the department of agriculture have also blamed the shifting cropping patterns and economic considerations as factors contributing to this decline. Some farmers find it more profitable to cultivate vegetables or convert paddy land into orchards. While this diversification is understandable, it exacerbates the shrinking of paddy land.

Successive governments have often been criticized for failing to enforce bans on construction on agricultural land effectively. The need for a comprehensive housing policy for every village in Kashmir is therefore emphasized as a potential solution to this pressing issue. The government must take proactive measures, including the formulation of robust housing policies, to address the issue and safeguard the region's agricultural heritage.

Domestic crop production already falls far short of the food requirement in the Valley and we have to import heavily to meet the shortfall. However, there is still a degree of self-sufficiency in our countryside. And if the crop production in the countryside too goes down as the facts cited in our story reveal, it will further complicate the situation. But, this is an area which doesn't command the attention of the government. Both in urban and rural Kashmir, the agriculture land is being relentlessly converted into housing colonies. This is despite the fact that the government has imposed due restrictions on doing so. This makes it imperative for the government to step in and frame policies that not only encourage agricultural production but also stop massive conversion of land into real estate.

The shrinking of paddy land in Kashmir is a concerning issue that threatens both food security and the livelihoods of its people. While technological advancements have boosted rice yields, it's essential to prioritize the preservation of agricultural land for a sustainable future. And the government needs to play a role required of it.

OTHER OPINION

Nobel Prize For Medicine Acknowledges Possibilities Of mRNA Vaccines For A Range Of Diseases, From Cancer To Malaria And AIDS

Every October, Katalin Kariko's mother would faithfully listen to the radio, hoping to catch the news that her daughter had finally won a Nobel Prize. "Many scientists work very very hard," Kariko recalled pointing out to her, in an interview published by the University of Pennsylvania this week. And forget a Nobel, Kariko had never even got a grant for her dogged pursuit to unlock the potential of mRNA to help cure diseases, with her research being described as "unworkable". That she has, along with her fellow pursuer of the seemingly impossible, Drew Weissman, won the Nobel Prize for Medicine this year, comes as a vindication of their conviction that mRNA research holds the key to unlocking the future of medicine.

Kariko and Weissman sought to use mRNA — the messenger which carries instructions from DNA to our cells on manufacturing specific proteins — as an agent that could help the body develop its own cures. This went against the prevailing orthodoxy which had long dismissed the possibility of introducing mRNA into the body without it being attacked by the body's immune system. This had been seen in numerous trials on animals, in whom synthetic mRNA led to severe inflammation. Kariko and Weissman's discovery was that the mRNA could be modified in a specific way, so that the immune system wouldn't attack it. But this elicited little interest and the 2005 paper documenting the breakthrough was largely ignored. It drew attention only in 2020, when its potential to develop effective vaccines quickly to arrest Covid-19's devastating sweep through the world, began to be explored.

The vaccines developed using Kariko and Weissman's discovery saved millions of lives. Beyond that, their work has also opened a wide vista of possibilities for tackling a range of other diseases, from cancer — with mRNA being possibly tailored to target individual patients' tumours — to malaria, HIV and Zika. The Nobel Prize is an acknowledgement of this promise.

The Indian Express

Making Disability-Friendly Provisions, Disabled-Friendly



Asif Ahmad Bhat

“
The sufferings of specially-abled people did not end here. Not only did they have to wait for about half a month to get the documents verified but they also had to navigate their way through the buildings of these institutions or departments which were not disability-friendly. This, despite recent legislations like Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and recent campaigns like the Accessible India Campaign

While back, the government issued an order related to the specially-abled persons to get their document of disability re-verified. The purpose of this order was to expose the corrupt elements. Basically, there was a large proportion of people who had registered themselves as persons with disabilities when in reality they were physically fit and healthy.

On one hand, it was a good initiative to expose those masquerading as persons with disabilities. On the other hand, it was the beginning of a hectic process for those suffering from the slings and arrows of damaged body parts. They were made to wander from pillar to post to get their documents verified like Unique Disability Identity card (UDID), which a person could get only at certain places; a document to be verified at the concerned Bank authorities; an affidavit from a first class magistrate; and an e-ticket from food and civil supplies department - and the list is endless.

Another major problem faced by them was that they could not send anyone to help them out; they had to do it themselves. The burden of the biometric lay on their head much like everything else. They had to visit each department multiple times to get their documents verified. The time-gap between the appointments (visits) was in itself frustrating. For example, to get a UDID card, specially-abled persons had to first visit the concerned department to get the appointment. Almost a week or two later, they were again supposed to visit it to get their biometric done. The third time, they had to visit the local computer operator

to get it downloaded or printed out. Similarly, they were to get an e-ticket from the food and civil supplies department. They had to submit the documents on the first visit and almost ten to fifteen days later, the e-ticket was issued in their favour.

The sufferings of specially-abled people did not end here. Not only did they have to wait for about half a month to get the documents verified but they also had to navigate their way through the buildings of these institutions or departments which were not disability-friendly. This, despite recent legislations like Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and recent campaigns like the Accessible India Campaign. With no disability-friendly infrastructure in place, persons with disabilities had to struggle to get to different floors of government offices and had to rely on the help of people to physically lift them to various chambers for documentation. After completing the formalities of re-verification documentation, their ordeal was far from over. They had to again rely on other people waiting in line to get them downstairs as well. They were left to the good-will of onlookers who may or may not have helped them. The whole ordeal accentuated their sufferings instead of making anything more accessible and easy for them. The entire process of making the world more democratic and accessible fell flat as they were reminded of their disability again and made to suffer because of it despite the fact that it was the infrastructure's disability in the first place and not theirs. The government needs to ensure that no one is left behind.

It is not only the fault of those various institutions, but the state

too is responsible. Changing the name of disability to specially-abled is not enough. Delivering speeches on disability day won't improve their condition. No doubt the state took this step to bring transparency and allow the real beneficiaries to avail benefit. But the manner of its implementation was not disabled-friendly.

It is the collective responsibility of society to not let them feel that they have any disability. The state must restructure the pattern of their buildings, shifting the main office to the ground floor or making special arrangements so that the specially-abled person will not suffer to get their work done. The state may also provide an increment in their pension. The criteria to avail various documents must be made simple and easy. Their work must be given a top priority to avoid frequent visits. A separate department apart from the social welfare department must be there that would have a link with all the concerned institutions or departments, so that specially-abled people need not visit various departments to get their work completed. No doubt there are numerous NGOs who tirelessly work for improving the standard of specially-abled persons. Still, there are deficiencies and loopholes about their policies - and it requires immediate attention.

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

The author is pursuing M.A in history from University of Kashmir



OBSERVER MAIL

All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
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Enforcing Fines for Tourists Littering in Kashmir

I write to express deep concern about the pervasive issue of littering by tourists in Kashmir. While tourism is vital to the region's economy, the unbridled littering jeopardizes its pristine beauty and ecological balance. To tackle this problem, it is imperative to implement fines for tourists found littering. Kashmir's breathtaking land-

scapes and cultural heritage are its crowning glory. However, the irresponsible behavior of some tourists who discard trash haphazardly not only spoils the environment but also disrespects local culture and harms the livelihoods of the community.

To address this issue effectively, local authorities should collaborate with environmental organizations

and tourism boards to establish clear guidelines and fines for littering. These penalties should be prominently displayed at tourist spots and enforced consistently.

Educational campaigns and local guides can play a pivotal role in raising awareness among tourists about responsible tourism. Encouraging them to respect the environment and local customs will help

mitigate the problem.

In conclusion, immediate action is needed to combat tourist littering in Kashmir. Implementing fines and promoting responsible tourism will safeguard the region's natural beauty and cultural significance. Let us work together to ensure that Kashmir remains the paradise on Earth it has always been.

Sania Meer

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Significance of Skill Development

Dr. Rajkumar Singh

Skill development in school education is a crucial aspect of preparing students for success in both their academic and professional lives. It goes beyond traditional academic subjects and focuses on imparting practical skills that are essential for personal growth and future employment. The key points regarding skill development in school education include:

Holistic Development: Schools should aim to provide a well-rounded education that includes not only academic knowledge but also a wide range of skills. This can include cognitive skills, social skills, emotional skills, and practical skills.

Curriculum Integration: Skill development should be integrated into the school curriculum rather than treated as a separate entity. Skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and communication can be embedded into various subjects, making learning more meaningful and practical.

Extracurricular Activities: Extracurricular activities such as sports, arts, music, and clubs can play a significant role in skill development. They provide opportunities for students to develop leadership, teamwork, and time-management skills, among others.

Vocational Education: Offering vocational or technical education programs can be beneficial for students who are interested in specific trades or career paths. These programs can equip students with practical skills and certifications that are valuable in the job market.

Life Skills: Schools should also focus on teaching essential life skills such as financial literacy, time management, conflict resolution, and problem-solving. These skills are critical for personal success and independence.

Technology Skills: In today's digital age, it's crucial for students to develop technology-related skills. This includes computer literacy, coding, and digital communication skills, which are valuable both academically and in the workplace.

Soft Skills: Soft skills like communication, adaptability, leadership, and empathy are highly sought after by employers. Schools can incorporate activities and projects that help students cultivate these skills.

Teacher Training: Teachers play a vital role in skill development. They should receive training and support in incorporating skill-building activities into their teaching methods.

BENEFITS OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill development at the school stage offers a wide range of benefits to students, educators, and society as a whole. These benefits extend



beyond academic knowledge and play a crucial role in personal and professional growth which include.

Preparation for the Workforce: Schools that emphasize skill development prepare students for future employment by equipping them with practical skills that are in demand in the job market. This can include communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and digital literacy.

Improved Academic Performance: Many skills, such as critical thinking, research, and time management, are transferable and can enhance academic performance. Students who develop these skills tend to perform better in their studies.

Enhanced Problem-Solving: Skill development encourages students to think critically and creatively, enabling them to approach challenges and problems with confidence. This problem-solving ability is valuable in both academic and real-world settings.

Effective Communication: Schools that focus on skill development often emphasize communication skills, including verbal and written communication, presentation skills, and active listening. These skills are essential for effective interpersonal relationships and future careers.



SCHOOLS SHOULD AIM TO PROVIDE A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION THAT INCLUDES NOT ONLY ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE BUT ALSO A WIDE RANGE OF SKILLS. This can include cognitive skills, social skills, emotional skills, and practical skill

Increased Confidence and Self-Esteem: As students acquire new skills and achieve success in various areas, their confidence and self-esteem tend to grow. This can have a positive impact on their overall well-being.

Adaptability and Resilience: Skill development teaches students to adapt to changing situations and bounce back from setbacks. These qualities are essential in a rapidly changing world.

Leadership and Teamwork: Schools that promote skill development often include opportunities for students to work in teams and take on leadership roles. These experiences help students develop leader-

ship skills and the ability to collaborate effectively with others.

Preparation for Life Challenges: Life skills, such as financial literacy, time management, and conflict resolution, are often part of skill development programs. These skills prepare students to navigate the challenges they will encounter in adulthood.

Global Competence: In a globalized world, schools that emphasize skill development often focus on global awareness, cultural competency, and empathy. These skills are essential for understanding and working with people from diverse backgrounds.

ability: Students who graduate with a diverse set of skills are often more attractive to employers. They are better equipped to adapt to changing job requirements and contribute effectively to their organizations.

METHODS OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill development at the school stage can be achieved through various methods and approaches. These methods are designed to help students acquire a wide range of skills, including cognitive, social, emotional, and practical skills. The skill development in schools include:

Project-Based Learning (PBL): PBL involves students working on projects or real-world problems that require them to apply their knowledge and skills. This approach promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills.

Experiential Learning: Experiential learning engages students in hands-on experiences that allow them to apply what they've learned in the classroom.

Collaborative Learning: Group activities and collaborative projects encourage students to work together, communicate effectively, and develop teamwork skills.

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Activities: Activities that

challenge students to think critically and solve complex problems help them develop analytical and problem-solving skills. This can include puzzles, debates, and case studies.

Peer Teaching and Mentoring: Encouraging students to teach their peers or mentor younger students can enhance their communication and leadership skills while reinforcing their own understanding of the subject matter.

Skill-Specific Classes: Offering dedicated classes or workshops in specific skills, such as coding, public speaking, or financial literacy, can provide students with targeted skill development opportunities.

Extracurricular Activities: Clubs, sports, arts, and other extracurricular activities offer students a chance to develop various skills, including leadership, teamwork, time management, and creativity.

Service Learning: Service learning combines community service with academic learning, enabling students to develop civic engagement, empathy, and a sense of social responsibility.

Simulations and Role-Playing: Simulations and role-playing exercises allow students to practice real-world scenarios, such as business negotiations or historical events, helping them develop decision-making and interpersonal skills.

Technology Integration: The use of technology in the classroom can enhance digital literacy and other technology-related skills. Online courses, educational apps, and computer programming classes are examples of tech-based skill development.

Cross-Curricular Integration: Integrating skill development into multiple subject areas allows students to see the relevance of skills across disciplines.

Assessment and Feedback: Regular assessment of students' skills, along with constructive feedback, helps them track their progress and make improvements. Teachers can use rubrics and self-assessment tools for this purpose.

Teacher Training and Professional Development: Teachers play a crucial role in skill development. Ongoing training and professional development opportunities help educators learn how to incorporate skill-building activities into their teaching methods.

Dr. Rajkumar Singh is a Youth Motivator, presently Professor of Political Science along with Dean, Student's Welfare (DSW), at B.N. Mandal University, Madhepura (Bihar), India. His 25 books were published in addition to about 1000 articles in national and international journals and daily newspapers from 25 foreign countries

Nobel Prize in Physics

Unveiling the Secrets of Electrons

Amelle Zair

The 2023 Nobel prize in physics has been awarded to a trio of scientists for pioneering tools used to study the world of electrons.

Electrons are sub-atomic particles that play a role in many phenomena we see every day, from electricity to magnetism. This year's three Nobel physics laureates demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light in order to investigate processes that involve electrons.

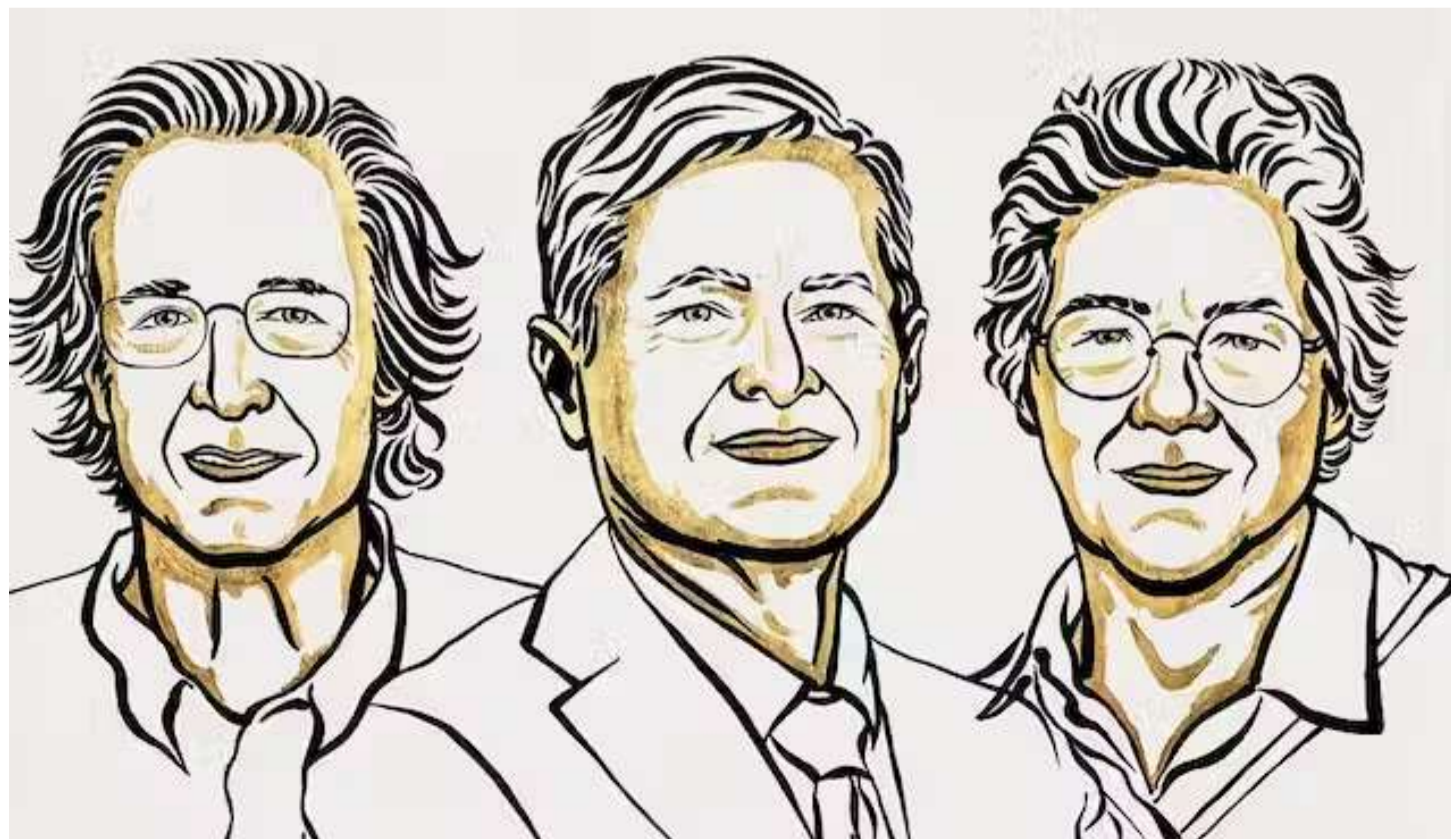
Pierre Agostini from The Ohio State University in the US, Ferenc Krausz from the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics in Germany and Anne L'Huillier from Lund University in Sweden will share the prize sum of 11 million Swedish kronor (€822,910).

Changes in electrons typically occur in a few tenths of an "attosecond", which is a billionth of a billionth of a second. In order to study such brief events, special technology was needed.

The laureates developed experimental methods that produced pulses of light so short that they are measured in attoseconds. These could then be used to study the fleeting dynamics of electrons in physical matter – something that wasn't previously possible.

The attosecond pulses, the shortest flashes of light ever produced, sparked a revolution in photonics – the science of light waves. They were used to take snapshots of electrons in different physical systems, such as in atoms, chiral molecules – molecules that are mirror images of one another – and very tiny nanoparticles among others.

The laureates have all contributed to enabling the investigation of such processes.



For the first time, these quick pulses allowed scientists to match up the time scale of their observations to the natural, very fast time scales at which electron dynamics occurred.

This achievement required significant innovations in laser science and engineering

– innovations that this year's Nobel laureates worked on for decades.

L'Huillier discovered a new effect that arose as the result of interactions between laser light and atoms in a gas. This interaction could be used to produce pulses of ul-

traviolet light that were each a few hundred attoseconds long.

Agostini and Krausz took this discovery even further. In 2001, Agostini was able to produce short light pulses and measure their width. The series of bursts produced using

something called the RABBIT technique lasted just 250 attoseconds.

At around the same time, Krausz developed a different experimental approach, using it to successfully isolate a light pulse that lasted 650 attoseconds.

The two approaches developed by Agostini and Krausz form the basis for much attosecond research carried out today.

Exciting applications

There are some exciting potential applications for these attosecond pulses.

They could be used to study previously unknown physical phenomena in different types of material.

A spin-off area known as ultra-fast switching could also one day lead to the development of very fast-working electronics.

Attosecond pulse science could also find uses in medical diagnostics. By exposing a blood sample to a very fast pulse of light, scientists can detect tiny changes in the molecules in that sample. This could lead to a new way of diagnosing disorders, including cancer.

Our team at King's has been working to combine the resolution on physical processes that attosecond pulses enable with novel advances in quantum information processing. This would create pulses of quantum light at the attosecond time scale that could have applications in quantum computing.

The award of the Nobel prize in this field inspires us to redouble our efforts to break novel ground. We wish our colleagues continued success, and we are eager to see what they will surprise us with next.

By arrangements with The Conversation

SC Says Will Examine Immunity To Lawmakers From Prosecution If Criminality Attached To Their Acts

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Wednesday it will examine whether the immunity granted to lawmakers from prosecution for taking bribe to make a speech or vote in Parliament and state legislatures extends to them even if criminality is attached to their actions, as it began reconsideration of its 1998 judgement in the JMM bribery scandal that rocked the country 25 years ago.

The apex court's 1998 verdict granted MPs and MLAs immunity from prosecution for taking bribes to make a speech or vote in legislature. At the outset of the day-long proceedings, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta urged the seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud that the court need not go into the immunity aspect under Article 105 of the Constitution and the controversy, possibly, can be narrowed down in view of the fact that the offence of bribery is complete when a bribe is given and accepted by the lawmaker, something which can be tackled under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Article 105(2) stipulates that no member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in court in respect of anything said or any vote cast in Parliament or any committee thereof. A similar provision exists for MLAs under Article 194(2).

The bench, referring to the 1998 judgement, said it was held that irrespective of the criminality, immunity is available to the lawmakers.

"We will have to ultimately deal with the issue of immunity as well. Since we are sitting in the combination of seven (judges), we are not required to see the immunity in all circumstances. We have to decide a very narrow issue whether that immunity is attached to



lawmakers) when there is an element of criminality," said the bench, which also comprised justices A S Bopanna, M M Sundresh, P S Narasimha, J B Pardiwala, Sanjay Kumar and Manoj Misra.

The bench, however, took note of the submissions of the solicitor general that it should not venture into the larger context of immunity available to the lawmakers.

Senior lawyer Raju Ramchandran also urged the court to not interfere with the carefully considered and well-reasoned 1998 judgement which was not unconscious of constitutional morality and that "there is no ground to upset the view taken".

"Political corruption is the fact of life and misuse of law is equally a fact of life... and this court has come to help the citizens and lawmakers who have suffered unjust persecution," Ramchandran told the court, adding lawmakers were given immunity from prosecution to protect them from unjust harassment.

"Should we grant immunity to political corruption just on the ground of apprehension of misuse of the law?" Chief Justice Chandrachud quipped.

Since this apprehension of

misuse has been at the root of grant of parliamentary privilege from historical times, the court is only being asked to continue what has stood the test of time, Ramchandran said.

"We should not be entering into issues which do not arise before us. The law has evolved in our country... Because the whole purpose was to encourage free speech and free dialogue in Parliament and in state legislatures and that we must preserve. The legislatures in both the Union and the states are an important part of the nation," the CJ said.

The court referred to Article 105(2) and Article 194(2) of the Constitution relating to immunity to lawmakers.

"Suppose a legislator has taken a bribe for casting a vote in a particular manner or making a speech...the court cannot invalidate the vote because it was motivated by a bribe. Suppose a person is convicted for an offence of bribery, can the court say the vote should be excluded from counting parliamentary majority. It's still a valid vote," the bench said.

The bench, however, said immunity cannot be attached when there is "criminal wrongdoing".

"So once an MP either casts

his vote and speaks in the House, he will not be answerable to any court or in any proceedings for the vote which he has cast and the speech made," it said, adding one cannot dispute a legislation on grounds that the votes cast in its favour were vitiated by criminal wrongdoing.

"But that immunity, which attaches to vote, does not attach to crime that takes place independent of casting of vote or rendering of speech," the bench observed.

Senior advocate P S Patwalia, assisting the bench as an amicus curiae (friend of court), said the object of Article 105 was not to protect lawmakers against ordinary criminal law but to protect "the integrity of House" and its legislative proceedings.

The bench asked whether immunity against prosecution will be available if bribe is paid to lawmakers to not speak or vote.

"The offence (of bribery) is complete if the bribe is accepted... Even under normal law, if you take a bribe for doing a legal act, you are guilty. Even if you take a bribe and don't do the act, you are guilty. Only offer and acceptance have to be proved. That is the law," Patwalia said.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for an intervenor, supported the revisiting of the 1998 judgement and will commence his submissions on Thursday.

Nearly 25 years after the JMM bribery scandal rocked the country, the apex court had on September 20 agreed to reconsider its judgment, saying it was an important issue having a significant bearing on "morality of polity".

A five-judge bench of the apex court had decided to refer the issue to a larger seven-judge bench.

A five-judge constitution bench had in its majority verdict delivered in the PV Narasimha Rao versus CBI case held that parliamentarians have

immunity against criminal prosecution for any speech made and vote cast inside the House under Article 105(2) and Article 194(2) of the Constitution.

The issue came under the Supreme Court's lens again in 2019, when a bench headed by then chief justice Ranjan Gogoi was hearing an appeal filed by Sita Soren, JMM MLA from Jama and daughter-in-law of party chief Shibui Soren, who was accused in the JMM bribery scandal. The Justice Gogoi-led bench had referred to a five-judge bench the crucial question, noting it had "wide ramifications" and was of "substantial public importance".

Sita Soren was accused of taking bribe to vote for a particular candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in 2012. She had contended that the constitutional provision granting lawmakers immunity from prosecution, which saw her father-in-law being let off the hook in the JMM bribery scandal, be applied to her.

She had moved the apex court against the Jharkhand High Court order of February 17, 2014 refusing to quash the criminal case lodged against her.

The three-judge bench had then said it will revisit the SC verdict in the sensational JMM bribery case involving Shibui Soren, a former Jharkhand chief minister and ex-union minister, and four other party MPs who had allegedly accepted bribes to vote against the no-confidence motion threatening the survival of the P V Narasimha Rao government in 1993.

The Narasimha Rao government, which was in a minority, survived the no-confidence vote with their support.

The CBI registered a case against Soren and four other JMM Lok Sabha MPs but the Supreme Court quashed it citing immunity from prosecution they enjoyed under Article 105(2) of the Constitution.

Nepal Quake Triggered Sikkim Disaster? Scientists To Find Out

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: Scientists are exploring whether the strong earthquake that struck Nepal and the surrounding region on Tuesday is responsible for the south Lhonak lake outburst, which triggered a flash flood in the Teesta river basin in Sikkim.

The lake outburst also resulted in the breach of the Chungthang dam, which is the largest hydropower project in the state. This dam is part of the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Teesta Stage III Hydro Electric Project, in which the state government is the majority stakeholder.

Satellite images released by the Hyderabad-based National Remote Sensing Centre showed that the area of south Lhonak lake reduced by over 100 hectares compared to its size on September 17. This suggests that the lake outburst caused a flash flood in the Teesta River basin in north Sikkim.

Officials said at least eight people died and 69 more, including 22 army personnel, were missing.

Scientists are exploring whether the earthquake that hit Nepal might be a cause of the flash floods in Sikkim. The lake was already vulnerable and covered an area of 168 hectares. Its area has now reduced to 60 hectares, indicating that about 100 hectares of water volume has breached the level, explained a senior official at the Central Water Commission (CWC) to PTI.

The official stated that while it's difficult to determine right now, a cloud burst does not cause such results. Some experts who have visited the site believe that the earthquake may have triggered the floods there.

The flood alerts were also shared with Bangladesh.

The NRSC satellite imagery

revealed that the lake covered approximately 162.7 hectares. Its area increased to 167.4 hectares on September 28 but drastically reduced to 60.3 hectares.

In this satellite data, it is evident that the lake area has significantly reduced compared to the September 17, 2023, RISAT 1A MRS satellite data, read an NRSC report.

The glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) in portions of Lhonak Lake, Mangan district, which caused a rapid rise in water levels with very high velocities downstream along the Teesta River Basin in the early hours of October 4, has resulted in severe damage in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts, the State Disaster Management Authority said.

The Chungthang NHPC dam and the bridge were washed away. Two bridges at Minshithang, one bridge at Zema, and Ritchu Bridge, including the Sangkhalang bridge, were washed away, the state government said in a statement.

The SDMA's statement highlighted that following the lake outburst, the water level in the rivers rose at a speed of 15 meters per second.

The lake outburst caused extensive damage to life and property, including the breakdown of road networks and communication. Several vital bridges connecting to the forward border areas with Sikkim have been washed away due to the flash floods in Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong, and Namchi districts of Sikkim, according to Sikkim's Chief Secretary Vijay Bhushan Pathak.

Arun B Shrestha, senior climate change specialist, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), said: "We're facing a devastating flash flood in the Teesta River.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Power Situation

valley is witnessing power outages amid the prolonged dry season with officials maintaining that the situation might go bad to worse.

"Due to the prolonged dry season, the water bodies are dry and we are unable to generate adequate power supply," said an official from Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL).

He said the supply from the northern grid is also low and the demand is high in the Union Territory.

"Currently the demand is 1600 Megawatts in the Valley but we are able to produce 1000 MW only. If the situation remains the same, this winter will be very difficult," he said.

Pertinent to mention that the Valley is experiencing dry weather and above normal temperatures for eight weeks and has adversely affected horticulture and agriculture sector production, particularly apple.

The ongoing dry weather has also led to a fall in the water level of Jhelum and other water bodies. The water volume in the water bodies of the valley has dropped around 75% than normal, according to reports.

A Junior Engineer from the KPDCL told Kashmir Observer that the Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to generate around 20,000 megawatts of hydel power but generates only around 1200 megawatts.

"But in winters the UT is able to generate only 300 MW of electricity against the demand of over 1800 MWs," he said.

The officials blame rainfall deficit and the melting of glaciers as the reason for less generation of electricity.

"Since there was less rainfall and the glaciers melt very fast in summers only, we are unable to generate the power" he added.

Another KPDCL official informed Kashmir Observer that they require water from the Jhelum and its tributaries for electricity generation. However, the water levels in these sources are currently low, hampering their ability to produce electricity.

"In such circumstances, we are compelled to resort to power cuts. During the daytime, we wait for water to accumulate and then activate the turbine during peak hours," the official said, requesting anonymity, citing a lack of authorization to speak to the media.

Furthermore, the official explained that during the summer months, when water flow is ample, they can generate a significant amount of electricity without needing to employ this process.

77.61 Percent

The existing council headed by National Conference's Feroz Ahmad

Khan completed its five-year term on October 1.

A total of 95,388 voters are eligible to exercise their franchise to decide the electoral fate of 85 candidates in 26 seats of the 30-member Hill Council, according to election officials.

Four councillors with voting rights are being nominated by the administration.

The National Conference and Congress have announced a pre-poll alliance but have put up 17 and 22 candidates respectively. Both parties said the arrangement has been restricted to areas where there is a tough contest with the BJP.

The BJP, which won one seat in the last election and later took its tally to three with the joining of two PDP councillors, has fielded 17 candidates this time.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is trying its luck from four seats while 25 independents are also in the fray, the officials said.

Electronic voting machines are being used for the first time for the council elections.

The elections to LAHDC-Kargil was rescheduled from September 10 to October 4 on the directions of the Supreme Court which took serious note of the UT administration denying the "plough" symbol to National Conference candidates.

Holding that the National Conference is entitled to its symbol, the apex court dismissed the Ladakh administration's plea on the issue and also imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on it.

2 Terrorists Killed

spokesperson said. Police identified them as Basit Amin Bhat of Frisal and Saqib Ahmad Lone of Hawoora and said that both of them were involved in several terror crime cases.

Basit, the spokesperson said, was involved in case FIR No 93/2016 under section 147, 148, 149, 336, 332 RPC, Case FIR No 95/2016 under section 147, 148, 149, 336, 332 RPC, Case FIR No 35/2021 under section 18, 20, 38 UA(P) Act and Case FIR No 55/2021 under section 302 IPC, 7/27 A, Act 13, 16, 18, 38, 39 UA(P) of Police Station Yaripora.

Lone, he said, was involved in Case FIR No 41/2021 under section 13, 20, 38 UA(P) Act of Police Station Qaimoh.

"Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition including 02 AK series rifles were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," the spokesperson said.

He quoted ADGP Kashmir as congratulating the joint team of Police

and security forces for conducting a successful operation without any collateral damage and termed the operation a big success.

"Cordon & search operation will continue in the area. In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation is in progress. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the operation in the area concludes and completely sanitized & cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," the spokesperson added.

Student Injured

Kashmir Zone Police wrote on X. However, Principal Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, Anjum Farhana told a local news agency KNO that the condition of the youth is critical as he has a bullet injury on neck. "The youth has been shifted to SKIMS Soura, for advanced treatment," she added.

8 Dead In Sikkim

army personnel, 47 civilians were also missing, while 166 people have so far been rescued, including an armyman.

"The health condition of the rescued soldier is stable," Defence Spokesperson Lt Col Mahendra Rawat said.

Bodies, including that of a child, were seen fished out from the flood plains of the Teesta river at Golitar in Singtam to rescue personnel, the officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Wednesday to take stock of the situation in the state, and assured him of all possible support.

"Spoke to Sikkim CM Shri @ PSTamangGolay and took stock of the situation in the wake of the unfortunate natural calamity in parts of the state. Assured all possible support in addressing the challenge. I pray for the safety and well-being of all those affected," Modi said on X.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also prayed for the well-being of the missing army personnel.

The Sikkim government, in a notification, said the natural calamity has been declared as a disaster.

The release of water from the Chungthang dam led to a sudden increase in water levels up to 15-20 feet high downstream, the defence spokesperson said.

"Twenty-two army personnel have been reported missing and 41 vehicles submerged under the slush," he said.

Rawat said the identity of the missing personnel is yet to be ascertained due to a breakdown in communication.

J&K Witnessing

Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt Branch, Kashmir at Shivpora here on Wednesday.

In his address, the LG congratulated Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt and followers of Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya ji on the occasion.

He said that the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah has conveyed his best wishes and assured that he will personally visit Mutt's Kashmir branch. Sinha also recalled the immense contribution of Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya to the society.

"Sri Ramanujacharya through his philosophy of vishishtadvaita preached love, peace, compassion, universal brotherhood and social equality. He showed the society path of righteousness, virtue and devotionism that influenced the 'Bhakti Movement'," he added.

The LG also highlighted Sri Ramanujacharya ji's deep spiritual connect with Kashmir.

"While composing the epic 'Sri Bhasya', Jagadguru had travelled to Kashmir to refer to Bodhayana Vritti Grantha on Brahma Sutras. When this voluminous and his most famous work was complete, he again visited Kashmir and dedicated Sri Bhasya' to Maa Sharda," he said.

Sinha shared the resolve of the UT Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, to restore the past glory of Jammu Kashmir.

"We are witnessing revival of J&K's cultural identity and spiritual traditions which have always promoted co-existence of almost all major religions, spiritual streams known to humankind and gave the ideals of humanism, communal harmony and peace to the world," he added.

He said the Mutt's Kashmir Branch and treasure of eternal wisdom being made available through digital library will inspire us in building a peaceful and harmonious society.

The LG commended the noble initiative to provide medical services at the Mutt's Kashmir Branch.

H.H Sri Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Narayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swami Ji of Sri Yadugiri Yathiraja Mutt, on behalf of the Mutt, expressed gratitude to LG and the UT Administration for the support to the Mutt.

"Jagadguru Sri Ramanujacharya preached the message of unity, peace, equality, devotion to the world and inspired us to serve the society. Swami ji's ideas and teaching should reach the world and we have already digitized 2000 books," he said.

It was informed that Ujala Cygnus Hospital will run the Sri Ramanuja Clinic and offer free medical services. Experts from Bangalore will also provide online services to the patients.

Inaugurates Projects

for which the foundation stone was laid will transform Shopian into a significant centre of sporting culture, provide modern resources, facilities for training, mentoring and support to compete at the national and international level," Sinha said.

He directed the officials to adhere to the timelines to complete new projects in close coordination with concerned departments and executing agencies.

The projects worth Rs 93 crore inaugurated by LG include two new blocks of Transit accommodation at Allowpora Keegam; development of Playfield at Treng; upgradation and development of playground at K-Hallan Keller; Transit accommodation for Transhumant Tribals at Lal Ghulam and upgradation of roads including Bijbehara - Shopian road, Pudsoo to Kapren causeway Braripora Zirpora Mantribugh Nildrug road, Pinjora Khan to Sofanaman Pahnoo road, Mohanpora Imamsahab Alamgunj road and Drangnard to Keller block road.

The projects costing Rs 17.92 crore for which Sinha laid foundation stone includes development of stadium along with synthetic football turf at Dragad; Construction of Synthetic Basketball and Volleyball courts; development of Synthetic Volleyball Court & Dug-out, practice Pitches and Change rooms at Vishroo Keller; upgradation of roads from Dobipora to Molo Dangerpora and Reshnagri to Mandjanj road.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO, Mission Youth; Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Faz Lul Haseeb, Deputy Commissioner Shopian and senior officers were present.

Man Chargeshheeted

the land in question is State land and cannot be sold or purchased. Accordingly, he said, preliminary verification No.06/2019 was initiated at Crime Branch Kashmir.

"During enquiry, it surfaced that the land under survey No.666 in Estate Karhama is State land, which the accused Mohammad Ashraf Wani had sold to the complainant, without any right or authority. Accordingly, the case FIR No.6/2022 was registered in Crime Branch Kashmir and investigation set into motion," the spokesperson said.

During the course of investigation, he said, the investigating officer recorded the statements of the persons familiar with the facts and circumstances of the case and also obtained records having bearing on the

subject matter from the concerned offices and seized the same as per procedure.

As per the evidence gathered during investigation, the spokesperson said, it was established that the accused attempted to cheat the complainant by selling State land to her and by concealing the fact that he is not the actual owner of the said land.

"Ultimately, on the basis of facts and circumstances that emerged during the course of investigation, the investigation of the case was concluded as proved U/S 420, 511 IPC against the said accused person," he added.

Traditional Walnut

11), Mohammad Yousuf Khan from Rafiabad Baramulla (September 5) and Mohammad Ashraf Dar from Hajin Bandipora (August 26) and counting...

Pertinently, the Horticulture Department Kashmir and J&K Disaster Management Department every year issues advisories with do's and don'ts to avoid casualties during the walnut harvesting season.

An official of the Horticulture department told Kashmir Observer that most of the climbers fail to use safety gear during the harvesting.

"People need to avoid traditional methods of walnut harvesting and use the latest methods of collecting the walnuts that the department shares from time to time," he said.

As per the advisory issued by the Horticulture Department, the general public shall adopt SOPs and guidelines while harvesting the walnuts and only trained and experienced persons should be involved in harvesting/threshing of walnuts with safety gears.

"The climber must wear a helmet and tie a safety harness rope while harvesting and use of tall ladders to climb the trees and wearing of non-slippery shoes should be avoided. Also they should use safety nets or thick stacks of hay, around the tree, to prevent injury in case of accidental fall. The harvester must ensure that power transmission lines passing through walnut trees are shut at the time of harvesting/threshing walnuts," reads the advisory.

Medical Superintendent Bone and Joint Hospital Dr Mian Suhail told Kashmir Observer that most individuals who fall from the walnut trees suffer from Polytrauma. Polytrauma which means that a patient sustained multiple injuries, some of which may cause significant disability and may be life-threatening.

"They typically sustain injuries to their head, brain, spine, chest, abdomen, and limbs, resulting in long-term paralysis," he said.

LG Chairs District Review Meeting At Shopian

'It Is Our Endeavour To Harness Potential Of Each District To Fuel Economic Growth Of J&K'

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the District Review Meeting at Shopian and took stock of the development works underway in the district and implementation of various UT and Central Government Schemes.

"It is our endeavour to harness potential of each district to fuel economic growth of J&K. Every official at all levels of administration must discharge his responsibility with greater dedication and sensitivity to

tion on the Daksh portal.

The Lt Governor impressed upon the District Administration and the officials to promote setting up of cold storage and other industrial units at local level.

Robust strategy should be prepared for effective implementation of District employment and District Export plans. Use Block Divas as a platform to expand livelihood generation and self-employment opportunities for the youth, he said.

He further called for exploring all the avenues to tap the



ensure the benefits of the development reach every household," the Lt Governor said.

He directed the officials for conducting regular survey to identify the new eligible beneficiaries under the centrally sponsored and the UT sector schemes and the children having any kind of abnormalities by birth.

Reviewing the progress achieved in agriculture & allied sector, the Lt Governor directed for connecting every farmer of the district with agriculture related schemes and programmes and increasing their registra-

tourism potential of the district and promoting Amrit Sarovars as tourist spots.

The Lt Governor also sought a detailed report on the financial assistance extended to Women/ST/SC under Stand Up India and directed for conducting regular meetings of District Administration with the Banking institutions.

Emphasizing on improving connectivity in the rural areas, the Lt Governor directed the officials to take comprehensive measures to ensure road connectivity to every village in the district.

Mehbooba Accuses BJP Of 'Using ED' To Intimidate Opposition

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday accused the BJP-led central government of "using" the Enforcement Directorate against leaders of the INDIA alliance as a "blackmailing tactic" to intimidate the opposition.

Mufti also justified the Bihar caste survey, saying it will show how much the poor and backward people have benefited in the past.

"This (government) has failed on all grounds. Poor people have reached a state of consuming poison. In this situation, the ED has become the BJP's right hand. It has failed to face the opposition. It is afraid of the INDIA alliance. It is using the ED," the Peoples Democrat-

ic Party leader said.

"This is a blackmailing tactic of the BJP to intimidate the opposition," she told reporters here.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday morning raided AAP MP Sanjay Singh's home in connection with a money laundering case linked to the Delhi excise policy.

This is to divert the people's attention from the failures of the BJP government on all fronts, including employment generation, controlling inflation and ensuring women's security, she said.

Mehbooba also took a dig at the raids conducted on the online news portal NewsClick and said it was being done as "they are afraid of facing the truth". "This is the same process of their tactics of using ED," she added.

Gupkar Parties Trying To Create Unrest By Calling Dharna On Oct 10: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Slamming the opposition alliance for calling a dharna on October 10, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Wednesday questioned why they did not protest against the bloodshed in J-K when it was reeling under terrorism.

He alleged that National Conference, Congress and PDP leaders under the Gupkar alliance were hatching conspiracies against peace and development in Jammu and Kashmir and the call for protest was an attempt to vitiate the atmosphere. "When the whole of Jammu

and Kashmir was in deep turmoil, and there was uncertainty and bloodshed (due to terrorism), these leaders belonging to the Gupkar alliance were in deep slumber and never cared for the people's welfare.

"They never raised any call for dharna or protest aimed at the welfare of the common masses," Raina told reporters here.

They have called for a dharna when Jammu and Kashmir is progressing on the path of development, when the people of the region are welcoming the process of peace and progress, he said.

Vice Chancellor IUST, Chairs Meeting Of IQAC

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at IUST met today under the Chairmanship of Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor. The meeting was attended by Prof Manzoor Ahmad Malik, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, Mr Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer, Mr Javed Anim Managing Director, ARCO cements, Mr Faiz Bakshi, General Secretary KCCI and other academic and industry experts.

The committee reviewed the progress and the participants discussed the future course of action. Speaking on the Occasion, Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo said that institutionalising Quality Culture has become an imperative. He ap-

preciated the role of IQAC in suggesting quality improvement measures across different aspects of work in the University. He said that in the face of challenges thrown up by technological advancements, global issues like environmental crises, energy deficiency, climate change, employability concerns etc, HEIs have a critical role in informed policy making and implementation. He outlined different initiatives undertaken at IUST such as, Industry compatible Curriculum designed on the basis of inputs from the Industry representatives to ensure employability of the youth while also allowing them the freedom to steer their academic journeys and explore their potential and talent, under Design your Degree programme.



MEN DISPLAYING THEIR IDENTITY CARDS outside a polling booth during the high-stakes electoral battle of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil on Wednesday. KO PHOTO

Operation To Track Down Terrorists Enters Day 3 In Rajouri

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A cordon and search operation to track down terrorists suspected to be hiding in the forest area of Kalakote in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the third day on Wednesday.

The operation started after two Army personnel were injured in a gunfight with terrorists on Monday.

"The search operation is going on in the area by security forces and police. However, no fresh contact has been established in the area", a senior officer told PTI.

Technological and surveillance gadgets are being used to keep vigil as well as to track down the terrorists suspected to be hiding in the forest belts, they said.



On Monday, a joint team of the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police cordoned off the Broh and Soom forest belts in Kalakote following information about suspicious movements.

The terrorists fired at the troops in an attempt to break the cordon, resulting in retaliatory fire, in which two Army person-

nel were injured, they said. Following this, more reinforcements were rushed to plug all possible escape routes and strengthen cordon around the area.

Rajouri and Poonch border districts in the Pir Panjal valley have witnessed heightened terrorist activity this year.

FRI Builds Database Of Chinars To Strengthen Its Conservation Programme

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Forest Research Institute is building a database of Chinars across Jammu and Kashmir in order to strengthen its conservation programme for the heritage tree.

Officials of the institute said that an exercise to know the exact number of Chinars has culminated in Kashmir.

However, the institute will now launch a similar census in Chenab Valley to know the number and health of Chinars across the union territory.

So far, the institute has geotagged as many as 18,000 of these trees across the valley and the remaining 10,000 are still under census.

Dr Syed Tariq, researcher and coordinator of the Chinar census project of the institute the exercise will culminate after the Chinars from Chenab valley are censused.

"Chenab valley, which constitutes Doda, Ramban, and Kishtwar also have Chinar trees. The census activity will begin soon thereafter the exact num-

ber of Chinars in the union territory will be known," he said.

To have a concrete database about Chinars, Tariq said they have proposed QR coding of Chinars across the union territory.

"So far traditionally we have made use of paint and stencil marking. QR-coding however, is highly technology-driven, which will store the profile of each tree," he said.

Tariq said along with QR-coding, they have also proposed a website site that will have the entire information about the Chinar population in every district.

"The QR-code scanning will direct the users to this proposed website. Through scanning, a user will know at least 25 characteristics of the tree, which includes health, age, height girth and others," he said.

The QR code will direct the users to an appropriate website where information regarding Chinars will be stored. In the proposal, the institute

has also suggested for using specific plates and nails so that the growth of Chinar is not affected at all.

"The SS/metal of the size 6*4 plates shall be fixed at the height of a feet from the ground. The nails with springs shall be used that will allow the plate to stay off the tree and as it grows the springs will compress," Tariq said.

Locally called bou'in or bouen in Kashmiri language, and scientifically known as the Platanus orientalis, the Chinar tree grows over 20 metres in height, while its girth can go up to 50 feet.

The Chinar tree is highly revered in Kashmiri culture and serves as a symbol of the region's natural heritage. The tree is frequently portrayed in a variety of artistic, poetic, and literary works. The oldest Chinar tree is believed to be over 700 years old and is in Budgam's Chattergam village with a girth of over 50 feet—(KNO)

Chief Secretary Reviews Progress Of IT Initiatives

Directs Incorporation Of PSGA Timelines In All Citizen Centric Services



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to review the status of implementation of various on-going initiatives of the IT Department, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday chaired a detailed meeting of the IT Department at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, IT Department, Purna Puri; CEO, JKeGA; State Informatics Officer, NIC besides other senior officers of IT Department.

While chairing the meeting, Chief Secretary reiterated the importance of e-services in transforming the life of a common citizen and said that e-services are a very potent tool in realizing the J&K administration's aim of "Bhrashtachar Mukht J&K".

Maintaining that e-services have brought about efficiency and transparency in the functioning of all the departments, he said that e-initiatives are being appreciated by public at large for their inherent hassle-free, transparent nature.

CS reemphasized the need to achieve the target of 1500 e-services so as to almost eliminate the need of a common citizen to knock on the door of any office for availing any government benefit.

During the review, it was apprised that 1054 e-services are currently available to the citizens with 20 more e-services under-development.

In this regard, the IT department was instructed to hold brainstorming session with departments and Deputy Commissioners for further expansion of e-services portfolio in J&K.

During the review, it was informed that PSGA timelines had been incorporated in the SMS sent to the applicant on submission of application in 07 most commonly used services of Revenue department including Income Certificate, Caste Certificate and 08 services of Housing Department including Birth Certificate, Death Certificate.

Dr. Mehta urged IT Department to continue the efforts

and incorporate the PSGA timelines in all the relevant e-services for empowering citizen with knowledge of time-frame within which he/she is expected to be provided a particular service by the concerned department.

Chief Secretary highlighted the importance of citizen feedback of e-services and directed for integration of all the UT e-services with RAS Feedback portal. He also advised IT Department to hold special workshop for all departments whose services have been ranked poor in the quality assessment for improvements immediately.

While elaborating on the concept of "Vyakti Pehchaan", Dr. Mehta emphasized that the next evolutionary step of e-services is proactive auto identification of prospective beneficiaries based on data available with government for transitioning from a citizen initiated request based service delivery model to proactive & government initiated service delivery model where department reaches out to eligible citizen for service delivery.

Chief Secretary instructed IT Department to put earnest, dedicated efforts for making the concept of "Vyakti Pehchaan" a reality. The Chief Secretary also instructed for inclusion of the provision of e-mulakat in the virtual tour system being developed by the department to make the citizen meet a government officer through e-mode during the designated public hours thereby saving time of both citizen and officer.

The status of progress with respect to Disaster Recovery Site, Virtual Tours, NeSDA Assessment, Urban Surveillance among other issues were also reviewed and discussed during the meeting and necessary instructions were passed on.

Commissioner Secretary, IT Department apprised that the department was in the process of integrating the Bhashini tool of Gol for voice to text and text to voice conversion with e-office instance of J&K on a pilot basis to raise the efficiency of officials.

Ganderbal Admin Begins Shifting Nomad Families To Jammu

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The first convoy of nine trucks for transportation of pastoral tribal families from district Ganderbal to various districts of Jammu division was flagged-off by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani on Wednesday here from Lar.

The flag-off ceremony was also attended by Additional Superintendent of Police, District Sheep Husbandry officer Ganderbal and SHO Lar.

A total of nine trucks carrying five migratory tribal families along with 449 sheep/goats from four locations of the

district viz, Rangil, Babadaryadin, Safapora and Wayil left for their destinations i.e Reasi and Rajouri district of Jammu division.

The exercise of transportation of nomadic/tribal people along with their livestock who migrate to various highland pastures for the grazing of their livestock to their respective destinations through inter province/ inter district/ intra district routes was initiated in the year 2022-23 facilitated by the District Administration through Department of Sheep Husbandry, RTC and ARTO in response to the directions received by Tribal Affairs Department.

Mother-Daughter Chargesheeted For Cheating Man Of Rs 12L

Agencies

JAMMU: Economic Offences Wing Crime Branch Jammu chargesheeted mother-daughter duo for duping a man of Rs 12 lakh for sending her daughter to Canada for higher education.

In a statement, a spokesperson said that Balwant Kour and Simran Mann of Chandigarh had duped the man of Rs 12 lakh after they promised him to send his daughter to Canada for higher education but later cheated him.

The statement reads that the chargesheet was produced in the court of law for judicial determination.

"The case was registered on a written complaint lodged by Raj Kumar Nischal of Jammu wherein it was alleged that his daughter Aditi Nischal while doing private job as graphic designer in 2016 she came in contact with accused Simran Mann who was also serving there as IELTS teacher assured to her to Canada for higher studies by charging Rs 12 lakh," it reads.

It reads that on the request of his daughter, the complainant transferred the amount to the account of accused. "When his daughter approached the accused Simran Mann for necessary documentation she dodged her on one pretext or other and finally cheated them."

It added that on receipt of the complaint, a preliminary verification was initiated and the allegations were prima-facie established and subsequently, the instant case was registered for in-depth investigation.

"Relevant record was seized, statement of witnesses recorded, scientific, circumstantial and other material evidence was gathered and offences of cheating against the accused for luring the complainant and cheating them were established."

It added that while the accused Balwant Kour is on bail after she was arrested by Crime Branch Jammu, her daughter is still at large and proceeding U/S 512 CrPC stands initiated against her. (KNS)

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
GOVT. DEGREE COLLEGE BONIYAR**

Email: boniyarcollege@gmail.com Mobile: 9419845424
Website: www.gdcboniyar.com Phone: 01956252262
No. GDCCB/23-24/335 Dated: 04/10/2023

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs. 4/= are invited from registered/reputed Dhabas and Hoteliers to run the College Canteen with effect from 1st November 2023 upto 31st October 2024. The registration certificate issued by the concerned authority along with CDR of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) must be attached with the tender documents pledged to the Principal Govt. Degree College Boniyar, should reach the office of the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this tender notice.

The approved list of items to be sold in the college canteen and other terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during working days from 10.30 am to 3:30 pm. The tenderers are advised to be present at the time of opening of tenders before the committee on 27th of October 2023 at 2 pm.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

S/d.
Principal

**DIPK-9796-23
DT: 04/10/2023**

Champions England Play New Zealand In WC Opener

Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: A golden generation of England cricketers who have transformed the white ball format template forever will begin their 50-over World Cup title defence against an injury-battered New Zealand in a repeat of the 2019 final here on Thursday.

England are an ageing side alright, but few will dare to bet their green bills against Jos Buttler's outfit to add a third World Cup to their shelf in four years, as they are also the current T20 World Cup holders.

Trying to win that elusive ICC World Cup, New Zealand will be in a state of worry for more than one reason. They will not have captain Kane Williamson, who though had played the warm-ups, and senior pacer Tim Southee in their ranks as both are



still on the recovery path after respective surgeries.

Southee's fitness will be monitored closely as he is recuperating from a recent surgery on his fractured thumb. He had dislocated his finger during the ODI series against England. But that is only a tip of their bigger concerns.

The Ahmedabad pitch is generally an ally of batsmen, and England have a bionic batting line-up for whom skull-crushing their rivals is a favoured hobby. The whole ferocity surrounding their batting has only gone up after the return of Ben Stokes, as he had decided to come out of retirement for the big event.

On paper, England might have an edge as it was shown in the recent ODI series which they won 3-1. But when it comes to England and New Zealand, past records can be safely tossed away through the window.

Match starts at: 2:00PM IST.

Chopra Wins Javelin Gold As India Hail Best Asian Games

Reuters

HANGZHOU: Indian trail-blazer Neeraj Chopra added Asian Games gold to his Olympic and world titles in javelin after a technical mishap on Wednesday as his nation celebrated its biggest medal haul at the continental showpiece. Confusion reigned at the Hangzhou Olympic stadium as Chopra was asked to repeat his first throw, with officials having failed to record his mark before the next thrower sent his javelin down.

It scarcely mattered, though, as India's first Olympic athletics champion posted 88.88 metres on his fourth registered effort, more than 70 cm further than Budapest where he claimed the country's first title in track and field. Chopra's cancelled first throw caused a lengthy hiatus as officials discussed the dilemma -- but he agreed to



throw again.

"I didn't have any other choice as it was disturbing the other competitors, too," said Chopra, whose team mate Kishore Jena took silver with a personal best of 87.54m. "This is the first time this has happened to me in a competition."

"The rule is for six throws but I threw seven times."

With four more days of competition to come, India surged past 80 medals, smashing their previous Games record of 70 at Jakarta five years ago. Their athletes medalled in six

out of eight of track and field titles on Wednesday, including a dominant win in the men's 4x400m relay ahead of runners-up Qatar.

Archers Ojas Pravin Deotale and Jyothi Surekha Vennam took the record 71st medal by winning the mixed team compound event, triggering congratulations from India Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The rising Asian power has work to do to catch China, though, with the hosts having sailed past 300 medals and won more than 170 golds. China's Li Qian, runner-up in women's middleweight boxing at the Tokyo Olympics, beat India's world champion Lovlina Borgohain for the 66-75kg division title.

Li turned the tables on Borgohain who beat the Chinese boxer in the semi-finals on the way to the middleweight world championship in March.

U-17 Provincial Football Tourney Begins In Baramulla



Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Under-17 Boys Inter-District Provincial Level Football Tournament began on Wednesday at Showkat Ali Stadium here.

The U-17 tournament commenced after the conclusion of the Under-14 boys' competition, with 10 districts from the Kashmir province competing.

Organized by the Youth Services and Sports Department J&K, under the supervision of Waseem Raja JKAS, Joint Director of YSS Kashmir, Baramulla is hosting the tournament.

On the opening day, six matches were played, and their results are as follows:

Kulgam vs. Ganderbal: Ganderbal won 4-0.

Srinagar vs. Kupwara: Kupwara won 5-1.

Shopian vs. Bandipora: Bandipora won 4-0.

Baramulla vs. Pulwama: Baramulla won 2-0.

Anantnag vs. Ganderbal: Ganderbal won 1-0.

Four districts have qualified for the semifinals, which will be played today.

JKFA Announce 22-Member J&K Team For Santosh Trophy



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Football Association has released the 22-man list of the J&K team set to compete at the 77th Senior Men's National Football Championship Santosh Trophy 2023, set to be played at Goa.

J&K Squad:
1. Umair Hussain, 2. Rajveer Singh, 3. Safiz Riyaz, 4. Urfan, 5. Arun Nagyal, 6. Momin Bashir, 7. Zubair Ankhoo, 8. Syed Ali, 9. Farhan Ganaie, 10. Faisal Thakur, 11. Dimple Bhagat, 12. Adnan Ayoub, 13. Shah-

meer Tariq, 14. Talib Ahmad, 15. Kamran, 16. Mehran Hilal, 17. Aniket Singh, 18. Raja Musaraf, 19. Waris Amin, 20. Aakif Reshi, 21. Dushant Sharma, 22. Moomin Bhat

Thirty-six teams compete in the tournament and have been divided into six groups.

J&K has been placed in tough Group A, alongside Kerala, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Arunachal Pradesh.

J&K Football will start its Santosh Trophy campaign against Gujarat on Monday, October 9. The game will kick off at 9:00 am.

SCFA Draw 0-0 With Jhelum FC In Srinagar Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The lone 2023 Srinagar Premier League match on Wednesday pitted Sport Council Football Academy against Jhelum FC at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The game failed to produce a goal as both teams couldn't capitalise on goal-scoring opportunities. The match ended 0-0, with Jhelum FC's Younus awarded man of the match.

As per the fixtures list, two matches of the Srinagar Premier League will be played on Thursday. Galaxy FC take on AG's Office XI at 3:30 pm. In the second game, ARCO FC clash with Ali Jana FC at 6:30 pm. Both matchups will be played at TRC.

YSS Ganderbal Holds Inter-School Athletic Meet

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Youth Services and Sports Ganderbal organised an Athletic Meet for Under-17 and Under-19 girls on Wednesday.

The event was held at Qamaria Ground in which 215 student athletes from various educational institutes of Zone Ganderbal participated.

The event aimed to foster the spirit of athleticism and sportsmanship among the young generation and culminated with the award ceremony where all the meritorious athletes were awarded



with their well-deserved medals by the senior officials of the department.

A similar event was conducted by Zonal Physical Education Office Tullamulla for Boys U-17 and U-19 and

for girls of all age groups at Hyderia Ground, Tullamulla.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of 315 student players from different schools of the said Zone.

DYSSO Ganderbal, Sheikh

Shafiq Iqbal on the occasion interacted with the student players and officials.

At the end, medals were distributed among position holders by the senior officials of the department.

Meanwhile, Zone Kangan of the district organized a "Fit India Swachhta Freedom Run" with the theme "Swachh Bharat, Swachhata Bharat".

The run commenced from SAPS Kangan and culminated at GMS Kangan. A total of 115 student-athletes from various educational institutions participated in the run.

2030 World Cup Set To Be Hosted By Spain-Portugal-Morocco



The Associated Press

GENEVA: A unique 2030 World Cup is set to be played in Europe and Africa with the surprising addition of South America in a deal to allow the men's soccer tournament to start with a 100th birthday party in Uruguay.

FIFA reached an agreement Wednesday between soccer's continental leaders to accept only one candidate for hosting the 2030 tournament, the sport's governing body said.

The Spain-Portugal bid grew to add Morocco this year and now also includes long-time bid rivals Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.

A key lure of the unprecedented three-continent project is being able to open in the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo, where the Centenario Stadium hosted the inaugural 1930 World Cup final.

The FIFA Council's acceptance of a unified 2030 candidacy still needs formal approval next year at a meeting of the 211 member federations. That should be just a formality.

"In 2030, we will have a unique global footprint, three continents — Africa, Europe and South America — six countries — Argentina, Morocco, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain and Uruguay — welcoming and uniting the world while celebrating together the beautiful game, the centenary and the FIFA World Cup," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement.

The 48-team, 104-game tournament scheduled for June-July 2030 is planned to start with games in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay before the action moves to the core host nations Spain, Portugal and Morocco. It involves an unprecedented amount of travel across distances and time zones.

Five Batters To Watch Out For At The World Cup

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: There are those tried and tested ones and then a few new ones who are ready to take the world cricket by storm. On Indian batting belters, it is the willow wielders, who are likely to make a difference in bigger context.

PTI takes a look at the top five batters to watch out for at the mega event starting in India on Thursday.

SHUBMAN GILL

India's newest batting sensation has had an exceptional last 12 months. The 24-year-old is the leading run scorer in the 50 over format this year by a distance.

In 20 ODIs, he has amassed 1230 runs at an average of 72.35 and strike-rate is an impressive 105.03. He has crossed the 50-run mark in half of his innings

this year.

The free-scoring batter has quickly cemented his spot at the top of the innings with a lethal combination of grace and power in his stroke play.

Gill knows how to pace his innings, accelerating his innings after settling. His partnership with skipper Rohit Sharma at the top will be vital for the hosts.

BABAR AZAM

One of the best in the 50-over format at the moment, the Pakistan captain and most prolific run scorer in recent years, sits atop the ICC ODI rankings.

The 28-year-old is blessed with a sound batting technique and fluid footwork movement, which helps him hit the ball in all parts of the ground.

After an underwhelming Asia Cup campaign, Babar has gained momentum

ahead of the World Cup by scoring 170 runs in two warm-up games.

STEVE SMITH

One of the modern day greats, Steve Smith has a penchant of playing match-winning knocks. Indians remember his stylish hundred in the semi-final at Sydney in 2015 World Cup.

Armed with an unorthodox yet effective technique, Smith has impeccable timing.

The 34-year-old is coming off a wrist injury and hasn't played many ODIs, but the former skipper had a good outing in the series against India and the warm-up games.

DEVON CONWAY

The explosive left-handed batter relishes batting at the top and has the ability to shift gears anytime.

His strong technique and understanding of the sub continent conditions will help him navigate the challenges presented by spinners at the World Cup.

Conway has the ability to shift gears anytime. Once he starts scoring it is very difficult for bowlers to stop him. He is equally adept at anchor the innings.

BEN STOKES

England's 2019 World Cup hero will be playing as a specialist batter this edition. Such is Tokes importance in the games that he was coaxed out of retirement to play this edition. He will be missing the opener against New Zealand though.

Known for his explosive batting style, the left-handed Stokes has time and again stood up in the biggest moments, proving that he is a big-game player.

