

Significant Pollutants Degrading Water Quality Of Dal, Other Lakes: Study

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: A recent study conducted by a team of scholars has unveiled that the water quality of the iconic Dal Lake and other lakes of Kashmir is steadily declining due to the presence of significant pollutants, rendering it unsuitable for both human consumption and the preservation of the local flora and fauna.

The study titled as "Molecular characterization

of resistance determinants and mobile genetic elements of ESBL producing multidrug-resistant bacteria from freshwater lakes in Kashmir, India" which was conducted by New Delhi based scholar Insha Sultan and her colleagues confirmed the occurrence and dispersal of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the freshwater system of Kashmir valley including the Dal Lake.

ESBL stands for Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase.



Beta-lactamases are enzymes produced by some bacteria that may make them resistant to some antibiotics.

"We noticed the prevalence and co-occurrence of pollutants which includes ARGs, HMRGs, and MGEs in bacteria such as E. coli, Aeromonas sp, and Pseudomonas sp," the study said.

Heavy Metal Resistance Genes (HMRGs) are pollutants which degrade water quality and make it unfit for human usage/consumption and the flora and fauna that exists in these lakes are sometimes taken as food source as well

which deteriorates human health and leads to many illnesses and infections.

Antibiotic Resistance Genes (ARGs) were considered to be restricted to hospital settings only but now we are seeing them in community settings such as water environment, soil etc which itself is alarming. As it is escalating antibiotic resistance more than ever.

The work in this paper is the first to outline the genetic environment of [More On P10](#)

Shah Hails Puja At Sharda Temple

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday lauded the Navratri puja held at the Sharda temple in Kashmir, where it was performed for the first time since 1947, saying it signified the return of peace in the valley.

The home minister said the puja at the temple marks the rekindling of the nation's spiritual and cultural flame under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

On Monday, Navratri Puja was held at the newly built Sharda temple located along the LoC in Teetwal in Kashmir. The temple was inaugurated by the home minister on March 23 this year on the same piece of land and on the same pattern where the temple existed in pre-partition days.

"It is a matter of profound spiritual significance that for the first time since 1947, the Navratri pujas have been held in the historic [More On P10](#)

President MC Sacked For Power Abuse

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir Government has removed president municipal committee Yaripora, Kulgam, Muhammad Yusuf Khan on the grounds of abusing his official powers.

The Housing & Urban Development Department has removed Khan after a probe concluded that he "abused his official powers as the president of the committee, in violation of norms and acted in a manner which is unbecoming of a public servant and therefore is liable for action under section 26 of Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000."

On June 20, 2023, the government had ordered an enquiry against Khan after receiving a representation [More On P10](#)

Snow, Rains Bring Mercury Down In Kashmir



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmir is witnessing an early onset of winter as the higher reaches of the valley received another spell of light snowfall on Monday while rains lashed the plains, forcing people to use heating gadgets and opt

for warm clothes.

"The weather changed on October 14. There have been rains at many places intermittently, snowfall in the higher reaches, while thunder and lightning have also taken place at some places. Light rains in the plains and snowfall in the [More On P10](#)

Mughal Road Blocked

The high-altitude areas of Jammu region received fresh snowfall while the plains were lashed by rains on Monday, blocking the Mughal road which connects Shopian in Kashmir Valley to Poonch. The Mughal road has been blocked due to heavy snowfall in the Pir ki Gali area, officials said. No vehicle will be allowed to move towards the valley from Poonch and Rajouri areas till the weather clears up, they said. [More On P10](#)

THE WEATHER WILL IMPROVE from October 18 and is expected to remain fair till October 24. There is no major spell of precipitation till October 24."

224-Meter Viaduct On Banihal Highway Completed: Gadkari

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Monday said that 224-meter viaduct on Srinagar-Jammu national highway 44 in Sherebibi area of Ramban district has been completed.

In a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Gadkari said that this project contributes to the region's economic growth and enhances its overall connectivity.

"In Jammu & Kashmir, we have successfully completed the construction of a 224-meter viaduct (2-lane) at Sherebibi, with an estimated



cost of 12 crore. This infrastructure is situated along the Ramban to Banihal section of NH-44," he said.

He added that this 224-meter segment, as a part of the broader project, not only reduces the [More On P10](#)

J&K At Forefront Of Development Transformation: LG Inaugurates Development Projects Worth Rs 290 Crore At Anantnag

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Monday that with collective efforts to synergize strengths of different sectors, improving standards of living and seizing the vast opportunities in the industrial sector, Jammu and Kashmir is today at the forefront of development transformation in the country.

Sinha made these remarks while laying foundation stone and inaugurating various development projects worth around Rs 290 crore at Anantnag, today.

"This is yet another milestone in district Anantnag's path to economic and social progress. A slew of projects dedicated to the people today in the Health, Education, Water Supply, and Urban



Development sectors will empower all sections of the society," the LG said.

He said that the administration's focus on health and education will prepare the people for future challenges and revitalize the growth story of the district.

"The prime goal of UT Administration is rapid economic growth integrated with speedier social development. With collective efforts to synergize strengths of different sectors, improving standards of living and seizing the vast [More On P10](#)

THE PRIME GOAL OF UT ADMINISTRATION is rapid economic growth integrated with speedier social development. With collective efforts to synergize strengths of different sectors, improving standards of living and seizing the vast opportunities in the industrial sector, J&K is today at the forefront of development transformation in the country."

Kashmir Continues To Bear Brunt Of Power Crisis

Admin Rejects Complaints, Says New Arrangement Already In Place

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: The people in Kashmir Valley continue to face unscheduled and prolonged power cuts, even as the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Monday issued much anticipated curtailment schedule by announcing an eight-hour and four-hour power cut in non-metered and metered areas respectively, to tackle the electricity crisis.

According to reports, many parts in Srinagar and elsewhere continue to reel under darkness due to unscheduled and prolonged power cuts at a time when mercury has plunged after fresh snowfall and incessant rains. The frequent power cuts have been reported from both metered and non-metered areas.

"The power scenario is deteriorating with every passing day. With winter yet to arrive, we can only hope the administration wakes up



and provides some relief to the common people," Bashir Ahmad, a resident of Harwan told Kashmir Observer.

Like Ahmad, Zubair Ahmad Khan of Hawal also complained of erratic power supply.

"The electricity is playing hide and seek over the last fortnight. There's no schedule in place. We're suffering despite paying our electricity bills on time," Khan added. However, the

administration rejected the complaints of the consumers and said that there was no power crisis in the Valley.

Principal Secretary of Power Development Department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad told Kashmir Observer that the additional power supply that was purchased from the Uttar Pradesh government has been distributed and a new arrangement is active.

"I disagree, [More On P10](#)

Agniaveer's Suicide Case

100-140 Soldiers Died By Suicide Every Year Since 2001: Army Says Military Funeral Not Accorded In Deaths Caused By Suicides, Self-Inflicted Injuries

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Dismissing criticism for not according military funeral to an Agniaveer, who shot himself dead last week in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, army has said that between 100-140 soldiers died every year of 'suicides/self-inflicted' injuries since 2001, and in such cases military funeral was not accorded.

The Army has said that Agniaveer Amritpal Singh committed suicide by shooting himself while on sentry duty and that military honours were not extended to his funeral as deaths arising out of self-inflicted injuries are not given such honours.

The Army, on Sunday, asserted that it does not differentiate among soldiers based on whether they joined the force prior to or after the implementation of the Agnipath scheme. There were allegations that the military honours were not



extended to Singh's funeral as he was an Agniaveer soldier.

The Army's Nagrota-headquartered White Knight Corps on Saturday said that Singh died while on sentry duty in Rajouri sector due to a self-inflicted gunshot injury.

In a statement on Sunday night, the Army said there has been some "misunderstanding and misrepresentation" of facts related to the unfortunate death of Singh. [More On P10](#)

SHORT TAKES

Khayal - The Polymath And The Polyglot



He belonged to that rare group of individuals called "public intellectuals" and combined in the versatility of his personality a reputed journalist, an established translator, an incisive critic, a sensitive poet and a profound essayist.

-Obituary on page 7

Bagchi Is India's Envoy To UN

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi was on Monday appointed India's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN) and other international organisations in Geneva. Bagchi, a 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) official, took over as spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in March 2020 and deftly handled a number of critical issues and developments including the eastern Ladakh border row, [More On P10](#)

Hybrid Terrorist Held In Shopian

The government forces on Monday arrested a hybrid terrorist from Shopian district of South Kashmir, police said. Bilal Ahmad Shah of Vessu, Qazigund was apprehended by a joint team of police, Special Operations Group (SOG), army's 34 RR and the personnel of CRPF 178 battalion at a checkpoint established at Manihal Crossing, a police spokesperson said. Shah, he said, tried to flee from the spot but alert naka party apprehended him tactfully. [More On P10](#)

Father-Son Chargesheeted For Fraud

A father-son duo were booked for fraud and a chargesheet was produced in a court on Monday for allegedly preparing a false school-leaving certificate (SLC) to get a government job in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said. Economic offences wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch (CB) filed a chargesheet against Bashir Ahmed and his son Mukhtyar Ahmed of R S Pura for their alleged involvement in hatching a criminal conspiracy by [More On P10](#)

Burglars 'Loot' Jewelry Worth Rs 15L

Unidentified burglars broke into a residential house in South Kashmir's Bijbehara and decamped with gold ornaments worth Rs 15 lakh, reports said Monday. Burglars entered the house of Mohammad Shafi Wani and Manzoor Ahmad Wani, sons of Ghulam Rasool in Katoo village of Bijbehara and decamped with gold ornaments worth Rs 15 lakh. The families, reports said, were not present in the [More On P10](#)

Director NIT Calls On LG

The Director National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar, Prof. Sudhakar Yedla called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar. He was accompanied by Mrs. Laxmi, a teacher, and Mr. Bhyravanath, General Manager of United India Insurance Ltd. They also had the opportunity to meet with LG Sinha. During the meeting, Prof. Yedla provided an overview of the significant reformative [More On P10](#)



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New ChatGPT-Like AI Tool For Scientific Discovery Launched

IANAS

An international team of scientists have launched a new research collaboration that will leverage the same technology behind ChatGPT to build an AI-powered tool for scientific discovery.

While ChatGPT deals in words and sentences, the new initiative, called Polymathic AI, will learn from numerical data and physics simulations from across scientific fields to aid scientists in modeling everything from supergiant stars to the Earth's climate.

"This will completely change how people use AI

and machine learning in science," said Polymathic AI principal investigator Shirley Ho, a group leader at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Computational Astrophysics in New York City, US.

The idea behind Polymathic AI "is similar to how it's easier to learn a new language when you already know five languages," said Ho. Starting with a large, pre-trained model, known as a foundation model, can be both faster and more accurate than building a scientific model from scratch.

That can be true even if the training data isn't obviously relevant to the problem at hand.

"Polymathic AI can show us commonalities and connections between different fields that might have been missed," said co-investigator Siavash Golkar, a guest researcher at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Computational Astrophysics. The Polymathic AI team includes experts in physics, astrophysics, mathematics, artificial intelligence and neuroscience.

Polymathic AI's project will learn using data from diverse sources across physics and astrophysics (and eventually fields such as chemistry and genomics, its creators say) and apply that multi-disciplinary savvy to a wide range of scientific problems.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
RBO-4 Srinagar M.A Road

SHOP NEEDED FOR ATM AT LANGATE
State Bank of India needs space approximately 9x12 at main market Langate for installation of SBI ATM for the general public. Interested parties having space available at main Road / Main Market may send / deposit their application at R.B.O 4, Srinagar or at SBI Branch Handwara upto 27.10.2023

State Bank of India
RBO-4 Srinagar M.A Road

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THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)
Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdesjkbopee@gmail.com

Subject: **Provisional Selection List of Candidates Upgraded/Allotted seats during 2nd /Mop Up Round of counselling (physical) for admission to (Post MBBS/Post MBBS Diploma/Post Diploma) DNB courses 2023 in various Government Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K**

1) Reference: -
i) Notification No. 081-BOPEE of 2023 dated 18.09.2023.
ii) Notification No. 083-BOPEE of 2023 dated 22.09.2023.
iii) Notification No. 088-BOPEE of 2023 dated 26.09.2023.
iv) Notice No. 031-BOPEE of 2023 dated 27.09.2023.
v) Notice No. 032-BOPEE of 2023 dated 03.10.2023.
vi) Notification No. 093-BOPEE of 2023 dated 13.10.2023.

Notification No. 097-BOPEE of 2023
Dated 15-10-2023

Pursuant to Notification No. 093-BOPEE of 2023 dated 13.10.2023, the 2nd / Mop Up Round of counselling (Physical) for Upgradation/Allotment of Seats of (Post MBBS/Post MBBS Diploma/Post Diploma) DNB courses 2023 in various Government Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K was conducted by the Board on 15th October, 2023 at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar Simultaneously. The list of candidates who have been provisionally upgraded/allotted seats/disciplines in Government Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K is hereby notified as per Annexure-A to this Notification which shall remain available on official website of the Board i.e. www.jkbopee.gov.in only.

Because of paucity of time Board has decided to club the 2nd round and Mop Up Round of the counselling. The candidates upgraded/ allotted seats/ disciplines/ institutions during 2nd /Mop Up Round shall have to join in their allotted colleges by or before **20.10.2023** upto 4:00 p.m. positively from the date of issuance of this notification.

It is further notified for information of all the concerned candidates that the Upgradation/Allotment of seats during the 2nd / Mop Up Round of counselling shall be purely on provisional basis and shall not confer any preferential right upon the selected candidates and shall be subject to outcome, of any writ petition, if any, pending before any competent court of Law.

It shall be sole responsibility of the Heads of the Colleges/ Institutions concerned to ensure proper checking/verification of following documents/ eligibility before the candidate is allowed to join the course he/she is provisionally selected for: -

- Domicile Certificate of UT of J&K/Ladakh (For candidates of UT of Ladakh, ST Certificate shall be treated as Domicile Certificate).
- NOC from the Government/Competent Authority.
- Valid Reserved Category Certificate, wherever applicable.
- NBE/ PDCEET Score Card-2023, whichever applicable.
- All other documents as mentioned in the Notification No. 053-BOPEE of 2023 dated 10.08.2023.
- Any other document as may be required by the college/institution concerned.

The Colleges /Institutions shall submit the shortfall, if any, to BOPEE Office, Jammu /Srinagar upto 5.00 p.m. on 20.10.2023 through e-mail jakbopee@gmail.com / helpdesjkbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com.

In view of the limited time available for completion of admission process, all the concerned Institutions/ Colleges shall treat all Sundays and Gazetted holidays as working days especially for the concerned admission sections so that the candidates may not face any problem during completion of their admission formalities within the prescribed cutoff date (20.10.2023).

Note:

- The admission of the candidates upgraded/allotted seats during 2nd /Mop Up Round of counselling is purely provisional and shall be liable to be cancelled in case any information furnished by any candidates proves to be false/fabricated, and action as warranted under law shall be initiated against such candidates.
- The candidates who have been upgraded /allotted seats during the 2nd / mop up round shall have to necessarily join in the college against the allotted seat(s).
- The Heads of the colleges are advised to release the documents/ certificates and fee immediately to such candidates who have been upgraded during 2nd / mop up round of counselling to enable them to complete the admission formalities within the prescribed time limit.
- It is hereby implored upon the management of all Colleges/Institutions to ensure the veracity of documents, particularly the Category Certificates wherever the admission is to be granted in lieu of a particular Reserved Category.
- As notified vide Notification No. 093-BOPEE of 2023 dated 13.10.2023, the Board has first conducted the counselling of all Reserved Category candidates and the 50 number of seats in all the above three mentioned courses have remained vacant due to non-availability of eligible candidates in these categories and accordingly these seats have been converted into open merit as provided under Section 9 (2) of J&K Reservation Act 2004 and accordingly allotted to the eligible candidates under open merit on the basis of merit cum preference.

The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified by the Board in its various Notifications, Notices and e-Information Brochure in this regard.

E&OE
Signature of the Candidate
Name of Candidate:
DV Serial No.:
Roll No.:
Contact No.:
dated:

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

No: BOPEE/Exam-22/2023
DIPK-NB-3709/23
dated: 16-10-2023

ASF ENTERPRISES

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NOTICE

I Shabir Ahmad Koul F/O Mahila Koul want to change my Daughter's name in school record from Munaqqa Koul to Mahila Koul as per aadhar.If anybody have any objection may file the same to the office of the principal Green Valley Educational Institute Ellahibagh Srinagar within a week at the most, after that no objection will be entertained.

Mahila Koul
D/o Shabir Ahmad Koul

Medialine Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that in my Passport bearing passport no. R8997814 my DOB has been wrongly recorded as 12-12-2006. That My actual DOB is 20-12-2006 as per the School records etc. Now I want to apply for its correction.If anybody has any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport office Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained.

Zaidan Muzaffar
Son of Mohammad Muzaffar Wagay
R/o: Gousia Colony Khrew, Pampore Tehsil: Pampore District: Pulwama nj

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF SPECIAL TRIBUNAL AT SRINAGAR
Caveat Application No. /2023

IN THE CASE OF:
1. Neelofar W/O Sarfaraz Ahmad Bhat R/O Rainawari Srinagar at present Bagat Barzulla Srinagar ...Caveator **VERSUS** Public at Large ...Non-Caveator

IN THE MATTER OF: Application seeking exemption from dispatching a copy of the caveat application to the Non-Caveator **May it please your Honour,**

The Applicant humbly submits as under:
1. That the application has filed the above titled caveat petition before this Hon'ble Court wherein Public at Large has been arrayed as Non-Caveator.
2. That it is not practicable for the caveators to dispatch a copy of the caveat petition upon the non-caveator/s, as such, the Caveators have issued a public notice in a local newspaper, copy whereof has been placed on record along with the caveat application.
3. That in view of above-mentioned circumstances the applicant seeks exemption from dispatching copy of the caveat application upon the non caveator and in lieu thereof publication of notice in the newspaper may be treated as compliance of the statutory requirement.
4. That the application is supported by a duly sworn affidavit.

PRAYER:
In the premises it is therefore prayed that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to allow the instant application and exempt dispatching of copy of the caveat application upon the non-caveator through Registered post.

Applicant through Counsel nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my 2nd Semester Marks Card of Three Year Diploma in Electrical Engineering with Roll No 3602-1712-95035 Session May-June 2017. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection In the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Peerzada Mudeeb Mukhtar
S/O Mukhtar Ahmad Masoodi
R/o Khore Sherabad Pattan BMG
Cell. No: 9596224723

اڈو فٹرنائٹب تحصیلدار کریری اکلترہ
درخواست جناب محمد شرف ملک پسر پروردہ حبیب اللہ ملک ساکنہ ڈنڈرہ تحصیل کریری
برادرسھول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ بنج پسرمدل اشرف ملک
اشہاربرادراگاہی برخاص دوما
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑائیں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پڑواری
حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقالات ریکارڈ طلب کے لئے جس سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل
سالہ موقع ڈنڈرہ میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کینیڈا سالانہ آمدنی 60,000 روپے
یک ہے سائل کانڈیزبیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے
1 محمد اشرف ملک دلہ حبیب اللہ ملک عمر 45 سال زمینداری
2 علیہ بنیم زہید محمد اشرف ملک 42 سال گھر یلو کام
3 آہید دفتر محمد اشرف ملک 13 سال زیتیم
4 ذہید دفتر محمد اشرف ملک 11 سال --
5 ذیل اشرف پسر محمد اشرف ملک 17 سال --
اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کہ نہیں بتلا گیا ہے سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اگر کرنے میں اگر
کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ ایم کے اندر پیش
کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
تائب تحصیلدار kre

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR
Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E- mail: - phevwd@yahoo.com, Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

EXTENSION NOTICE 1st

Due to "No Response" against E.NIT No. 30/J5-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24, issued under No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/ Corrs./ 5049-61, dated: - 06-10-2023 for the work:-
1. Providing of water supply to Forest Rest House Sallar of Mattan Range District Anantnag by way of Construction of 125 mm machine drilled hand pumps well under Capex Budget 2023-24 Lidder Forest Division Bijebehara. Tender ID: 2023_PHE_232744.1
Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 16-10-2023 (02.00 PM) are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	25-10-2023 up-to (02.00 PM)
2.	Date of opening of tenders	27-10-2023 (11.00 AM)

NOTE:
All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

No: - JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs. /5451-61
DIPK-10469/23 Dated: - 16-10-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD
CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar
www.ikssb.nic.in

Subject: **Submission of offline preferences and Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Junior Assistant/Junior Assistant cum Computer Operator-Provision of Supplementary date - thereof.**

Notification
All such candidates who were falling under consideration zone and called for Document Verification for the post of Junior Assistant/Junior Assistant cum Computer Operator (DMRRR), advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 01 of 2022, vide this office Notification No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/65/2023-04 (7263889) dated: 07-10-2023, but could not appear before the Document Verification Committee on scheduled dates (11-10-2023 and 12-10-2023) due to various reasons, are hereby given last and final opportunity to appear before the Document Verification Committee on 17-10-2023 (Tuesday) at Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, Central Office, ZamZam Building, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre based Candidates) and JKSSB, Central Office, ZamZam Building, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre based Candidates) at 11:00 AM sharp, the candidates must also submit their order of preferences for various items (as per Annexure-A) to the document verification committees, failing which no claim in this regard shall be entertained at any stage.

Pulkit Dutta JKAS
Asstt. Controller of Examinations
J&K Service Selection Board

No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/65/2023-04(7263889)

Annexure "A"

Submission of Preferences by Candidates shortlisted for Document Verification.

Name of the post: Junior Assistant/Junior Assistant cum Computer Operator.
Advertisement Notification No.: 01 of 2022

S. No.	Order of Preferences	Item No.
1.	Preferences 1	
2.	Preferences 2	
3.	Preferences 3	
4.	Preferences 4	
5.	Preferences 5	
6.	Preferences 6	
7.	Preferences 7	
8.	Preferences 8	
9.	Preferences 9	
10.	Preferences 10	
11.	Preferences 11	
12.	Preferences 12	
13.	Preferences 13	
14.	Preferences 14	
15.	Preferences 15	
16.	Preferences 16	
17.	Preferences 17	

DIPK-10471/23
dated: 16-10-2023

Signature of the Candidate
Name of Candidate:
DV Serial No.:
Roll No.:
Contact No.:
dated:

Srinagar Songsters Power-Pack Performance Sway Jury in 'Indian Idol'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Afaq Shafi, a talented youth from Srinagar's Shalimar area, has left the audience and judges spellbound with his sensational singing performance on the reality show 'Indian Idol'.

Young singing sensation's incredible journey on the show has now led him to earn a coveted spot among the top 14 contestants.

Afaq has consistently wowed the nation with his melodious voice and exceptional performances throughout the competition.

His ability to connect with both the audience and the judges has been nothing short of extraordinary, making him a standout contestant on the show.

"I have been singing since childhood, and no one has taught me. All I

learned is from social media and YouTube. I didn't have exposure to how to sing and where to sing, and I got chances to showcase my talent through social media. For my success, I would like to give special credit to my father, who was always there for me," Afaq said.

"Before reaching the Indian Idol auditions, I had given many auditions, and I told them I hadn't learned anywhere and I would sing without a band. The judges appreciated me and said I had to sing with a band and music. Alhamdulillah, I performed well," he added.

Afaq's versatile singing style and heartfelt renditions have garnered him a massive fan following and appreciation from the music industry luminaries and all walks of life in Jammu and Kashmir.



Holding umbrellas, two women trying to cross over the side of the road at Residency Road amid heavy rainfall in Srinagar on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

3 Miscreants Held for Manhandling Women, Vandalization In Srinagar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police have arrested three miscreants for allegedly manhandling women and vandalizing private property during a marriage function in Noorbagh area of the old city here this evening.

The accused trio, police said was arrested on the charges of manhandling women and vandal-

izing private property during a marriage function.

Police identified the accused trio as Tahir Ahmad Sheikh, Mehrajuddin Sheikh and Danish Qayoom, all residents of Ghat Colony Noorbagh.

A formal case FIR no 139 of 2023 under IPC sections 147, 323, 354, 392, 427 has been registered at Safa Kadal police station in this regard and investigation taken up.

DPAP Braces Up For Mega Rally Srinagar's Batamaloo

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Democratic Progressive Azad Party senior leader, Vice Chairman G.M. Saroori on Monday held a meeting of office bearers from Central Kashmir at party head office Sonwar to gauge the present political scenario in the valley and to discuss various issues pertaining to the party affairs.

The meeting was attended by a number of party office bearers, who held thorough discussions over certain party affairs and outlined a strategy to strengthen the party further.

Saroori urged party leaders to be vibrantly active in order to remain in touch with the masses and to make people well aware of the party's people-friendly agenda and its vision for a better future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the upcoming public rally of Chairman DPAP Ghulam Nabi Azad at Batamaloo scheduled on 21st October was also discussed and the party workers were directed to ensure maximum participation of workers so the rally becomes a mega event.

Azad is planning to address a rally of thousands of workers at Batamaloo and the preparations are in full swing. Senior Leaders Chief Spokesperson Salman Nizami, Shoaib Nabi Lone Distt President Baramulla, Mohammad Altaf Dar, Zonal President Peer Bilal, District President Srinagar Aamir Bhat, Shafat Gafar, Haleem Khan, Dr G M Rather, M Y Dar, Javid Iqbal, Mushtaq Lodhi, Yusuf Sultan, Mushtaq Sogami, Farooq Ahmad and others also attended the meeting.

Dabur, SKUAST-K Train Local Youth On Beekeeping

Observer News Service

Srinagar: India's leading Science-based Ayurveda major Dabur India Ltd has joined hands with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology-Kashmir to support and train beekeepers from Kashmir on best practices in beekeeping, and also empower the local youth by engaging them in beekeeping. Un-

der this joint initiative, a seven-day training program was organized in the university to impart technical knowledge required for efficient management of bee colonies and impart best beekeeping practices.

The training will go a long way in providing income-generating opportunities to the local youth while bridging the skill deficits at the ground level.

Jawahar Nagar Stabbing Case: Two Held For Attempted Murder

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Two persons have been arrested and charged with attempted murder of a youth at Jawahar Nagar area of the city last week, police said on Monday.

The incident triggered panic in the area after a youth was stabbed and critically injured by some unknown persons near DAV School at Jawahar Nagar area of the city late Saturday evening.

The victim, identified as Sahil Ahmad Dar of Solina, presently undergoes treatment at Sri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital here after receiving critical injuries in the incident.

However the doctors treating the injured youth at the hospital informed Kashmir Observer that he is responding to the treatment. The victim had

suffered abdominal injuries in the incident.

Police had launched a manhunt to nab the accused, who had managed to flee from the scene, taking advantage of darkness after committing the offense.



The accused have been identified as Umer Fayaz Sheikh son of Fayaz Ahmad Sheikh and Imran Mushtaq Wani son of Mushtaq Wani, both residents of Ikhray Pora, Jawahar Nagar. A formal case FIR no 45 of 2023 was registered at Rajbagh police station the same day and investigation was set into motion.

Confirming the arrest, Srinagar police on X, formerly tweeter informed that both the accused have been arrested, while weapon of offense has also been recovered.

"During investigation of FIR no 45/2023 of Rajbagh PS, 2 accused namely Umer Fayaz Sheikh S/o Fayaz Sheikh of Ikhraypora & Imran Mushtaq Wani S/o Mushtaq Wani of Jawahar Nagar arrested for stabbing a youth in Jawahar Nagar on 14.10.2023. Weapon of offence also recovered." Police said.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer, Trans. Line Maintt. Division-7,

JKPTCL Bemina, Srinagar-190010

Ph. No. 0194-3516481 e-mail: tlm7.jkptcl@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: TLMD-7/18 of 2023

Dated: 14 : 10 :2023

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-7, Srinagar, hereby invites e-Tenders valid for 180 days, from eligible and financially sound appropriate Class of Contractors as per Terms, Conditions, Technical Specifications and Schedules thereto mentioned in Standard Bidding Document, for the works detailed below.

The Cost of Tender Documents shall be deposited into the bank Account of Transmission Line Maintenance Division-7, Srinagar bearing CD A/C No. 036701020000182 and the bank receipt shall be uploaded.

The EMD in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer TLMD-7, JKPTCL Srinagar Kashmir shall be uploaded and the original bank instrument shall be deposited alongwith hard copy of tender upto the specified date.

The Standard Bidding Document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>

S#	Description of Work	Qty	Estimated Cost (INR Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents (Non refundable) INR	EMD	Completion perio
1.	Development of Land & construction of edge wall inside premises of 100MVA 132/33kV Grid Station Bandipora	As per BOQ	14.76	1000.00	2%	30 days

1. The Bidding Documents consisting of Pre-Qualifying Requirements / eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), set of Terms and Conditions of the contract and other related details can be seen/downloaded from the J&K State Government's website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>, as per Scheduled of dates given below:-

LIST OF IMPORTANT DATES

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-10-2023
2	Online Start date of downloading of Tender Documents	16-10-2023 (10:00Hrs.)
3	Online Start date & time of e-Bid submission	16-10-2023 (14:00 Hrs.)
4	Online Last date & time of e-Bid submission	31-10-2023 (14:00 Hrs.)
5	Last date for submission of hardcopies	31-10-2023 (14:00 Hrs.)
6	Online Techno-Commercial Bids Opening Date & time	01-11-2023 (16:00Hrs.)
7	Date and time of opening of Price e-Bid (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	The date & time of opening of price e-bids shall be notified separately

2. The Techno-Commercial Bids of all participating Bidders shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer, TLMD-7, Bemina Srinagar. The date & time of opening of Price Bids of the qualifying bidders shall be notified on J&K Government's website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through e-mail message. The hardcopies shall have to be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer TLMD-7 Bemina Srinagar by 31-10-2023 (14:00 Hrs).

3. Before participating in the online Bids, the intending Bidders shall get acquainted with the topography of site of work, carriage by head load and local conditions thereof.

4. Clarifications, if any, can also be sought from the office of the undersigned on e-mail: tlmd7.jkptcl@gmail.com or on phone No. 0194-3516481 during the working hours.

5. The Department reserves the right to reject any or all the Bids at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd-
Executive Engineer
TLMD-7 Srinagar

No: TLMD-7/TS/1994-97
DIPK-NB-3715/23 Dated: 16 : 10 : 2023

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- Srinagar: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- 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

1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	5:16
ZUHR	12:16
ASR	4:17
Magrib	6:00
ISHA	7:18

This Day In History

- 1951 - Egyptian army fires on British troops
- 1956 - England's 1st large scale nuclear power station opens
- 1956 - Pakistan defeat Australia by nine wickets at 1st attempt
- 1960 - US & Britain sign accord for nuclear submarine bases
- 1961 - Battle of Paris-police kill 210 Algerians
- 1961 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 33,100 m
- 1969 - Soyuz 7 returns to Earth
- 1970 - Anwar Sadat sworn in as the 3rd President of Egypt
- 1973 - OPEC oil ministers agree to use oil weapon in Arab-Israeli War, mandate cut in exports, and recommend embargo against unfriendly states.
- 1975 - 1st Space Shuttle main engine test at National Space Tech Labs, Miss
- 1975 - UN passes resolution saying "Zionism is a form of racism"
- 1976 - China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC
- 1979 - Mother Teresa of Calcutta awarded Nobel Peace Prize
- 1983 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to Gerard Debreu
- 1984 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Bruce Merrifield
- 1986 - Yitzhak Rabin forms Israeli government
- 1994 - Kapil Dev's final one-day international (v West Indies)
- 1998 - At Jesse, in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, a petroleum pipeline explodes killing about 1200 villagers, some of whom are scavenging gasoline.
- 2003 - Eunuuchs in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh float the political party Jiti Jitayi Politics.
- 2006 - The United States population reaches 300 million
- 2007 - The Dalai Lama receives the United States Congressional Gold Medal
- 2012 - Exoplanet Alpha Centauri Bb discovered orbiting Alpha Centauri announced (later thought to be a false finding)
- 2013 - 59 people are killed in a wave of attacks on Shia Muslims in Iraq

From KO Archives

MoU Contained Some Deficiencies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a candid admission, the chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today said the Centre had taken him for a ride when the former union energy Minister P K Kumaramanglam, obtained his signatures on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) whose contents later turned out to be detrimental to the state's interests

According to a CNS report Dr Abdullah told the state assembly during an obituary reference to the late Kumaramanglam that a MoU had been signed between him and union minister. However, when the documents were prepared the union energy minister allegedly with malafide intentions, obtained his signatures on such papers which, on closer scrutiny later revealed that these were against the interests of the state.

However an official handout issued today said the chief minister had said "the MoU signed by him with the then union energy minister had been signed in good faith to benefit the State." However the handout said "Later on the state officials pointed out some deficiencies." He said he immediately up the matter with Kumaramanglam who "readily agreed". But before correction could be effected, the union Minister passed away. "These clauses have to be modified to protect the interests of the State" Dr. Abdullah added.

When contacted the principal secretary power department department Ajit Kumar told Observer News Service, the 'deficiencies pertained to the state's claim for reimbursement of the expenditure it had already incurred on the power projects. The MoU did not mention this. However, Kumar said the Centre had agreed to reimburse the expenditure and necessary modifications would be incorporated in the MoU shortly.

(Kashmir Observer, October 17, 2000)

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

In reference to Notice inviting open tender (tender notice no. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 dated 28.09.2023) through E-process (REPS) for leasing of Parcel Cargo Express Train from Dhandari Katan to Agartala and back to Dhandari Katan on round trip, published in newspapers on 27.09.2023 and corrigendum published on 30.09.2023 and 04.10.2023, following changes have been made:-

"Due to administrative reasons, the date of opening of said PCET tender (tender notice no. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 dated 26.09.2023) will now be 30.10.2023 instead of 18.10.2023. Other terms & conditions of this tender will remain same."

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

No. 179-C-PCET-DDL-AGTL-23 Dated: 16.10.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3216/23

Gaza's Crowded Hospitals Near Breaking Point As Israeli Ground Invasion Looms

Agencies

RAFAH (GAZA STRIP): Palestinians in besieged Gaza crowded into hospitals and schools on Monday, seeking shelter and running low on food and water. More than a million people have fled their homes ahead of an expected Israeli ground invasion aimed at destroying Hamas after its fighters rampaged through southern Israel.

Much of Hamas' military infrastructure is concealed in urban areas, where street-by-street fighting would likely cause mounting casualties on both sides. Israel has given no timetable for a ground incursion.

All eyes were on the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, where the U.S. and international mediators appeared close to reaching a deal for a humanitarian cease-fire that would allow aid in and allow foreigners to exit Gaza. Rafah was shut down nearly a week ago because of Israeli airstrikes.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said there was no such cease-fire, as hundreds of people gathered on the Palestinian side of the crossing.

The enclave's food, water and medicine supplies are dwindling. Hospitals say they are on the verge of collapse and unable to heed Israeli demands to evacuate patients. More than a week of devastating Israeli airstrikes have demolished entire neighbourhoods but failed to stem militant rocket fire into Israel.

The Gaza Health Ministry said

2,670 Palestinians have been killed and 9,600 wounded since the fighting erupted, more than in the 2014 Gaza war, which lasted over six weeks. That makes this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides.

More than 1,400 Israelis have died, the vast majority of civilians killed in Hamas' Oct. 7 assault. At least 155 others, including children, were captured by Hamas and taken into Gaza, according to Israel. It's the deadliest war for Israel since the 1973 conflict with Egypt and Syria.

Israel has ordered more than 1 million Palestinians — almost half the territory's population — to move to Gaza's south. The military says it is trying to clear away civilians ahead of a major campaign against Hamas in the north, where it says the militants have extensive networks of tunnels and rocket launchers.

Hamas has urged people to stay in their homes, and the Israeli military on Sunday released photos it said showed a Hamas roadblock preventing traffic from moving south.

For a third day, Israel's military announced a safe corridor for people to move from north to south between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon. It said more than 600,000 people have already evacuated the Gaza City area.

Hospitals in Gaza are expected to run out of generator fuel in the next 24 hours, endangering the lives of thousands of patients, according to the U.N. Gaza's sole power plant shut down for lack of fuel after Israel completely sealed off the 40-kilometer (25-mile) long territory



following the Hamas attack.

The World Health Organization said hospitals are "overflowing" as people seek safety. "We are concerned about disease outbreaks due to mass displacement and poor water and sanitation," it said. Four hospitals in northern Gaza are no longer functioning and 21 have received Israeli orders to evacuate. Doctors have refused, saying it would mean death for critically ill patients and newborns on ventilators.

Israel's decision to cut off water supplies, combined with a lack of fuel for pumps and desalination stations, has caused shortages, putting 3,500 patients in 35 hospitals across

Gaza at risk.

"Water is needed to ensure sanitary conditions on inpatient wards, in operation rooms, and in emergency departments. It is essential for the prevention of hospital-associated infections and for the prevention of outbreaks in hospitals," the WHO said.

The U.N. health agency said life-saving assistance for 300,000 patients is currently awaiting entry through Rafah.

The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, says over 1 million people — about half of Gaza's population — have been displaced in a little over a week. Half are sheltering in U.N.-run schools and other

facilities, while others are staying with family or neighbours.

UNRWA said it has been forced to ration water, giving people just 1 liter (1 quart) a day to cover all their needs.

Israel has said the siege won't be lifted until Hamas releases all the captives, but the country's water ministry said water had been restored at one "specific point" in Gaza, at a location outside the southern town of Khan Younis. Aid workers in Gaza said they had not yet seen evidence the water was back.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military ordered residents to evacuate 28 communities near the Lebanese border after increasing cross-border fire between

Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The military order affects towns that are within 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the border.

Hezbollah militants fired rockets and an anti-tank missile on Sunday, and Israel responded with airstrikes and shelling. The fighting killed at least one person on the Israeli side and wounded several on both sides of the border.

Hezbollah said it had fired rockets toward an Israeli military position in retaliation for Israeli shelling that killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah on Friday and two Lebanese civilians on Saturday. It said the increased strikes represented a "warning" and did not mean Hezbollah has decided to enter the war.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is expected back in Israel on Monday after a frantic six-country tour through Arab nations aimed at preventing the fighting from igniting a broader regional conflict. President Joe Biden is also considering a trip to Israel, though no plans have been finalized.

In a television interview Sunday night, Biden, who has repeatedly proclaimed support for Israel, said he thought it would be a "big mistake" for the country to reoccupy Gaza.

Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Gilad Erdan, told CNN the country does not want to occupy Gaza but will do "whatever is needed" to obliterate Hamas' capabilities.

In Nasser Hospital, in southern Gaza, intensive care rooms were packed with wounded

patients, most of them children under the age of 3. Hundreds of people with severe blast injuries have come to the hospital, said Dr. Mohammed Qandeel, a consultant at the critical care complex.

There were 35 patients in the ICU who required ventilators and another 60 on dialysis. If fuel runs out, "it means the whole health system will be shut down," he said Sunday, as children moaned in pain in the background. "All these patients are in danger of death if the electricity is cut off."

Dr. Hussam Abu Safiya, the head of paediatrics at the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, said the facility did not evacuate despite Israeli orders. There were seven newborns in the ICU hooked up to ventilators, he said. Evacuating "would mean death for them and other patients under our care."

Shifa hospital in Gaza City, the territory's largest, said it would bury 100 bodies in a mass grave as an emergency measure after its morgue overflowed. Tens of thousands of people seeking safety have gathered in the hospital compound.

Israeli forces, supported by a growing deployment of U.S. warships in the region and the call-up of some 360,000 reservists, have positioned themselves along Gaza's border and drilled for what Israel said would be a broad campaign to dismantle the militant group.

Israel said it has already struck dozens of military targets, including command centres and rocket launchers, and also killed Hamas commanders.



Hezbollah Destroys Israeli Surveillance Cameras Along The Lebanese Border As Tension Soars

BEIRUT: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said Monday it has started destroying surveillance cameras on several Israeli army posts along the border as tension rose following the Israel-Hamas war that began Oct. 7.

Hezbollah's military media arm released a video showing snipers shooting at and destroying surveillance cameras placed on five points along the Lebanon-Israel border including one outside the Israeli town of Metula.

The militant group appears to want to prevent the Israeli army from monitoring movements on the Lebanese side of the border after days of fire exchange that left at least seven people dead, including four Hezbollah fighters, on the Lebanese side.

Since the Oct. 7, attack by the Palestinian militant Hamas group on southern Israel that killed

more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and troops, tension has been on the rise along the Lebanon-Israel border. Hezbollah fighters fired anti-tank missiles on Israeli army positions and Israeli troops shelled border areas on the Lebanese side of the border.

Israel and Hezbollah are bitter enemies that fought a monthlong war in the summer of 2006 that ended in a draw. Israel considers the Iran-backed Shiite militant group its most serious immediate threat, estimating that Hezbollah has some 150,000 rockets and missiles aimed at Israel.

There are concerns that the powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah could join the war with Israel and earlier this month, President Joe Biden warned other players in the Middle East not to join the conflict and has sent American warships to the region and vowed full support for Israel.

24 hours left for aid to enter Gaza before 'catastrophe': WHO



Agencies

The World Health Organization on Monday warned there were only "24 hours of water, electricity and fuel left" in the Gaza Strip before "a real catastrophe" sets in.

WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Ahmed Al-Mandhari said the bombed, besieged territory must be allowed to receive convoys of aid, currently stuck at the Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

If assistance does not arrive, doctors will have to "prepare death certificates for their pa-

tients", he told AFP.

On the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, trucks carrying badly needed aid have been waiting for days as mediators press for a cease-fire that would allow them to enter Gaza and allow foreigners to leave. Rafah, Gaza's only connection to Egypt, was shut down nearly a week ago because of Israeli airstrikes.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said Israel "has not taken a position to open the crossing from the Gaza side." The Israeli government did not respond to a request for comment.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians sheltering in U.N. facilities are on less than 1 liter (1 quart) of water per day. Hospitals warn they are on the verge of collapse, with emergency generators that power machines like ventilators and incubators down to about one day of fuel and supplies of medicine almost exhausted.

The Gaza Health Ministry said 2,750 Palestinians have been killed and 9,700 wounded since the fighting erupted, more than in the 2014 Gaza war, which lasted over six weeks. That makes this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for both sides.

NEWS MAKERS

UP Cop Suspended Over Social Media Post On Palestine

Press Trust of India

LAKHIMPUR KHERI, UP: A police constable in Uttar Pradesh has been suspended over his social media post in support of Palestine, an official said on Monday.

Circle officer (Sadar) Sandeep Singh said the social media post of constable Suhail Ansari, seeking donations for Palestine, went viral in the past two to three. "The superintendent of police has taken cognizance of the matter. A probe was conducted in this regard and subsequently, constable Ansari was suspended on Monday," he said.

Mr Singh said no information about whether the constable was linked to any organisation has come to the fore so far but some minor complaints have been received.

"Other facts are also being examined in the probe. If he is found guilty in future, stringent action will be initiated against him," the circle officer said.

Hamas group attacked southern Israel on October 7 killing hundreds of civilians. The Israel Defense Forces launched multiple attacks in retaliation. Thousands of people have died in Israel and the Gaza Strip in the biggest escalation in decades between the two sides.

10 Grams Gold, Free Internet Likely In Congress Poll Manifesto In Telangana

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: Ten grams of gold to eligible women at the time of marriage, besides ₹one lakh cash and free internet to students are some of the promises that are likely to figure in the Telangana Congress manifesto for the November 30 Assembly polls.

According to D Sridhar Babu, chairman of the TPCC manifesto committee, the gold is in addition to ₹one lakh cash, under the party's 'Mahalakshmi' guarantee.

Presently, the BRS government, under Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak Schemes, offer one-time financial assistance of ₹1,00,116 at the time of marriage for brides who are residents of Telangana, who have completed 18 years of age at the time of marriage and whose parental income does not exceed ₹2 lakh per annum



Israel Going 'Beyond Self-Defense' With Gaza Blitz: China

Agencies

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a phone call with his Saudi counterpart on 15 October that Israel's actions in Gaza have gone "beyond self-defense," labeling the daily attacks on civilians as "collective punishment" and urging the government to abide by international law and allowing the entry of aid into Gaza.

"Israel's actions have gone beyond self-defense, and it should heed the call of the international community and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to stop its collective punishment of the people in Gaza," the Chinese diplomat said.

He added that China "opposes and condemns all acts that harm civilians" and that Beijing is communicating with several countries to secure a ceasefire, the opening of humanitarian aid corridors, and the fundamental rights of the Gaza Strip's residents.

Yi also condemned the "historical injustices" against Pal-

estines and vowed to work with Saudi Arabia and other countries to revive a two-state solution.

Bin Farhan responded by expressing the kingdom's concern over the situation, namely Israel targeting civilians and attempting to displace the Gaza residents forcibly.

He vowed his country's willingness to work with China to urge "all parties to observe the international humanitarian law, protect civilians from harm, and implement relevant Security Council resolutions" in favor of the Palestinians.

China brokered a historic reconciliation deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia in March to end years of regional tension between them.

While recently finding itself back on the path of US-sponsored efforts for normalization with Israel — the situation in Gaza may have reportedly forced the kingdom to put normalization "on ice."

Beijing announced on 13 October the shipping of urgent humanitarian aid for the Gaza Strip.

China Prepares For Belt And Road Summit In Shadow Of Israel-Gaza War

Agencies

China is due to host representatives of 130 countries for a forum on its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that is likely to be overshadowed by the Israel-Gaza war, and the continuing conflict in Ukraine.

At the top of the forum's guest list is Russia's President Vladimir Putin, on his first trip to a major global power since the Ukraine invasion threw his regime into international isolation, leading the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue a warrant for his arrest.

Leaders began arriving in Beijing on Monday for an event showcasing the global reach of the BRI — a signature project of President Xi Jinping.

While China hopes the forum will help boost its standing as

a leading global power, Israel's continued bombardment of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip is likely to dominate the headlines.

Israel declared war on Hamas after its fighters launched a surprise attack on Israel on October 7, killing more than 1,400 people, most of them civilians, and taking others captive.

Gaza has been under attack ever since with entire neighbourhoods flattened. More than one million people have fled their homes amid expectations that Israel will soon launch a ground offensive.

At least 2,670 people have been killed in Gaza. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has condemned Israel's actions for going "beyond the scope of self-defence" and called for an end to the violence.

"India's Partition Was A Historical Mistake": AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: AIMIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday said the

partition of India should never have happened and called it a "historical mistake." Addressing a press conference, the Hyderabad Lok Sabha MP said historically this was one country and unfortunately it was divided, which should not have happened.

"Historically, this was one country and unfortunately it was divided. It should not have happened. This is what I can say. But if you want, arrange a debate and I will tell you who is responsible for the division of this country... I can not give a one-line answer for a historical mistake commit-

ted at that time," he told reporters replying to a query.

He also suggested reading a book by freedom fighter and India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, 'India Wins Freedom', and how he went to the Congress leaders then pleading with them not to accept this partition proposal.

"The partition of this country should not have happened. That was wrong. All the leaders who were there at that time were responsible (for the partition). If you read a book by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's book 'India Wins Freedom', Maulana Azad requested all the Congress leaders then that the country should not be divided," Mr Owaisi said.



J&K -Based Filmmaker Shines At Global Stage With 'Country Of Blind'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Jammu and Kashmir-based film director has earned worldwide acclaim for his latest cinematic masterpiece, "Country of Blind."

After making critically acclaimed films including Lihaf, Mantostaan and Identity Card, director Rahat Kazmi, who hails from Surankote Poonch, is back with "Country of Blind".

The film which is an adaptation of H.G. Wells "Country of Blind" is entirely shot in Kashmir and also features local artists including Hina Khan, Mir Sarwar, Shuib Shah, Anushka Sen, Inaamulhaq and Pradhuman Singh.

The film which as per the makers is shot in both English and Hindi languages. It is poised to be a cinematic gem that transcends borders and touches the hearts of viewers.

"The majestic Himalayas serve as the setting for this historical drama. The movie was in filmed Doodhpathri, Sonamarg, and Gulmarg. A portion of the film was also filmed in Sanasar in Jammu," Kazmi said.

While the makers expect a huge response from the film, it has already garnered an enormous response at the international stage.

The film, which was released in USA on October 6 received a

lot of praise from international filmmakers.

Golden Globe winner and filmmaker Siddiq Barmak Praises Hina Khan Starrer 'Country of Blind' as an "enchanting" Cinematic Experience

"Country of Blind is an enchanting film. It emerges as a battleground where love contends with freedom, where the decision to stay or depart teeters on the precipice, and the relentless struggle between blindness and sight reaches its zenith." Barmak commented after watching the movie.

"Country of Blind" was also invited by the Oscar Library and soon it was screened in the USA.

The film is now set to make its way to Indian theatres soon, where it is expected to captivate audiences with its enchanting storyline and beautifully crafted narrative.

Rahat said there is a lot of expectation from the audience regarding this movie.

Prior to it, Rahat Kazmi's 'The Last Coffee' evoked enormous response from the movie buffs.

Starring Ankita Lokhande aka Archana of 'Pavitra Rishita' fame and young J&K-born actor Shoaib Nikash Shah, 'The Last Coffee' has been released on Zee5. Shot exclusively in Patnitop, the movie was showcased in different international film festivals before making the OTT debut—(KNO)



A MAN PUSHES HIS CART through the city centre Lal Chowk on a rainy Monday morning. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Div Com Reviews Progress On Delhi Katra Expressway, Ring Road

Directs DCs To Early Complete Disbursement Of Compensation, NHAI To Maintain Road Surface Of NH

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar on Monday chaired a meeting of concerned Deputy Commissioners and officers of NHAI to review the progress of work on Delhi Amritsar Katra Expressway project and Jammu Ring Road Project.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya; Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rakesh Minhas; Deputy Commissioner Samba, Abhishek Sharma; Regional Officer NHAI, Chief Engineer JPDCL, ACR Reasi, Project Directors of NHAI and other concerned officers.

The Div Com thoroughly examined the progress of work on the Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway and the Jammu Ring Road Project. It was informed that work was in progress in all executed packages.

The Div Com also reviewed land acquisition, disbursement of compensation. He instructed the concerned Deputy Com-



missioners to resolve land issues, bottlenecks if any on priority for smooth execution of work on prestigious road projects. He also directed them for completing the disbursement of land acquisition compensation in a time-bound manner.

It was informed that most of the land issues have been resolved while the Div Com instructed NHAI officers to stay in regular touch with concerned Deputy Commissioners for resolving minor pending issues. NHAI Officers were asked to expedite the pace of work on Delhi-Katra expressway for its time bound completion.

The Div Com took strong note of slow progress on package falls in Reasi district and instructed Project Director to engage more men and machinery for expeditious progress.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for the proper maintenance of surfaces where work has been executed to facilitate smooth traffic movement on the National Highway.

While reviewing Ring Road the Div Com directed Chief Engineer JPDCL for early shifting of power line coming in the alignment of the Ring Road project at Jagti.

CS Reviews Completion Of JSCL Projects

Also Inaugurates Several IT Initiatives Under 'My Jammu' App

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday took a review of the projects taken up under the Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) to be completed during this time of the year.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner JMC & CEO, JSCL besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized upon the officers to take emphatic and all necessary measures for uplifting the overall ambience of the Jammu city. He stressed that the ongoing projects for beautification of the city should be completed forthwith to add to its aesthetic appeal.

Dr Mehta recalled that the

projects like giving facility to the Vikram Chowk, installation of view cutters before SRTC yard, upgradation of Bahu Fort Road, Satwari Chowk and Airport Road should also be carried out for giving major upliftment to the outlook of this capital city.

He also urged the officers to extend all the IT-based smart solutions to the city dwellers in view of the commitment of offering all the services through online mode in the UT. He made out that the city people not only deserve world class infrastructure but all the services delivered to them with the click of the button only.

While taking note of the new 100 e-buses to be pressed into public service by JSCL, the Chief Secretary directed for dedicating the already received ones to public at an ear-

liest. He asked the department to either take the requisite staff out of the huge employee base of the UT on deputation or hire the ones with appropriate skill sets. He impressed upon them to complete the formalities in next few days so that public is able to take benefit of this bus service without any further delay.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary dedicated several new and remapped IT-based services brought live on the 'MyJammu' portal. He urged the department to create awareness among the city dwellers about the uses and benefits of these services. He asked for making service delivery both efficient and cost effective for general public by taking their feedback for improving the quality continuously.

President Shri Kailash Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust Meets LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mahant Rohit Shastri, President Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today and projected various issues pertaining to the promotion and preservation of Sanskrit language in J&K.

Bharat Petroleum LPG incharge J&K and Ladakh met the Lt Governor and shared with him the endeavours of the Bharat Petroleum for the expansion of LPG storage and Bottling plants in the region.

Later, Ms Shehnaz Ganai, former Legislator also called on the Lt Governor and apprised him of various development issues of Poonch district.

Advisor Bhatnagar Reviews Functioning Of Transport Deptt, JKRTC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar on Monday chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Transport department and Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Transport department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G; Transport Commissioner, Rahul Sharma; Managing Director, JKRTC, Rakesh Kumar Srangal and other senior officers of Transport department as well as JKRTC.

During the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar held extensive discussions on physical and financial aspects of department as well as corporation besides other issues like service quality, safety measures, infrastructure development, and future plans for the improvement of public transportation services in J&K were also discussed in detail.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Advisor Bhatnagar maintained that the present LG led Administration is committed to provide accessible and reliable transportation options to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir and in that direction several initiatives were launched from last few years to achieve that goal. He emphasized on the importance of modernizing public transportation system with all advanced safety and security

measures besides making them more environmentally sustainable.

While reviewing the performance and functioning of Transport department, the Advisor asked the officers to provide seamless services to the people with due adherence to Public Service Guarantee Act timelines. He also emphasized on them to monitor the data on Vahan portal effectively so that any fraud of vehicles is detected timely.

Deliberating on the steps taken for reducing road accidents, Advisor Bhatnagar emphasized upon the officers to analyse the data of Integrated Road Accident Database (IRDA) portal efficaciously. He stressed upon them to implement intelligent solutions in consultation with other stakeholders and technical experts in order to reduce road accidents.

The Advisor also asked them to install speed checks on critical junctions on highways as well as other interjections for reducing traffic incidents.

Advisor Bhatnagar further asked the officers to study the feasibility of conducting hill driving training course for all the government driver owing to the hilly terrain roads of Jammu and Kashmir. He also asked them to organise awareness camps regarding safe driving in taxi stands, bus stands and other public spaces to generate maximum awareness among the intended audience.

Two-Day Urdu Writers Conference Held At JU

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) organised "2-Day Urdu writers Conference at seminar Hall of Department of Urdu, Jammu University.

The theme of the conference was "Social and Cultural Challenges in Urdu Language and Literature".

The Inaugural session of the Conference was presided over by Prof. Anwar Pasha, former head of the Department Jawahar Lal Nehru University. Prof. Qadoos Javed presented the keynote address on "Social and Cultural Challenges in Urdu Language and Literature". Prof. Mohd. Reyaz Ahmad, Professor and Head of Department of Urdu Jammu University shared the presidium with Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL where as Anil Sehgal was the Guest of Honour.

At the outset, Bharat Singh, Secretary JKAACL, gave a heartfelt cordial welcome to everyone having respect and love for Urdu Language. While addressing the audience, he said that main thought behind keeping this program at Urdu Department was to involve the students and scholars of Urdu in the programme for better development of the Language and get better results. He further added that the development of a Language is in the hands of the people who reads and

write that language.

In his presidential address Prof. Anwar Pasha appreciated the efforts of JKAACL to organise such literary and cultural activities. He stressed upon the need to encourage new generation of writers to write on various aspects of socio themes.

Dr. Shah Nawaz, Editor Cum cultural Officer, JKAACL presented Vote of thanks. He said that such initiatives will be taken in future also. The inaugural session was conducted by Dr. Farhat Shamim, Asstt. Professor, Department of Urdu.

After the inaugural session, paper reading session was organised in which Dr Nusrat Jabeen presented paper on "Social and Cultural Challenges in teaching of Urdu Language and Literature". Dr Alataf Anum on "Social and Cultural Challenges in criticism of Urdu Language and Literature", Dr Abdul Rashid Manhas presented paper on "Social and Cultural Challenges Journalism of Urdu Language and Literature". The session was presided over by Anil Sehgal, renowned Journalist while Khalid Hussain was guest of honour.

The session was conducted by Prof. Rashid Manhas, Assistant Prof. Department of Urdu. An Urdu Mushaira was also presented by more than 20 poets from across the J&K. This session was presided over by renowned Poet Pritapal Singh Betab.

Motivational Speaker Sister Shivani To Hold Free Talk At KU

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: International Motivational Speaker, Spiritualist, Meditator and famous for her talk shows Sister Shivani will hold an insightful talk for the people of Kashmir at University of Kashmir on October 19.

She has been invited by the Inner Space Centre for the talk titled 'A Life of Happiness'.

Inner Space is holding this free talk at the University of Kashmir for which people can register and they will receive intimation after screening on a first come first serve basis. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is the Chief Guest for the Talk and many other dignitaries will also be attending.

Sister Shivani is a widely acclaimed spiritual master whose talks have transformed millions of lives worldwide. This is the first time she is in the valley to meet with the people of Kashmir. Sister Shivani is a practitioner of Rajyog Meditation for over 25 years. Her practical application of spiritual principles on the TV programmes for over 15 years has empowered people to overcome issues of emotional distress, depression and relationship conflicts.

In March 2019, she was awarded the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar, the highest civilian honor for women in India, for her role in transforming human behaviors. Since 2017 she has been appointed as Goodwill Ambassador by the World Psychiatrist Association. She is an electronics engineer from Pune University.

Inner Space on the other hand has been organizing online insightful talks for the people of the valley with speakers worldwide since the corona pandemic to spread this campaign of peace and happiness and many have benefitted from these programs. This particular talk will really help understand how they can stabilize their inner world, their relationships for peaceful and happy living. Registration numbers 98726-60286, 98155-22393, 93331-90000 Registration Link <https://tiny.cc/LifeOfHappiness>

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)
CPO Chowk, Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
www.jkssb.nic.in

Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Test for the post of Data Entry Operator -regarding.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted Written Examination for the post of Data Entry Operator, Election Department, UT Cadre, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020, under Item No. 098, on 08th October, 2023; and

Whereas, the JKSSB, vide Notice No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/76/2023-03(7291629), dated: 08-10-2023, issued provisional Answer Key in respect of the written test; and

Whereas, the objections were examined and the revised/final answer key in respect of written examination held for the said post has been notified vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/76/2023-03(7291629) dated: 13-10-2023; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the result/score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post of Data Entry Operator, Election Department, UT Cadre, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020, under Item No. 098, conducted on 08-10-2023, is hereby notified as Annexure

It is further notified that:

- Mere figuring in the result/score sheet shall not entitle a candidate to be called for document verification or figure in the select list and that he/she has to fulfil other eligibility conditions, as laid down and decision of the Board in this regard shall be final.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) will call candidates failing in the consideration zone, based on the merit obtained by them for document verification. The schedule for document verification shall be notified separately.

No. JKSSB/COE0EXAM(UT)/76/2023-03 (7291629)
Dated: 13-10-2023

Pulkit Dutta (JKAS)
Assistant Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

DIPK-10463-23
DT: 16/10/2023

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL
RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

CORRIGENDUM

For E-NIT Nos. PHE/MRD/TS/92/95/97&98 of 10/2023 issued vide this office Nos:-PHE/MRD/TS/3157-61 DT: -05-10-2023, PHE/MRD/TS/3187-91 DT: -05-10-2023, PHE/MRD/TS/3255-59 DT: -10-10-2023 & PHE/MRD/TS/3260-64 DT: -10-10-2023 are hereby extended due to poor/nil response, new closing and opening dates as under:

S.NO.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Closing date	21-10-2023	11:00 AM
2.	Bid opening date	21-10-2023	12:00 PM

No: PHE/MRD/3335-39
Dated: 16-10-2023
DIPK-10497-23
DT: 16/10/2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
NAAC ACCREDITED 'A+' (CYCLE-3)
SRI PRATAP COLLEGE
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M. A. ROAD SRINAGAR
Phono /Fax: 0194-2476828 | <http://www.spcollege.co.in>
E-mail: spcgr1905@gmail.com

No:SPC/2481 Date: 12/10/2023

EOI FOR SUPPLY OF BOOKS

Sri Pratap college has floated EOI for purchase of books with e-nit no: 2023_HED_233136_1, dated: 11:10:2023. All the interested and eligible book sellers/suppliers who are interested in supply of books can participate in the tender by visiting jktenders.gov.in as per details mentioned in Tender notice.

DIPK-10478-23
DT: 16/10/2023
Principal

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 17-10-2023

Extended Outages Begin

The administration has announced a new power curtailment schedule for the upcoming winter season in the Kashmir Valley. In metered areas, there will be a daily power curtailment of 4.5 hours, with this curtailment being distributed across three shifts—morning, afternoon, and evening. On the other hand, non-metered areas will experience a more extended power curtailment of 8 hours on a regular basis.

As winter descends upon Kashmir Valley, its residents brace themselves for the daunting challenges brought on by declining temperatures and an unreliable power supply. The introduction of a new power schedule has raised concerns, more so, with the Valley's temperature sharply declining over the past week, rendering electricity not just a source of warmth and light, but a lifeline during the dark, cold nights.

However, the government appears to treat these winter power curtailments as an accepted fact of life in the region. Such acceptance might be warranted if not for the precedent set by the current government, which managed to provide a relatively better supply of electricity last winter. The people of the Valley have legitimate expectations that the government will ensure a reasonable supply of electricity, making it easier to endure the winter.

Metered areas, where residents pay for the electricity they consume, deserve an uninterrupted power supply. In the past, these areas received round-the-clock power, but this is no longer the case. While it's not an endorsement of past administrations, it's crucial to ask why the current government has failed to improve upon its own performance from the past three winters.

Yet, the power debate in the Valley transcends the availability of electricity during winter. It highlights the perpetual failure of successive governments to meet domestic power demand from the region's abundant water resources. The fundamental issue is clear: Kashmir exports electricity but imports it at a considerable cost for its own consumption. This situation necessitates a comprehensive strategy and long-term planning to ensure a resilient power supply for the winter months, and beyond.

The issue is simple and it is this: we are a region that exports electricity but purchases power at a hefty cost for its own consumption. This calls for the government to strategize and act to ensure that if not in the near to medium future but at least in the long term, we have adequate electricity for winter. The challenges facing Kashmir, from nature's unpredictability to infrastructure deficiencies, are not insurmountable. With concerted efforts from the government, the region can overcome these challenges.

OTHER OPINION

Olympian heights

From time immemorial, the Olympics has been used as a soft-power medium. Governments worldwide have bet on the sporting, economic and socio-cultural impact the games can leave, as well as on the political legitimacy the hosting of the event can bring. Post-World War Europe, post-apartheid South Africa and Brazil of the 2010s are vivid examples. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session in Mumbai that India "would leave no stone unturned" in its efforts to organise the 2036 edition of the quadrennial extravaganza is to be seen in this light. That India has also expressed an interest in the Youth Olympics as a precursor is a clear signal that it wants to shed the reticence that came with the unsavoury happenings at the scam-ridden and ineptly handled 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. Though the ratification of the host city for 2036 will take time — Brisbane was selected for the 2032 edition only in July 2021 — and there will be other claimants, the move lays bare India's global ambitions. Be it through the desire for a permanent membership at the United Nations Security Council or the euphoria surrounding the G-20 presidency, India has consistently sought a seat at the high table. The tag of an Olympic host can give it a vantage position in a shifting world order.

Sporting-wise, it is clear that India wants to benefit from the strong tailwind produced by the stellar 107-medal show at the recently concluded Asian Games. Ever since Abhinav Bindra won the nation's first-ever individual Olympic gold at Beijing 2008, there has been a steady uptick in performances at multi-disciplinary competitions. There is even a firm belief that India will win double-digit medals at Paris 2024. While such confidence is not entirely misplaced, conducting a mega event such as the Olympics presents a humongous challenge. Costs are often prohibitive, as seen from the fierce public outcry during both Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020. In the case of Tokyo, the financial burden was said to have ballooned to \$15.4 billion, more than double the initial estimate. Recently, the Australian state of Victoria pulled out of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games because of mounting expenditure and the Canadian province of Alberta withdrew a bid for the 2030 edition. To avoid being seen as a populist ephemera in a deeply unequal society, the IOC has moved away from the one-size-fits-all solution and now asks potential organisers to present projects that best fit their economic, social and environmental realities. India's success will depend on how it marries its aspirations with the inherent complexities.

The Hindu

The Gore in Gaza

UN, calls for immediate ceasefire

Asad Mirza

The latest offensive against Israel by Hamas on 6th October has outpaced the Russia-Ukraine conflict out of the news cycle and currently occupies the topmost headlines and news updates.

It has also brought forth the different dimensions of the issue and the response of various parties to it, and what appalls most is that none of the many parties responsible for getting it resolved are concerned about the vast scale of the human tragedy taking place in Gaza.

By the 10th day of Hamas's offensive against Israel, official figures reported that 2,329 Palestinians have been killed since the latest fighting erupted, making this the deadliest of the five Gaza wars for Palestinians. For Israel, this is the deadliest war since the 1973 conflict with Egypt and Syria.

Meanwhile, a UN human rights expert warned on Saturday last that Palestinians are in grave danger of mass ethnic cleansing and called on the international community to urgently mediate a ceasefire between warring Hamas and Israeli occupation forces.

"The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel has reached fever pitch," said Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967.

"The United Nations and its Member States must intensify efforts to mediate an immediate ceasefire between the parties, before we reach a point of no return," said Albanese. "The international community has the responsibility to prevent and protect populations from atrocity crimes. Accountability for international crimes committed by Israeli occupation forces and Hamas must also be immediately pursued," she said.

Since 7 October 2023, more than 1,900 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 600 children, more than 7,600 injured, and over 423,000 people have been displaced as a result of the Israeli strikes. This fate befell a population which has already experienced five major wars since 2008 in the context of an unlawful blockade imposed by Israel since 2007, which Albanese said has been widely condemned by the international community as collective punishment.

On 12 October, Israeli forces issued an order for 1.1 million Palestinians in north Gaza to move to the south within 24 hours, amidst ongoing airstrikes. The next day, Israeli forces reportedly began to enter Gaza in order to "clear" the area. Palestinians have no safe zone anywhere in Gaza, with Is-



Other Arab nations and organisations like the UAE and OIC are making enough noises about the conflict but none seems to be taking any concrete step to get the conflict resolved, once and for all

rael having imposed a "complete siege" on the tiny enclave, with water, food, fuel and electricity unlawfully cut off. Rafah, the only border crossing that remained partially open to the Gaza strip, was closed after damage caused by Israeli airstrikes.

Meanwhile, the long-term impact of the current conflict has started manifesting itself in changing the Arab stance towards Israel.

Saudi Arabia is holding U.S.-backed plans to normalise ties

with Israel on ice, sources familiar with Riyadh's thinking said, signalling a rapid rethinking of Saudi foreign policy priorities as war escalates between Israel and Palestinian group Hamas.

The conflict has brought the kingdom closer to Iran. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) took his first phone call from Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi as Riyadh tries to prevent a broader surge in violence across the region.

Reuters report there would be a delay in the U.S.-backed talks on normalisation with Israel that was a key step for the kingdom to secure what Riyadh considers the real prize of a U.S. defence pact in exchange.

Other Arab nations and organisations like the UAE and OIC are making enough noises about the conflict but none seems to be taking any concrete step to get the conflict resolved, once and for all.

In addition, it also makes one wonder whether the Arab states are really interested in finding a resolution of the issue? Many of the Arab countries trying to find a solution to the conflict are themselves theocracies following dynastic rule, thus how they could be prepared to approve a democratic style government in Palestine, remains a moot question.

The issue has also brought forth some other worrying aspects of news reporting and narrative setting as part of the wider agenda setting.

As soon as the tragedy

struck the region, various social media platforms were inundated with highly right-wing opinions, comments and most worrisome, posting unrelated earlier images as those related with the current conflict and acerbic comments through posts became the latest trend.

What makes one wince is also the grossly unprofessional attitude of the Indian electronic media, which followed the same steps mentioned above in a completely unprofessional manner and in addition started reporting from the conflict from a hotel room in Tel Aviv, showing their correspondents as being present on the spot. Thus, claiming to be an expert on the issue to the gullible viewers, who takes anything from them as gospel.

It would not be wrong to say that that the current conflict has showed the real face of the failure of the American foreign policy seen through the prism of the Cold War, expose of Israel's Iron Dome technology and poison-laden false narrative being promoted on social media platforms without any censorship, which these platforms exercise very vigorously against those who support the cause of the Palestinians.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political commentator on international, strategic and defence issues



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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

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The Vital Importance of Reducing Screen Time

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to draw attention to a matter of increasing concern in our modern society—the excessive amount of time we spend glued to screens. In an age dominated by technology and digital devices, it is imperative that we recognize the adverse effects of excessive screen time on our physical and mental well-being.

Screens have become an integral part of our daily lives, with smartphones, tablets, computers, and televisions constantly vying for our attention. While these technological advancements have undoubtedly revolutionized communication and accessibility to information, the repercussions of excessive screen time cannot be ignored.

Firstly, excessive screen time has detrimental effects on our physical health. Prolonged sitting or poor

posture while engaging with screens often leads to sedentary behavior and a host of associated health problems, including obesity, cardiovascular issues, and musculoskeletal disorders. Additionally, extended exposure to the blue light emitted by screens disrupts our sleep patterns, causing insomnia and fatigue.

Moreover, excessive screen time has profound implications for our mental well-being. Studies have shown that increased screen time is linked to higher rates of anxiety, depression, and stress, especially among young individuals. Continuous exposure to social media platforms can foster feelings of inadequacy, as people compare their lives to carefully curated highlight reels of others. Furthermore, excessive screen time often replaces meaningful face-to-face interactions, leading to feelings of isolation and loneliness.

To address this growing concern, it is crucial that we advocate for reduced screen time and promote healthier alternatives. Parents, educators, and communities must work together to encourage children and young adults to engage in physical activities, explore the outdoors, and participate in creative pursuits that do not involve screens. It is essential to create a balanced environment where screen time is limited, and individuals are encouraged to focus on interpersonal relationships, hobbies, and personal development.

Furthermore, we need to educate individuals about responsible screen usage. Encouraging breaks from screens, setting boundaries, and establishing screen-free zones within households can significantly contribute to reducing screen time. Employers can also play a role by promoting digital detox initiatives, providing opportunities for physical activity during work breaks, and fostering a

culture that values personal well-being over constant connectivity.

Lastly, public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and community initiatives can play a vital role in raising awareness about the consequences of excessive screen time. By fostering a collective understanding of the importance of reducing screen time, we can work towards creating a healthier and more balanced society.

In conclusion, it is imperative that we recognize the adverse effects of excessive screen time on our physical and mental health. By promoting reduced screen time, encouraging healthier alternatives, and fostering awareness, we can mitigate these negative effects and cultivate a society that prioritizes human connection, well-being, and personal growth.

Maliha Khan

OBITUARY

KHAYAL

The Polymath and the Polyglot

He Belonged To That Rare Group Of Individuals Called “Public Intellectuals” And Combined In The Versatility Of His Personality A Reputed Journalist, An Established Translator, An Incisive Critic, A Sensitive Poet And A Profound Essayist

Amir Suhail Wani

With the passing away of Ghulam Nabi Khayal, one of the important pages from the socio-cultural and literary folio of Kashmir has fallen apart. He belonged to that rare group of individuals called “public intellectuals” and combined in the versatility of his personality a reputed journalist, an established translator, an incisive critic, a sensitive poet and a profound essayist. Not only was he a polymath who wrote qualitatively on a number of different subjects but he was also a polyglot. He was one of the few Kashmiri authors to have written and published trilingually in Kashmiri, Urdu and English.

In an era of specialisation where human expertise is narrowing down to the point that our super-specialists humorously claim to know “everything about nothing”, Khayal presented the epitome of epistemological integration and at the same time mastered such diverse genres as culture,

THE WEST CELEBRATES ITS HEROES BY WORKING OUT THEIR IDEAS AND BY GIVING LIFE to the statues their intellectual elders have carved in their minds. In the East, to the contrary, we idolise the individual himself, decorate him with a garland of praises and turn a blind eye to his call. I wish that not be the fate of Khayal and may his wisdom and intellectual zest find its heirs and promulgators.”



folklore, history, literature and much more. The author of over thirty scholarly books and the winner of Sahitya Academy Award, Khayal embodied the values of simple living and scholarly grace. Whatever themes he chose to write upon, he chalked and walked a path of his own, throwing scholarly and insightful flashes onto the subject and strongly questioning the existing narratives and paradigms. His book “Khayal E Qalam”, an anthology of essays bears witness not only to his literary and stylistic prowess but to his academic depth and scholarly acumen as well.

The writer got to share the stage with Khayal on a number of occasions and each time the freshness and originality wasn't lost on me. Unlike the timid and opportunistically prudent, he preferred to state and stay with the truth, irrespective of its cost and consequences. No wonder, he not only corrected but sometimes also lashed out on the authors who he found disloyal to history and digressing from facts

– be it in the field of Iqbaliyat, Kashmir history or socio-cultural repertoire. True to the duty of an intellectual, and “public intellectual” in particular, he staked his interests and sacrificed his perks but didn't let powers dictate a narration to his pen.

A remarkable lesson of optimism emerges on knowing that he trained himself in Persian in a state of imprisonment during the reign of Bhakshi Ghulam Muhammad – and what kind of learning it was? He went on to translate the “Rubaiyat E Khayam” and the standard of translation is such as to secure for itself a place in the translator marvels of the world. On reading the translation, one is left astounded and fails to decide between the beauty of Khayam's original and the subtlety of Khayal's translation. But one can't miss lamenting the fact that the book has been out of print and absent from market for a long time now. True to its place of merit, the work needs massive reprint and public appreciation in view of the fact

that it brings together the academic and literary skills of Khayal and is a sublime addition and tribute to the Kashmiri language & literature.

Human capital and the intellectual treasure of land and culture not only preserve its mores, supply the culture with its theoretical and ideological columns and supports but also by their very mode of existence become emblems and ambassadors of culture and civilisation. We are in no doubt regarding the fact that Khayal had carved for himself a niche where he had become, a reference of and synonymous with Kashmir, and all it has to offer in its literary and cultural diversity and excellence. Essayist, Editor of “Koh E Maraan” and a scholarly figure Suhail Salim, who got to see Khayal Sahab during the last few years and particularly the last days of life recounts that Khayal Sahab always welcomed his guests, the younger ones in particular, with his heart and library open; one of the best personal library Salim recounted he has seen in Kashmir.

6 KHAYAL PRESENTED THE EPITOME OF EPISTEMOLOGICAL integration and at the same time mastered such diverse genres as culture, folklore, history, literature and much more. The author of over thirty scholarly books and the winner of Sahitya Academy Award, Khayal embodied the values of simple living and scholarly grace. Whatever themes he chose to write upon, he chalked and walked a path of his own, throwing scholarly and insightful flashes onto the subject and strongly questioning the existing narratives and paradigms.”

Khayal, he says, was particularly interested in the translation of works to and from Kashmiri and showed special concern for authentic texts on the history of Kashmir in Urdu. Here it is pertinent to mention that the West celebrates its heroes by working out their ideas and by giving life to the statues their intellectual elders have carved in their minds. In the East, to the contrary, we idolise the individual himself, decorate him with a garland of praises and turn a blind eye to his call. I wish that not be the fate of Khayal and may his wisdom and intellectual zest find its heirs and promulgators.

The author of the obituary is a Srinagar-based columnist

Reading Literature Not Only a Pleasure

Language Magazine

Just in case anyone needs another reason to encourage the reading of literature, researchers at Stanford University have come up with more proof that it's good for you. In an innovative interdisciplinary study, neurobiological experts, radiologists, and humanities scholars are working together to explore the relationship between reading, attention, and distraction with the help of Jane Austen. Surprising preliminary results reveal a

dramatic and unexpected increase in blood flow to regions of the brain beyond those responsible for “executive function,” areas which would normally be associated with paying close attention to a task, such as reading, said Natalie Phillips, the literary scholar leading the project. During a series of ongoing experiments, functional magnetic resonance images track blood flow in the brains of subjects as they read excerpts of Jane Austen's Mansfield Park. Experiment participants are first asked to leisurely skim

a passage as they might do in a bookstore, and then to read more closely, as they would while studying for an exam

In both instances, Phillips noticed an increase in blood flow that exceeded “just work and play.” In the case of more critical reading— the type you'd engage in while writing an essay or preparing for a test—blood flow increased beyond executive function regions, or those areas responsible for problem-solving.

Phillips said the global increase in

blood flow during close reading suggests that “paying attention to literary texts requires the coordination of multiple complex cognitive functions.” Blood flow also increased during pleasure reading, but in different areas of the brain.

Phillips suggested that each style of reading may create distinct patterns in the brain that are “far more complex than just work and play.” So both leisurely reading and close-reading benefit us neurologically. The experiment focuses on literary attention,

or more specifically, the cognitive dynamics of the different kinds of focus we bring to reading. This experiment grew out of Phillips' ongoing research about Enlightenment writers who were concerned about issues of attention span, or what they called “wandering attention.” This research is “one of the first fMRI experiments to study how our brains respond to literature,” Phillips said, as well as the first to consider “how cognition is shaped not just by what we read, but how we read it.”

Can Coffee Help You Avoid Weight Gain? Here's What The Science Says

The Conversation

Coffee is well recognised as having a positive impact on long-term health. Drinking the equivalent of three to four cups of instant coffee a day reduces the risk of many health conditions including heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers.

Most people gain small amounts of weight each year as they age. But can coffee help prevent this gradual weight gain? A group of researchers examined whether drinking an extra cup of coffee a day – or adding sugar, cream or a non-dairy alternative – resulted in more or less weight gain than those who didn't adjust their intake.

Their research (currently a pre-proof, which means it has been peer reviewed but is yet to undergo the final formatting and copyediting) found a modest link between coffee and gaining less weight than expected.

People who drank an extra cup of coffee a day gained 0.12 kg less weight than expected over four years. Adding sugar resulted in a fraction more (0.09 kg) weight gain than expected over four years.

How was the study conducted? What did



it find?

Researchers combined data from three large studies from the United States: two Nurses' Health Studies from 1986 to 2010, and from 1991 to 2015, and a Health Professional Follow-up study from 1991 to 2014.

The Nurses' Health Studies are two of the largest cohort studies, with more 230,000 participants, and investigates chronic disease risks for women. The Health Professional Follow-up study involves more than 50,000 male health professionals

and investigates the relationship between diet and health outcomes.

Participants in all three studies completed a baseline questionnaire, and another questionnaire every four years to assess their food and drink intake. Using the combined datasets, researchers analysed changes in coffee intake and changes in the participants' self-reported weight at four-year intervals.

The average four year weight-gains for the nurses' studies were

1.2kg and 1.7kg, while participants in the health professionals study gained an average of 0.8kg.

The researchers found that increasing unsweetened caffeinated or decaffeinated coffee intake by one cup a day was associated with a weight gain that was 0.12 kg less than expected over four years.

Adding creamer (milk) or a non-dairy alternative did not significantly affect this weight change. However, adding sugar (one teaspoon) to coffee was associated with a weight gain that was 0.09 kg more than expected over four years.

These associations were stronger in participants who were younger and had a higher body mass index at the beginning of the studies.

What are the pros and cons of the study?

This study is unique in two ways. It had a very large sample size and followed participants for many years. This adds confidence that the associations were real and can likely be applied to other populations.

However, there are three reasons to be cautious.

First, the findings represent an association, not causation. This

means the study does not prove that coffee intake is the true reason for the weight change. Rather, it shows the two changes were observed together over time.

Second, the findings around weight were very modest. The average four-year weight gain averted, based on one cup of coffee, was 0.12 kilograms, which is about 30 grams per year. This amount may not be a meaningful change for most people looking to manage weight.

Finally, this analysis did not consider the variability in the amount of caffeine in coffee (which we know can be high), it just assumed a standard amount of caffeine per cup.

How could coffee help with weight management?

Caffeine is a natural stimulant which has been shown to temporarily reduce appetite and increase alertness. This may help to feel less hungry for a short period, potentially leading to reduced energy intake.

Some people consume coffee before exercise as a stimulant to improve their workout performance – if a workout is more effective, more energy may be expended. However, the benefit is largely thought to be short-lived, rather than long-term.

Caffeine has also been shown

to speed up our metabolism, causing more energy to be burned while resting. However, this effect is relatively small and is not a suitable substitute for regular physical activity and a healthy diet.

Finally, coffee has a mild diuretic effect, which can lead to temporary water weight loss. This is water loss, not fat loss, and the weight is quickly regained when you re-hydrate.

Is it worth trying coffee for weight loss?

Losing weight can be influenced by various factors, so don't get too enthusiastic about the coffee-weight link highlighted in this new study, or increase your coffee intake to unreasonable levels.

Most adults can safely consume around 400mg of caffeine a day. That's the equivalent of two espressos or four cups of instant coffee or eight cups of tea.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, it is important to talk to your doctor before increasing your caffeine intake, because caffeine can be passed through to your growing baby.

If you need individualised weight guidance, talk to your GP or visit an accredited practising dietitian.

Scientists Map Human, Primate Brains At Cellular And Genetic Levels

Press Trust Of India

Scientists forming an international collaboration have mapped the genetic, cellular, and structural makeup of the human brain and the non-human primate brain.

Along with new knowledge about the brain cells, they share new insights about our nervous systems' cellular makeup across many regions of the brain and what makes the human brain distinctive.

Hundreds of scientists from around the world worked together to complete a range of studies to demonstrate how a suite of scalable techniques can be used

that the studies aimed to answer were - How different are individual people's brains at the cellular level? How different are our brains from those of our closest ape relatives? What are the properties of the different kinds of brain cells? How do these cells emerge and mature in development?

Another study explored the anatomy and physiology of neurons in the outermost layer of the neocortex - part of the brain involved in higher-order functions such as cognition, motor commands, and language.

The study revealed differences between the human brain and the mouse brain, suggest-



to study the detailed organisation of the human brain at unprecedented resolution.

The detailed mapping of the brain allows for a deeper knowledge of its function and dysfunction at the cellular level, helping pave the way for a new generation of precision therapeutics for people with mental disorders and other illnesses of the brain, the researchers said.

Their findings appear in more than 20 papers published across the journals Science, Science Advances and Science Translational Medicine.

In one of the studies, scientists at the Karolinska Institute, Sweden, and the Allen Institute for Brain Science, US, studied the genes switched on in individual brain cells, a technique known as single-cell transcriptomics, revealing that we have more than 3,000 different kinds of brain cells. Other questions

ing this region may be an evolutionary hotspot, with changes in humans reflecting the higher demands of regulating humans' more complex brain circuits.

Comparing brain cell types of humans and of our closest ape relatives, chimpanzees and gorillas, some studies reveal that while we share the same basic brain cell type architecture with our close evolutionary cousins, many genes involved in connections between neurons and the formation of circuits in the brain are different between humans and other primates.

"That creates a plausible explanation for how you could increase cognitive capability through evolution, by wiring up circuits of the same kinds of cells or changing the gain in the system in slightly different ways," said Ed Lein, Senior Investigator at the Allen Institute, who led several of the newly published studies.



Indian Institute of Carpet Technology Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardhan-Khan, Nowshera, Srinagar
Email: contact@iictrsrinagar.org, www.iictrsrinagar.org
Ph. 0194-2411143, Fax: 2428636

Tender Notice

Sealed quotations, affixed with Rs. 5/- revenue stamp, are invited from registered dealers for the supply of following types of raw-materials required by this Institute for Skill Development Training Programme (SDTP) sponsored by **National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)** for the year 2023-24:

S. No	Type of Raw Material	Description & Specification	Qty.	Unit
1.	Spun Silk Yarn	Spun Silk Yarn 2/60 Average Fibre length = 95 to 100 mm Strength = 1.4 N Composition = 100% Silk	60	Kg.
2.	Cotton Yarn	8/4 (Composition 100% Cotton)	36	Kg.
3.	Cotton Yarn	6/10 (Composition 100% Cotton)	44	Kg.
4.	Polyester Thread	2/42 (Per Packet 30 Pieces)	40	Packets
5.	Comb Beater (Panja) for Carpet Weaving	20 Comb Beating Blades per Comb Beater	100	No.
6.	Knife for Carpet Weaving (Khur)	Best Quality Metal	100	No.

The quotations accompanied with earnest money in the shape of CDR 2 % of the quoted amount pledged to Director IICT, Srinagar must reach this Institute by or before 07-11-2023 till 1.00 p.m. The tenders shall be opened on the same day at 2.30 p.m. The rate quoted must be inclusive of all Taxes.

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

Sd/-
Project Coordinator

DIPK-NB-3713/23
dated: 16-10-2023

Office Of The Executive Engineer Electric KPDCL O&M Division Shopian

Contact No/ Fax: - 01932-261246 E-mail:- ELECTRICDIVISIONSHOPIAN@GMAIL.COM

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT: - EDS/e-tender/49 of 2023-24 Dated: 16-10-2023.

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Executive Engineer, Electric KPDCL Division-Shopian invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors registered with Inspection Agency of KPDCL or any other relevant Government agency enlisted with CPWD, MES, Railway, DGBRO of appropriate class for the work namely **UPGRADATION OF POWER INFRASTRUCTURE AT VARIOUS PANCHAYAT HALQAS (TRENZ, BARBUGH, BASKUCHEN, HENDEW) IN KPDCL DIV SHOPIAN under PRI Grants 2023-24** (Bidders are advised to get themselves fully aware about the quantities required for individual jobs at different sites enclosed as "ANNEXURE X" in the SBD) as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document.

S. No	Particulars	Adv. Cost. (Lacs)	Earnest Money.	Position of Funds.
1.	UPGRADATION OF POWER INFRASTRUCTURE AT VARIOUS PANCHAYAT HALQAS (TRENZ, BARBUGH, BASKUCHEN, HENDEW) IN KPDCL DIV SHOPIAN under PRI Grants 2023-24	10.61	2% of Cost	Approved
2.	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document	Rs.1000.00 (Payable to Executive Engineer ED Shopian vide Treasury Receipt or Echallan Only)		
3.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit @ 2 % of Adv. Cost.	Rs. 21220.00 in the Shape of DDI/CDR/FDR/BG		
4.	Publishing Date & Time			The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded Over http://itenders.gov.in/ from 16-10-2023 (17.00 Hrs)
5.	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time			17-10-2023 (10.00 Hrs)
6.	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time			17-10-2023 (11.00 Hrs)
7.	Seek Clarification End Date & Time			17-10-2023 (16.00 Hrs)
8.	Bid Submission Start Date & Time			17-10-2023 (17.00 Hrs)
9.	Bid Submission End Date & Time			02-11-2023 (11.00 Hrs)
10.	Technical Bid Opening Date & Time			02-11-2023 (14.00 Hrs)

Please Read Date & Time Carefully

The rates Quoted shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections /testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted.

Executive Engineer
KPDCL Division Shopian

No. -KPDCL/spn/
DIPK-NB-3729/23
Dated: 16-10-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU & KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar,
www.ikssb.nic.in

Subject: Document Verification of candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Data Entry Operator - regarding.

NOTIFICATION

The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), vide Notification No. JKSSB-COEEOAM(UT)/76/2023-03 (7291629), dated: 13-10-2023, issued the result/merit list of the candidates who appeared in the OMR Based Written Examination, held on 08-10-2023 for the post of Data Entry Operator, Election Department advertised under Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 dated 16.12.2020, under item No. 98.

Accordingly, keeping in view the need and object, to fill all requisitioned vacancies, the candidates, who are falling under the consideration zone for the aforementioned post, given in Annexure-A to this notification are hereby called upon to appear physically before the designated Document Verification Committee of the Board for the verification/scrutiny on 20.10.2023 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM, as per the schedule indicated against each at Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board, Divisional Office, Sehkar Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Bahu Plaza, Jammu (Jammu Centre based candidates) and JKSSB, Central Office, ZamZam Building, Rambagh, Srinagar (Kashmir Centre based Candidates). The candidate who fail to appear before the respective Document Verification Committee on the scheduled dates shall forfeit their right to selection.

Further, the candidates are required to produce following original documents/certificates in original, along-with two self-attested copies, before the designated Document Verification Committee:

1. Copy of Online Application Form(s).
2. Two passport size recent colour photographs.
3. One original photo ID Proof i.e. Aadhar card/ Voter Card/ Pan Card/ Passport etc.
4. D.O.B Certificate (10th Diploma / Marks card).
5. Valid Category Certificate, if any, applicable.
6. Domicile Certificate.
7. 10+2 Marks Sheet/Diploma.
8. Graduation Degree from a recognized University/Institute.
9. One year diploma in computer software applications or B.Sc.IT/BCA or three years diploma in computer applications/Soft-ware applications from an AICTE recognized institution.
10. Bonafide certificate on the format prescribed by the Board duly issued by the Controller/Registrar of the concerned Board/Institute in respect of candidates, who have obtained the qualification from outside the UT of J&K.
11. Other documents as per prescribed qualification mentioned in the Advertisement Notification.

Pulkit Dutta JKAS
Asstt. Controller of Examinations

No. JKSSB-COEEOAM(UT)/76/2023-03(7291629)
Dated:- 13.10.2023

ANNEXURE - "A"									
List of Jammu Centre Based Candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Data Entry Operator, UT Centre, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 under item No. 98, for which the written examination was conducted on 08-10-2023.									
D.V. S.No.	Application Id	Roll No.	Candidate Name	Father Name	Category	Shortlisting Category	TOTAL	Date of Document Verification	Committee
1-JMU	191412	1010522	Kunal Gangal	Krishan Lal Choudhary	OM	OM	67.50	20-10-2023	J1
2-JMU	616319	1002071	SURESH KUMAR	JAMAK RAJ	OM	OM	66.25	20-10-2023	J1
3-JMU	605712	1010531	PARVEEN SHARMA	KEWAL KRISHAN	OM	OM	63.75	20-10-2023	J1
4-JMU	57482	1010226	Tarun Sharma	Raninder Kumar	OM	OM	63.25	20-10-2023	J1
5-JMU	435818	1009311	AKHIL KOTWAL	REEM KUMAR	OM	OM	63.75	20-10-2023	J1
6-JMU	198513	1010022	Anan Singh Balotra	Jayant Singh	OM	OM	61.50	20-10-2023	J1
7-JMU	31687	1002081	Lalraj Sharma	Chander Sharma	OM	OM	60.25	20-10-2023	J1
8-JMU	310897	1002083	Manoj Sharma	Rajesh Sharma	EWSS	EWSS/OM	60.25	20-10-2023	J1
9-JMU	139599	1002290	Rajul Gupta	Vinod Kumar	ALC/IB	ALC/IB	59.25	20-10-2023	J1
10-JMU	241938	1001700	SHAHID AZIZ SAIDER	Lata Saider AB	IBA	IBA/OM	58.75	20-10-2023	J1
11-JMU	135542	1010592	AKSHAY SHARMA	KHUSHI NANDI	OM	OM	58.50	20-10-2023	J1
12-JMU	37680	1002033	RANIL KUMAR	SANDEEP KUMAR	SC	SC/OM	58.25	20-10-2023	J1
13-JMU	627593	1002031	PUNIT SAINI	ROOP KUMAR SAINI	EWSS	EWSS/OM	58.25	20-10-2023	J1
14-JMU	336648	1004397	SARABJEET Singh	S ANABJEET SINGH	OM	OM	58.00	20-10-2023	J1
15-JMU	256241	1010522	Manoj Bishnoi	Anand OM	OM	OM	57.75	20-10-2023	J1
16-JMU	411250	1010125	sumet sharma	Mhola math sharma	OM	OM	57.00	20-10-2023	J1
17-JMU	31687	1002081	Rahul Sharma	Kulbhojan Sharma	ALC/IB	ALC/IB/OM	56.50	20-10-2023	J1
18-JMU	149918	1001037	Rajit Katar	Anand Katar	IBA	IBA/OM	56.25	20-10-2023	J1
19-JMU	213992	1002012	RAVNINDER SINGH	JAMJEET SINGH	IBA	IBA/OM	56.00	20-10-2023	J1
20-JMU	244901	1001828	KARISHA BANA	PUNAM CHAND	SC	SC	52.75	20-10-2023	J1
21-JMU	483488	1004050	AMIT KUMAR	DEE RAJ	SC	SC	47.25	20-10-2023	J1
22-JMU	31687	1002081	RANIT KUMAR	kanishk raj	SC	SC	43.50	20-10-2023	J1
23-JMU	504449	1001088	Vivek Kishor	kanishk raj	SC	SC	41.25	20-10-2023	J1
24-JMU	274396	1001382	Prince Kishore	Sagar Chand	SC	SC	39.75	20-10-2023	J1
25-JMU	607356	1001031	PARVEEN KUMAR	RANU CHAND	SC	SC	37.25	20-10-2023	J1
26-JMU	607356	1001031	HUSSAM UD DIN	SALAM UD DIN	ST	ST	34.75	20-10-2023	J1
27-JMU	31687	1002081	Tarun Choudhary	Harshdeep	ST	ST	40.00	20-10-2023	J1
28-JMU	552201	1010267	MOHID ASLAM	MANZOOR HUSSAIN	ST	ST	38.50	20-10-2023	J1
29-JMU	407207	1004033	TENZIN KUNGA	ROMAL CHAND	ST	ST	34.75	20-10-2023	J1
30-JMU	147260	1010146	LAL HUSAIN	ABDUL QUADIR	ST	ST	34.50	20-10-2023	J1
31-JMU	131929	1002021	Vinod Kumar	Rajan Shandari	OSC	OSC	51.50	20-10-2023	J1
32-JMU	439568	1004053	SUREET KUMAR LEE	Nikhil Lal	OSC	OSC	48.50	20-10-2023	J1
33-JMU	500820	1010067	Saveta Sharma	Vinod Kumar	ALC/IB	ALC/IB	50.75	20-10-2023	J1
34-JMU	646982	1010886	ASHWANJ KUMAR	JAMAK RAJ	ALC/IB	ALC/IB	45.75	20-10-2023	J1
35-JMU	616319	1002071	Nehal Jindoria	Dharam Paul Sharma	ALC/IB	ALC/IB	44.75	20-10-2023	J1
36-JMU	159439	1004063	JAVED KIBAL	ABDUL LATIF	IBA	IBA	54.25	20-10-2023	J1
37-JMU	134450	1010880	Mahabub Ahmad	Abdul Rasool Rather	IBA	IBA	53.50	20-10-2023	J1
38-JMU	562486	1003953	sunil parihar	Omraj	IBA	IBA	51.75	20-10-2023	J1
39-JMU	286741	1010364	Arun Kumar	Suraj Parthab	IBA	IBA	50.50	20-10-2023	J1
40-JMU	444900	1010286	Vikram Kumar	Kanishk Raj	PSP	PSP	53.00	20-10-2023	J1
41-JMU	594107	1004022	VIRRAM SHARMA	DIG PAL SHARMA	PSP	PSP	51.75	20-10-2023	J1
42-JMU	107725	1003004	Shresh Sharma	Om Parthab	PSP	PSP	51.00	20-10-2023	J1
43-JMU	121248	1003989	Anushka Sharma	Om Parthab	EWSS	EWSS	51.50	20-10-2023	J1
44-JMU	244704	1002073	AMAN GUPTA	ASHOK GUPTA	EWSS	EWSS	50.50	20-10-2023	J1
45-JMU	197536	1002020	ATEES KUMAR	SURY KUMAR	EWSS	EWSS	47.25	20-10-2023	J1
46-JMU	197536	1002020	Mandeep Singh	Tara Singh	EWSS	EWSS	47.25	20-10-2023	J1
47-JMU	59961	1002081	Anshul Kumar	SWAPNABATI	SC/FSM	SC/FSM	23.00	20-10-2023	J1

ANNEXURE - "B"									
List of Kashmir Centre Based Candidates falling under consideration zone for the post of Data Entry Operator, UT Centre, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 04 of 2020 under item No. 98, for which the written examination was conducted on 08-10-2023.									
D.V. S.No.	Application Id	Roll No.	Candidate Name	Father Name	Category	Shortlisting Category	TOTAL	Date of Document Verification	Committee
1-KMR	187561	2002029	SAMEER AYDUB KHAN	MICHO AYDUB KHAN	OM	OM	65.50	20-10-2023	K1
2-KMR	184469	2002029	Mohammad Asif Dar	GH AHMED DAR	IBA	IBA/OM	63.75	20-10-2023	K1
3-KMR	495060	2010214	Umar Faizal	Ghulam Hassan Ganai	OM	OM	61.50	20-10-2023	K1
4-KMR	391169	2007020	Alpesh Gulzar G	GHUZAR AHMAD DAN	EWSS	EWSS/OM	60.50	20-10-2023	K1
5-KMR	214162	2001941	Jafar Ahmad Shah	MOHID AHMAD SHAH	OM</				



India, Indonesia Risk Biggest Fallout From Geopolitical Shocks

Bloomberg

NEW DELHI: A triumvirate of high oil prices, a surging dollar and geopolitical instability are set to weigh on India and Indonesia among Asia's emerging markets, while energy exporter Malaysia may prove a rare beneficiary. Economists are fretting over the fallout on developing Asia from a widening of the Israel-Hamas war, with policymakers struggling to assess the consequences for oil supply and the scope of the potential impact on growth. The jump in both the dollar and long-term Treasury yields exacerbates the risks for economies running high current-account deficits.

Brent crude prices have jumped almost 20% in the past three months and Bloomberg Economics estimates they could soar to \$150 a barrel, from about \$90 now, if the Middle East conflict widens to include Iran. The Islamic Republic supplies arms and cash to Hamas, which the US and European Union designate as a terrorist group, and backs the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

The Israel-Hamas conflict comes on top of Russia's protracted war on Ukraine and sim-

mering superpower tensions between the US and China. The following charts show countries more exposed to a higher-for-longer dollar and oil price.

"If higher oil prices persist for a prolonged period, we see India, Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia more vulnerable to terms of trade deterioration," said Lavanya Venkateswaran, a senior economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. Ltd. "Moreover, as 'twin deficit' economies - current account and fiscal deficits - they may be more vulnerable to capital outflows."

Alicia Garcia Herrero at the French investment bank Natixis SA said high external debt positions mean Sri Lanka and Pakistan are most at risk. Indonesia and India are also vulnerable "since they tend to run current-account deficits and need external financing for that," she said.

Compounding the problem, US Treasury yields have soared on concerns that higher oil prices will revive inflation pressures. That's another headwind for nations running high budget deficits as they'll likely struggle to raise funds in global markets, Garcia Herrero added.

WPI Inflation In Negative For Sixth Month In A Row At -0.26% In Sep, Food Prices Ease

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Wholesale inflation remained in the negative territory for the sixth straight month in September at (-) 0.26 per cent on easing prices of food items, especially vegetables.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rate has been in the negative since April and was (-)0.52 per cent in August. In September last year, it was 10.55 per cent.

Experts said the continued deflation in WPI in year-on-year terms was mostly due to faster decline in food prices.

Inflation in food articles eased to 3.35 per cent in September, after remaining in double digits in the previous two months. It was 10.60 per cent in August.

In vegetables, inflation was (-)15 per cent, as against 48.39 per cent in August. In potato, it was (-)25.24 per cent in September, as against (-)24.02 per cent in the previous month.

However, some hardening in inflation was seen in food items like pulses, onion, milk and fruits during September.

Inflation in pulses was 17.69 per cent, while in onion it was at a high of 55.05 per cent during the month.

Fuel and power basket inflation was at (-)3.35 per cent in September, against (-)6.03 per cent in August.

In manufactured products,



inflation rate was (-)1.34 per cent, as against (-)2.37 per cent in August.

"Deflation in September 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of chemical & chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals and food products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Barclays MD & Head of EM Asia Economics Rahul Bajoria said the easing momentum in core inflation and decline in vegetable prices are driving the moderation in retail inflation. But the sequential rise in the WPI for manufactured products bears watching, if producers pass on higher costs into retail prices.

"As of now, firm surveys indicate the pace of increase

in selling prices is lower than that in input prices (as seen in PMIs for manufacturing and services, and RBI's industrial outlook survey). We expect RBI to remain on a prolonged pause, as it monitors uncertainty on the commodity front, both in domestic non-perishable food prices and international energy prices," Bajoria said.

Data released last week showed that the annual retail or consumer price inflation was at 5.02 per cent in September, a 3-month low level.

Earlier this month, RBI projected the CPI inflation to be at 5.4 per cent for 2023-24. The central bank kept key policy interest rate on hold in the fourth consecutive meeting for deciding monetary policy as it targets to keep inflation within the target band of 2-6 per cent.

Experts See WPI Inflation Rising In Second Half This Fiscal

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India is likely to rise in the second half of the ongoing fiscal and a prolonged deflationary trend could impact growth, experts said on Monday.

Wholesale inflation remained in the negative territory for the sixth straight month in September at (-) 0.26 per cent on easing prices of food items, especially vegetables.

Deflation in WPI in September is primarily due to the fall in prices of chemicals and chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals, and food products as compared to the year-ago period, the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

"In September, the WPI exhibited its sixth consecutive month of contraction, with a decline of 0.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), lower than the previous month's contraction of 0.5 per cent," CareEdge Chief Economist Rajani Sinha said.

"The continued contraction in WPI can be attributed

to the deceleration in food prices, as well as the ongoing decline in fuel and manufactured product prices," Sinha said.

She suggested that while the fading impact of a high base may lead to a "slight increase" in WPI in the second half of the fiscal year, the overall WPI inflation is expected to remain low.

Elevated global crude oil prices and potential risks to uneven rainfall also pose upside risks to WPI inflation, Sinha said.

Abhirup Sarkar, an economist and professor at the Indian Institute of Statistics, told PTI that while the decrease in fuel prices is positive news, geopolitical conflicts in Russia and the Middle East could lead to an increase in international oil prices, affecting wholesale price inflation in India.

He said although wholesale food prices have seen a decline, it may take time for this to be reflected in retail prices, as it depends on traders and their ability to pass on the price reduction to consumers.

Sarkar cautioned that prolonged deflation in WPI can have a negative impact on the economy, indicating lack of demand and potentially slowing down growth.

The WPI-based inflation rate has been in the negative zone since April and was (-) 0.52 per cent in August.

In September last year, it was 10.55 per cent. Inflation in food articles eased to 3.35 per cent in September, after remaining in double digits in the previous two months. It was 10.60 per cent in August.

"Deflation in September 2023 is primarily due to fall in prices of chemical and chemical products, mineral oils, textiles, basic metals and food products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

Fuel and power basket inflation was at (-) 3.35 per cent in September, against (-)6.03 per cent in August. In manufactured products, inflation rate was (-) 1.34 per cent, as against (-) 2.37 per cent in August.

Hailstorm Causes Widespread Damage To Kashmir Orchards, Say Growers

Growers' union demands relief, crop insurance scheme

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A severe hailstorm wreaked havoc in various parts of the valley on Sunday evening, causing significant damage to orchards.

Local residents from Kulgam, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Bandipora, and other districts said that the hailstorm severely affected the fruit crops upon which thousands of families in these regions depend.

They have demanded swift action and urged the government to assess the damage and compensate the affected growers.

Growers said they faced extensive damage over the past three consecutive years due to untimely snowfall, hailstorms, and other climatic events. They expressed frustration, saying that despite suffering losses worth lakhs of rupees annually, they receive meagre compensation.

Orchardists said there is an urgent need for a comprehensive crop insurance scheme so that if growers face any damage, they could receive at least 50 percent compensation.

Saleem Ahmad, a grower from Shopian, said that incessant rains during the flowering stage and prolonged dry spells in summer and autumn have led to scab disease, which has affected the size and colour of apples. He



expressed concern over the quality of this year's C-grade apples, lamenting the discontinuation of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) by the Union government, which previously played a crucial role in procuring inferior-quality apples in the valley.

Bashir Ahmad Bashir, President of Kashmir Valley Fruit Growers and Dealers Association and New Kashmir Fruit Association, stressed the need for a crop insurance scheme, especially after this year's hailstorm hit areas with quality fruit during the harvesting season.

Despite repeated assurances from union ministers and high-ranking officers, the implementation of the crop insurance scheme has been delayed, leaving growers in distress, he said and urged the government to restart the MIS scheme to address the increased proportion of C-grade apples resulting from the untimely hailstorm. (KNO)

J&K Bank Inks MOU With Royal Enfield For Retail Financing



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank has entered into an agreement with Royal Enfield (a unit of Eicher Motors Limited) to become one of the preferred financiers of Royal Enfield - one of the country's leading brands in the mid-size motorcycle segment.

The Bank's General Manager Syed Shujaat Hussain Andrabi presided over the signing ceremony. Deputy General Manager Arshad Hussain Dar signed the documents on behalf of the bank, while National Business Head Shreenath M. Kamalapurker signed on behalf of Royal Enfield. Many other officials of the Royal Enfield and the Bank were also present on the occasion.

While pitching for providing to customers intending to buy motorcycles, Shujaat Andrabi asserted that both the companies will work in close co-ordination with each other through their respective

branches and dealers to extend utmost convenience to the customers. He further said, "As a responsible financial institution, we remain committed to serve customers with the products and services that are tailored to meet their choice. Through this MOU we will offer our customers tailor made financial solutions for the purchase and ownership of Royal Enfield Motorcycles."

Commenting on the partnership, Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) at Royal Enfield Yadvinder Singh Guleria, said, "We are delighted to partner with Jammu & Kashmir Bank to offer flexible and convenient financing solutions tailored to the diverse needs of our customers especially in J & K and Ladakh. This partnership aims to enhance accessibility to Royal Enfield motorcycles for enthusiasts, providing a seamless and hassle-free experience, all while optimizing savings."

₹94 Crore Cash, Jewellery Seized During Raids In 4 States: Tax Body

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Income Tax department has seized ₹94 crore in cash as well as gold and diamond jewellery worth ₹8 crore and 30 luxury watches following raids on government contractors and real estate developers in Karnataka and some other states, the CBDT said on Monday. The searches were launched on October 12 and 55 premises were covered by the department in Bengaluru and some cities in neighbouring Telangana and Andhra Pradesh as well as in Delhi.

"The search has resulted in seizure of unaccounted cash of approximately ₹94 crore and gold and diamond jewellery of over ₹8 crore, aggregating to more than ₹102 crore," the Central Board of Direct Taxes said in a statement. "Further, a cache of about 30 luxury wristwatches of foreign make were unearthed from the premises of a private salaried employee, not engaged in the business of wristwatches," it said without identifying the accused entities.

A war of words on the matter has broken out between Karnataka's ruling Congress and the opposition BJP following the recovery of the "unaccounted" cash. BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel said the money was linked



to the Congress. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has denied the allegation as baseless.

The CBDT frames policies for the Income Tax department.

It alleged that a large amount of "incriminating" evidence in the form of loose sheets, hard copies of documents and digital data was also seized after the raids on the entities and their associates.

The modus-operandi of "tax evasion" detected indicates that these contractors were involved in reducing their income by inflation of expenses by booking bogus purchases, the non-genuine claim of expenses with sub-contractors and claiming ineligible expenses, it said. The "irregu-

larities" detected in utilisation of contract receipts have resulted in the generation of "huge unaccounted cash" and the creation of "undisclosed" assets, according to the CBDT.

"Evidence indicating inflation of expenses in the form of discrepancies in goods receipt note was also seized after the raids on the entities and their associates. The modus-operandi of "tax evasion" detected indicates that these contractors were involved in reducing their income by inflation of expenses by booking bogus purchases, the non-genuine claim of expenses with sub-contractors and claiming ineligible expenses, it said. The "irregu-

Markets Fall For 3rd Day On Weak Global Equities, Spike In Brent Crude Oil Prices

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices ended lower on Monday, falling for the third day running, amid weak trends in global markets and spike in Brent crude oil prices due to geopolitical tension in the Middle East.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 115.81 points or 0.17 per cent to settle at 66,166.93. During the day, it fell 243.36 points or 0.36 per cent to 66,039.38.

The Nifty slipped 19.30 points or 0.10 per cent to 19,731.75.

From the Sensex pack, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank, Asian Paints, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Hindustan Unilever were among the major laggards.

Tata Steel, JSW Steel, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Power Grid and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the gainers.

"Markets continued to witness range-bound trend with a negative bias amid weak Asian cues as selective profit-taking was seen in banking, realty and IT stocks, whereas buying in metal, auto and consumer durable stocks helped markets curb losses.

"Investors are trading cautiously

in an uncertain global environment as ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict coupled with weak overseas fundamentals and persistent FI selling have dampened sentiment," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Research (Retail), Kotak Securities Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.34 per cent and midcap index gained 0.25 per cent.

Among the indices, telecommunication fell by 0.74 per cent, realty (0.39 per cent), teck (0.32 per cent), FMCG (0.28 per cent), services (0.17 per cent), bankex (0.11 per cent) and IT (0.10 per cent).

Commodities, consumer discretionary, energy, industrials, auto and metal were among the gainers. "Persistent geopolitical tensions continue to weigh down the sentiment on equity, yet the mid and smallcap index witnessed bargain hunting ahead of festival-driven demand and optimistic Q2 results. If oil price moves higher in a sustained manner, it may elevate yields and operation cost, potentially straining margins in H2 FY24," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower.

Domestic Passenger Vehicles Wholesales Up 2% In September: SIAM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Passenger vehicle wholesales in India increased by 1.87 per cent year-on-year to 3,61,717 units last month, industry body SIAM said on Monday.

The passenger vehicle dispatches to dealers stood at 3,55,043 units in September 2022.

Similarly, two-wheeler sales increased to 17,49,794 units last month from 17,35,199 units in the year-ago period, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said.

Total three-wheeler wholesales rose to 74,418 units last month from 50,626 units in September 2022.

Total dispatches last month were up at 21,41,208 units from 20,93,286 units in September 2022.

In the September quarter, overall sales rose to 61,16,091 units from 60,52,739 units in the second quarter of 2022-23.

Passenger vehicle dispatches rose marginally to 10,74,189 units in the second quarter from 10,26,309 units in July-September period of last fiscal.

Commercial vehicles dispatches rose to 2,47,929 units from 2,31,991 units in the year-ago period. Total three-wheeler wholesales rose to 1,95,215 units in second quarter as compared with 1,20,319 units in the same period last fiscal.

Total two-wheeler dispatches however declined to 45,98,442 units in July-September 2023 as against 46,73,931 units in the year-ago period.

SIAM President Vinod Aggarwal said passenger vehicles, three-wheelers, and commercial vehicle segments continued to witness growth in the second quarter of 2023-24, although two-wheeler wholesale numbers posted a marginal de-growth, compared to the same period of last year.

CBI Files Charge Sheet Against 6 People, Juvenile In Case Related To Parading Of Tribal Women Naked In Manipur

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The CBI on Monday filed a charge sheet against six people and a juvenile in connection with two tribal women being paraded naked in Manipur's Kangpokpi district in May which triggered a nationwide outrage after a video of the incident became viral two months later.

The agency filed the charge sheet against six people and a report against one child in conflict with the law before a special CBI court in Guwahati, nearly three months Manipur Police made arrests in the case.

It was alleged that on May 4, 2023, a mob of approximately 900-1,000 individuals, armed with sophisticated weapons, entered B Phainom village in Kangpokpi district of Manipur, vandalised and set houses ablaze, looted properties, assaulted villagers, committed murders, and sexually assaulted women.

A video of the women being paraded naked, which surfaced in July this year, led



to widespread condemnation across the country and globally, prompting the Supreme Court to step in and hand over the case to the CBI.

It was further alleged that two family members of one of the women paraded naked were also killed in the incident.

The CBI investigation indicated that the accused

arrested by Manipur Police were involved in the incident, following which the charge sheet was filed on Monday against Huirum Herodas and others.

Further investigation is continuing including the identification of other accused involved in the offences besides other aspects of the case.

The accused have been

charged under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including those pertaining to gangrape, murder, outraging the modesty of a woman and criminal conspiracy, the CBI said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reacted to the video by saying that the incident of the two women being paraded naked had shamed 140

crore Indians and asserted that the law would act with its full might and no guilty will be spared.

"Today, when I am standing by this temple of democracy my heart is full of pain and anger," he told reporters at the Parliament complex, amid his criticism by opposition parties for not speaking on the ethnic violence in the BJP-ruled state.

"I want to assure the people of the country that no guilty will be spared. The law will act with its full might and firmness... What has happened to these daughters of Manipur can never be forgiven," he said.

The video was emblematic of the divide between the majority Meitei community and the Kuki tribal group, as political leaders cutting across party lines condemned the incident which also rocked Parliament's Monsoon session. The video surfaced on the eve of the Monsoon session of the Parliament.

The anguish over the incident found echo in the Supreme Court where a bench

headed by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud took cognisance of the video and asked the Centre and the Manipur government to take immediate action.

"We are very deeply disturbed by the videos which have emerged yesterday about the way those two women were paraded in Manipur," the bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and Manoj Misra, had said.

"I think it is time that the government really steps in and takes action because this is simply unacceptable," the CJ said, adding, "We will give a little time to the government to act, otherwise we will take action if nothing is happening on the ground."

He also termed the incident the "grossest" constitutional and human rights violation, adding that the court is conscious of the fact that the video is of May 4 but that makes no difference.

Manipur has been witnessing ethnic clashes since May 3 between the majority Meitei community, concentrated in the Imphal valley, and the Kukis, occupying the hills.

HDFC Bank Declares Financial Results

Srinagar: The Board of Directors of HDFC Bank Limited approved the Bank's (Indian GAAP) results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2023, at its meeting held in Mumbai on Monday, October 16, 2023. The accounts have been subjected to a 'Limited Review' by the statutory auditors of the Bank.

Net income (interest earned less interest expended) for the quarter ended September 30, 2023 grew by 30.3% to ₹ 27,385 crore from ₹ 21,021 crore for the quarter ended

September 30, 2022. Core net interest margin for the quarter was 3.65% on total assets and 3.85% on interest earning assets. After absorbing debt funded cost for additional liquidity and merger management, the reported NIM for the quarter is 3.4% on total assets and 3.6% on interest earning assets.

Total Deposits showed a healthy growth of approximately ₹ 1.1 lac crore during the quarter post merger, and were at ₹ 21,72,858 crore as of September 30, 2023, an increase of 29.8% over September 30, 2022. CASA deposits grew by 7.6% with savings account deposits at ₹ 5,69,956 crore and current account deposits at ₹ 2,47,749 crore. Time deposits were at ₹ 13,55,153 crore, an increase of 48.3% over the corresponding quarter of the previous year, resulting in CASA deposits comprising 37.6% of total deposits as of September 30, 2023.(KNT)

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Significant Pollutants

blaCTX-M-15 in *E. coli* and *Aeromonas sp.* from the aquatic environment in Kashmir.

"The presence of multidrug-resistant bacteria in the natural lake ecosystem is an alarming situation and detection of MGEs (Mobile genetic elements which help bacteria in the dissemination of resistance genes) holds importance as these elements act as vehicles for the speedy dissemination of resistance determinants among varied and geographically distinct bacterial species," the research paper notes.

It further said that the presence of heavy metal resistance genes provides a clue that bacterial inhabitants had been under the selective pressure of heavy metals.

"Owing to the biodiversity significance of these lakes and no available baseline data this study emphasizes the active monitoring of resistance profiles and thorough genetic as well as molecular studies from such environments to contain the spread of resistance determinants and safeguard the natural lake ecosystems," it added.

Notably, a major portion of the lake has been profoundly impacted by a red algae bloom, resulting in a noticeable alteration of the lake's once-spectacular appearance. The area spanning from Nehru Park to the Mughal garden at Nishat has experienced a pronounced effect due to "eutrophication," an aging process affecting aquatic ecosystems. The authorities are terming it "natural process."

An official from the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (J&K LCMA) told Kashmir Observer that the growth of human settlements in the lake's catchment areas has imposed ecological stress, often manifesting as a decline in water quality.

However, LCMA's consistent conservation efforts, he said, have significantly mitigated this deterioration.

"We have implemented several measures to preserve Dal lake, including dewatering, dredging, solid waste management, diversion of liquid waste to sewage treatment plants, catchment area restoration works, and the commissioning of settling basins," he added.

The fresh study highlights the occurrence of ESBL producing bacteria in the aquatic environment of Kashmir that can serve as a reservoir of ARGs.

Shah Hails

Sharda Temple in Kashmir this year.

"Earlier in the year the Chaitra Navratri Puja was observed and now the mantras of the Shardiya Navratri puja resound in the shrine. I was fortunate to reopen the temple on 23rd March 2023 after restoration," Shah said on X.

"This not only signifies the return of peace in the valley but also marks the rekindling of our nation's spiritual and cultural flame under the leadership of PM @narendramodi ji," he added.

A large number of pilgrims from all over the country attended the puja. PTI

President MC

about an illegal construction for which he had granted building permission- something that was beyond his role and competence.

The enquiry in the matter was conducted by Haris Ahmad Handoo, vice-chairman, Srinagar Development Authority (SDA).

According to the report submitted to J&K government, Khan in his reply denied all charges against him but admitted that he had issued building permissions at the behest of the executive officer.

As per the report, Khan claimed that he signed building permissions as he was told that president municipal committee happens to be chairman BOCA.

As per inquiry officer, Khan further claimed that he is illiterate and doesn't have knowledge of law.

This is the second time that the J & K government has removed the head of an urban local body for abusing his official position.

In September 2022, the government had removed then president municipal

committee Awantipora for abusing his official position—(KNO)

J&K At Forefront

opportunities in the industrial sector, J&K is today at the forefront of development transformation in the country," he added.

Sinha also congratulated the District Administration, public representatives and residents of the district on the occasion.

He said the foundation stone laid for projects in Rural Development, PW (R&B), Jal Shakti, Fisheries and Tourism sectors will bring visible impact on the quality of lives of the people.

The 37 projects worth Rs 124.17 crore inaugurated by LG include 29 projects of Jal Shakti; Beautification of main market Pahalgam; Multi-storied building in Boys Degree College Khanabal and Academic Block & additional class room at Degree College Bijbehara; office complex at Town hall premises, MC Qazigund; Block office building at Ruhoh & Footbridge at Kanganhall; NTPHC Kehribal under Languishing Project and upgradation of roads in the district.

The 39 projects at a cost of Rs 166.56 crore for which foundation stones were laid by Lt Governor include 20 projects of Rural Development Department; 9 projects of PWD (R&B); 4 projects of Fisheries; development of recreation spot on River Bank at Pahalgam; Nagar Van (City Forest), Munjhadan, Mahind and Water Supply Schemes at Siligam Tantraypora, Imoo Sundoo, Brad Ikhraypora & Shumhall Hassanoor.

Asks Admin

Bhi Kisan' to maximise the benefits of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

"This initiative will lead to greater youth participation in developing agriculture & allied sector and bring a qualitative difference in the sector," he said.

He directed the District Administration to be well prepared for winter season and ensure that the power and road infrastructure is well maintained and suitable for traffic at all times.

"Measures of essential items and increased contingency plan for vulnerable areas should be implemented effectively by the district administration and the concerned departments," he added.

Sinha further directed the district officials for special focus on the disbursement of benefits under farmer-oriented, health and education sector schemes. He also called for making 'Poshan Abhiyan' a Jan-Andolan in order to achieve improvement in key nutrition parameters.

"Success of 'Poshan Abhiyan' is based on people's participation. Society should collectively act to generate awareness and work with District Administration for well being, growth and protection of mother and child," he said.

The LG also reviewed the progress made in diverse sectors and schemes including Tourism, Youth Empowerment, Infrastructure, Sports, Employment generation, Industries, Cooperatives, PMAY, Jal Jeevan Mission, status of Transit Accommodations and revival, restoration and preservation of Architecture and Heritage.

Syed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag briefed the chair on the overall functioning of the district administration, and progress made under Centrally-sponsored and UT government schemes and infrastructure projects.

Later, the LG interacted with various delegations of PRI representatives, Traders, fruit growers, Civil Society members and beneficiaries of various welfare schemes and assured them of appropriate redressal of their issues and demands on merit.

The members of the delegations expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor-led UT Administration for addressing the developmental needs of the people of Anantnag district.

Snow, Rains

higher reaches are going on since Monday morning and will continue intermittently on Tuesday as well.

"The weather will improve from October 18 and is expected to remain fair till October 24. There is no major spell of precipitation till October 24," Deputy Director, India Meteorological Department (IMD) Srinagar, Mukhtar Ahmad told PTI.

He said Gulmarg skiing resort, Peer ki Gali, Simthan Pass, Gurez, Tulail, Sonamarg, the Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway and some places in the Union Territory of Ladakh have received light snowfall.

"Snowfall is expected in these areas during the day as well but no major activity is foreseen in the plains," Ahmad said.

He said early snowfall has been happening in the Kashmir valley for the last three to four years now. "Last year, we had snowfall in the last week of October, but there is no such prediction for this year. While light snowfall is expected in the higher reaches, there would not be much of an activity in the plains," he added.

The IMD said the farmers can resume harvesting activities in Kashmir from October 18 but travellers should exercise due caution while travelling on the highways passing through mountainous areas.

"Farmers can resume the harvesting activity from October 18, those travelling on the Srinagar-Jammu and Srinagar-Leh highways should avoid unnecessary travel and if it is inevitable, they should follow the traffic advisories and carry warm clothes along as a precaution," Ahmad said.

Sahil Iqbal, a local journalist, said the weather in Kashmir has taken a sudden turn and winter has arrived early.

"The MeT department had forecast wet weather and it has come true. People have taken to wearing warm clothes to beat the chill. The locals have started preparing for the coming winter, which is usually very harsh in Kashmir. People have started using kangri, bukharis and other heating gadgets to keep themselves warm. Winter has come earlier than usual. We would have this kind of weather in November but this year, it has arrived early," he said.

Padmini, a tourist from Andhra Pradesh, said she is enjoying the cool weather of Kashmir. "It is hot back home (in Andhra Pradesh). The weather is very good here and we are enjoying," she said.

Mughal Road

Several areas of Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi, Poonch, Ramban and Kathua districts witnessed snowfall.

Heavy rains lashed Jammu, bringing down the minimum temperature and leading to water logging.

MeT officials predicted intermittent rains in plains and snowfall in upper reaches at scattered places in J-K.

224-Meter Viaduct

travel distance by 125 meters, thus mitigating steep gradients, but also avoids the need for a steep cutting with a hill slope angle exceeding 80°.

"Furthermore, it significantly facilitates the smooth flow of vehicles, bypassing the challenging terrain of Sherebibi area gradients, and it's important to note that this project contributes to the region's economic growth and enhances its overall connectivity."

He also said: "Under the visionary leadership of PM Modi, we remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering exceptional highway infrastructure to the state of Jammu & Kashmir."

Kashmir Continues

there is no power crisis. We have put the new arrangement but there might be local issues somewhere. The concerned authorities will check it out," Prasad said.

He further said that demand and supply of electricity is dynamic and goes up and down. "There is always a gap between demand

and supply. There might be some minor gaps. We will check it out," he added.

Notably, the authorities on Monday issued a fresh power curtailment schedule for the Kashmir Valley.

According to the schedule, the KPDCI has stated that there will be 4.5 hours power curtailment in metered areas on a daily basis. It stated that the curtailment of 1 hour 30 minutes will be in three shifts--morning, afternoon and evening.

For non-metered areas, the department has fixed a daily 8-hour curtailment in electricity. **100-140 Soldiers**

"It is a grave loss to the family and the Indian Army that Agniveer Amritpal Singh committed suicide by shooting himself while on sentry duty," the Army said.

"In consonance with the existing practice, the mortal remains, after conduct of medico-legal procedures, were transported under Army arrangements along with an escort party to the native place for the last rites," it said.

The Army said the Armed Forces do not differentiate between the soldiers who joined prior to or after the implementation of the Agnipath scheme as regards entitled benefits and protocols.

"Unfortunate instances of death arising out of suicide/self-inflicted injury, irrespective of the type of entry, are accorded due respect by the Armed Forces along with deep and enduring empathy with the family," it said.

"Such cases, however, are not entitled to military funerals as per the extant Army Order of 1967, in vogue. Policy on the subject has been consistently followed ever since, without any discrimination," it said.

"As per data held, there has been an average yearly loss ranging between 100-140 soldiers since 2001 where deaths occurred due to suicides/self-inflicted injuries, and military funeral in such cases was not accorded," the Army said.

It said the disbursement of financial assistance and relief as per entitlement is given due priority, including immediate financial relief for conducting funerals.

"Such unfortunate instances of loss bear heavy on the family and the Forces as a fraternity. During such times, it is important and incumbent on the society to uphold the respect, privacy and dignity of the family while empathising with them in their moment of grief," the Army said.

"Armed Forces are known for adherence to the policies and protocols and will continue to do so as hitherto. The Indian Army requests support of all sections of the society while it follows its established protocols," it said.

Bagchi Is

India's COVID-19 response and New Delhi's G20 presidency.

In Geneva, Bagchi would succeed Indra Mani Pandey who is set to return to New Delhi.

"Arindam Bagchi (IFS:1995), presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva," the MEA said in a brief statement.

"He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," it said.

It is learnt that around four senior diplomats, including joint secretary (G20) Nagaraj Naidu Kakanur and high commissioner to Mauritius K Nandini Singla are being considered for the post of MEA spokesperson.

Earlier, Bagchi served as ambassador to Croatia and deputy high commissioner to Sri Lanka.

He also had a stint in the Prime Minister's Office as a director as well as at India's permanent mission at the UN in New York.

Hybrid Terrorist

He said during the search, one pistol, one magazine, 14 live rounds, one mobile phone and his Aadhar card was recovered from his

possession.

"During preliminary questioning when asked about possession of illicit weapons and ammunition, he revealed that he had received it from an active terrorist in order to carry out an attack in the district Shopian," the spokesman said.

In this regard, he said, police have filed a case under FIR number 54/2023 under sections 7/25 IAA, 18, 20, 23 UA(P) at Police Station Imamsahib and started further investigation.

Father-Son

preparing a fake SLC to get a government job in the Power Development Department (PDD) of J&K, a CB spokesman said.

A written complaint was lodged by one Sarfarz Ahmed, wherein he had alleged the SLC issued in favour of Mukhtyar Ahmed in 1979 was not genuine. Sarfarz Ahmed had filed the complaint on the basis of information obtained from the Chief Education Officer (CEO), Jammu, under the RTI Act, he said.

The admission existed in the name of one Nazia Bano, as such the certificate produced by Mukhtyar Ahmed is fake, the spokesman said.

On the basis of relevant records and other evidences, it has been found that the accused, in connivance with his father, hatched the criminal conspiracy, he said.

Burglars 'Loot'

house due to which the thieves took advantage and ran away with the jewelry.

Meanwhile, police have started investigations in this regard.

Director NIT

initiatives that have been implemented at NIT Srinagar since May 2023. These measures encompass both academic and non-academic aspects of the institution.

Academic reforms include the introduction of a mentor system for students across all departments, a revamped academic calendar from January-December to July-August, regulated semester registrations, and the implementation of a detention system.

Additionally, academic improvements involve remedial classes, student feedback mechanisms, streamlined training and placement processes, and student exchange programs with prestigious institutions such as IIT Madras and IIT Delhi.

On the non-academic front, Professor Yedla emphasized the establishment of a Students' Gymkhana System, the practice of vacating hostels during vacations for maintenance purposes, and a winter preparedness drive.

He also spoke about the institute's socio-cultural calendar, designed to foster religious harmony through the celebration of various festivals, introduction of NSS - Systematic outreach, and events such as Cultural Fest, Techvaganza, and the Annual Sports Meet to enhance social life and food options on campus.

In terms of administrative and governance reforms, Prof. Yedla highlighted the introduction of the Friday Open House system for grievance redressal, improved file movement processes, constitution of an ethics committee, establishment of a system for water quality testing on campus, and the deployment of 24x7 nursing services at the Medical Unit.

Moreover, the adoption of the Transfer Policy 2023 led to the transfer of long-standing staff, and a Play School was set up on campus, along with improvements in campus amenities for younger faculty members.

Prof. Yedla also urged the LG Sinha administration to consider procuring additional land for the development of a new campus and address the issue of encroachments on the Dal Lake side.

During the event, LG Sinha expressed pleasure with the progress at NIT Srinagar campus and commended the institute Director's efforts in assisting students in their journey toward achieving professional excellence.

He also conveyed his eagerness to visit the NIT Srinagar campus in the near future



Cricket Included In 2028 Olympics

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Cricket was on Monday officially included in the programme for the 2028 Los Angeles, marking the sport's return to the Summer Games after 123 years.

Besides cricket, which will be played in T20 format, the other sports approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during its 141st session, were squash, baseball/softball, lacrosse and flag football.

"The proposal from the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 (@LA28) to include five new sports in the programme has been accepted by the IOC Session."

"Baseball/softball, cricket

(T20), flag football, lacrosse (sixes) and squash will be in the programme at LA28," posted the IOC on X, formerly Twitter.

The proposal to include the five sports recommended by LA28 Organising Committee was opposed by only two of the 99 IOC members, who participated in voting.

IOC president Thomas Bach made the announcement of cricket's inclusion along with other sport after the recommendation of the Executive Board was put to vote through raise of hands.

"I welcome all of you to the Olympic program," said Bach.

Cricket has been played in the Olympics only once before, in Paris in 1900, when England defeated France.

ODI WORLD CUP

Australia Beat Sri Lanka To Revive World Cup Campaign

Observer News Service

LUCKNOW: Five-time champions Australia injected some life into their moribund World Cup campaign with a five-wicket victory against Sri Lanka on Monday.

Beaten by India and South Africa in the first two matches, Australia showed some urgency with the ball and bundled out Sri Lanka for 209 inside 44 overs with Adam Zampa leading the rout on figures of 4-47.

At 157-1 near the halfway stage, Sri Lanka looked poised to reach the 300-mark before the wheels came off their innings and they had to set-



tle for a below-par total.

After strong winds delayed the start of their chase, Australia made heavy weather of a small target before Josh Inglis made 58 and Glenn Maxwell (31) stayed put to see them home with nearly 15 overs to spare.

South Africa Play Netherlands Today

Press Trust of India

DHARAMSHALA: South Africa are making quite a statement at the World Cup, playing entertaining cricket and plundering tons of runs as they steamroll rival teams.

As the Proteas take on the Netherlands in this hilly paradise on Tuesday, the perennial under-performers and 'chokers' have shown in the last two games their determination to go the distance in the tournament.

Their 102-run win against Sri Lanka in the opener in New Delhi after putting a



record 428/5 on the board, followed by 134-run victory against five-time champions Australia in Lucknow, have made South Africa the team to beat in the competition. From staying under

the radar in the lead-up to the ODI showpiece to becoming high-flyers, the Proteas have started playing to potential and will be firm favourites against the Dutch.

Video Shows Rizwan Heckled By Fans During India-Pakistan Clash

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The cricketers from Pakistan have enjoyed the warmth and hospitality ever since they landed in India to compete in the World Cup but a video has surfaced on social media where Mohammed Rizwan was seen getting heckled by a few fans in Ahmedabad with the chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' while he walked back to pavilion during the marquee clash on Saturday.

A group of fans shouted 'Jai

Shri Ram' (Hail Lord Ram) multiple times when Rizwan was walking back to the pavilion after being dismissed by pacer Jasprit Bumrah.

Rizwan scored 49 runs and Pakistan could put on board only 191, a target which India chased without much fuss to record its eighth straight win over the arch-rivals in World Cups.

Several politicians denounced the act.

DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin posted the video with a comment that such crowd be-



haviour is "unacceptable".

"India is renowned for its sportsmanship and hospitality. However, the treatment meted out to Pakistan players at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad is unacceptable and a new low. Sports should be a unifying force between countries, fostering true brotherhood. Using it as a tool to spread hatred is condemnable," he wrote on X.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale also criticised the fans for heckling Rizwan.

"PM Modi desperately wants India to host the 2036 Olympics. But if this is what BJP has reduced our audiences to - where they heckle a Pakistani player with chants of Jai Shri Ram - massive doubts remain over whether we're qualified & sporting enough to host ANY international sporting event," he wrote. Pakistan players, led by Babar Azam, have received tremendous respect and a warm welcome upon their arrival first in Hyderabad and then in Ahmedabad.

Samba Magic Grips Kolkata As Ronaldinho Ignites Festivities

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Wearing his infectious goofy grin, 'Samba Magician' Ronaldinho cast a spell on the football-crazy denizens of Kolkata as his arrival for a two-day visit in Kolkata ushered in an early onset of the Durga Puja festival.

The Durga Puja, the grandest festival in the region, traditionally commences on the sixth day (Shashthi) following Mahalaya, but it got rolling on the second day itself with the 'Gaucho' inaugurating a series of pandals.

On a day Union Home Minister Amit Shah also came to inaugurate a Durga Puja pandal, it was the Brazil legend who took all the limelight.

Wherever he went, chants of 'Ronaldinho, Ronaldinho' and 'Brazil, Brazil' echoed through the crowd, as hundreds of fans eagerly gathered to catch a glimpse of the former Barcelona and AC Milan star.

Ronaldinho got himself dressed up in casual shorts, a loosely-fitted navy blue T-shirt, and topping it with his signature snapback cap.

"Muchas gracias. Mucho carino (many thanks, much affection)," the 'King of Jogo Bonito' conveyed with 'I Love You' gesture with his goofy smile captivating his fans who followed him everywhere he went.

The 43-year-old Brazilian great, who checked in late on Sunday, defied jetlag and began his day heading to inaugurate his academy -- "R10" -- at Merlin Rise residential complex on the



eastern suburbs.

Hundreds of kids of various age groups gathered at the academy to catch a glimpse of their favourite Brazilian star, who shot himself into limelight with his extraordinary dribbling skills, close ball control, and creativity on the field during their 2002 World Cup triumph, the last one for the five-time champions.

A giant screen on the backdrop of the stage showed Ronaldinho's magical football moments, including his spectacular long-range free-kick that virtually ended England's fate in the 2002 World Cup quarterfinal.

His next destination was in north Kolkata, where he inaugurated a Durga Puja pandal designed around a Disneyland theme. Ronaldinho got a traditional Hindu welcome, with a tilak on forehead as he showed

curiosity, exploring the pandal while inquiring about the rituals.

Ronaldinho also paid floral tributes to a statue of Argentine icon Diego Maradona who also had enthralled Kolkata's football fans during his twin visits in 2008 and 2017.

Calling on Mamata Banerjee was the next on Ronaldinho's agenda, as he headed to the West Bengal chief minister's residence in Kalighat where officials of the 'Big Three' clubs -- Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting -- welcomed him.

"The CM briefed him about the clubs' century-old legacies, and he appeared deeply engrossed. The CM also requested him to consider sending more Brazilian players to Kolkata to elevate the standards of the game. We all presented him with club jerseys," East Bengal's top official,

Nitu Sarkar, told PTI.

Ronaldinho also met with East Bengal sponsors later in the day.

The Brazilian then took part in an official trophy handing ceremony of the Calcutta Football League Premier Division tournament, crowning Mohammedan Sporting champions at the Indian Football Association.

There were more Durga Puja pandal inauguration, this time crisscrossing the city extending to the southern suburbs in Narandrapur and Baruiipur, but Ronaldinho remained high in spirits and obliged his fans at every stop.

More excitement is in store for his fans on Tuesday as well as the Brazilian is expected to weave his 'Samba Magic' during an exhibition match at the southwestern suburb of Maheshtala in the afternoon.

Youth Football Tournament In South Kashmir Soon: JKFA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association is set to hold the inaugural Youth Football Tournament in south Kashmir districts soon.

DFA Anantnag announced the news on Monday and said the tournament will be for Under-17 boys from



south Kashmir districts. "Organised with pride un-

der the patronage of the J&K Football Association and My Youth My Pride, this event promises to be a spectacular showcase of young talent, outstanding sportsmanship, and a celebration of our vibrant community spirit," the DFA said in a statement.

"For entry details and inquiries, please contact us at +917889449304," it added.

J&K Ends 2023 Santosh Trophy Campaign With 1 Win In 4 Games



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K senior men's football team was sent packing from the 77th Santosh Trophy after winning one game and suffering three losses in their 2023 campaign played at Goa.

J&K lost 2-1 to Goa on Sunday. Adnan Ayub scored a captain's goal to bring Zahid Shafi Mir-coached team to 1-1, but the hosts got the winning goal

in 78th minute to knock J&K out of the tournament.

Earlier, J&K lost their opening match to Gujarat 2-1. Adnan Ayub was on the score sheet for J&K in this game as well.

J&K defeated Chhattisgarh 1-0 in the second match, a highlight of the team's performance in the tournament. Raja Musharaf scored the lone goal of the game, as J&K held on to their slender lead.

High off their win, J&K was put in place by Santosh Trophy powerhouse Kerala. The 6-1 drubbing would have been an eye-opener for the young J&K team. Faisal Maqsood Thakur scored for J&K.

With the 2023 Santosh trophy over for the J&K, the senior men's football team must reflect on the overall performances and the changes needed to help the region succeed at the national level.

Nice Player Atal Investigated For 'Defending Terrorism'

Agencies

NICE: The Nice public prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation Monday targeting soccer player Youcef Atal on charges "of defending terrorism" after he shared an antisemitic message on social media.

The prosecutor's office said Atal is also being investigated for "public incitement to hatred or violence because of a particular religion."

Atal, who plays for French league club Nice and the Algeria national team, apologized after reportedly reposting and then deleting a video in which a Palestinian preacher made an antisemitic statement.

French Football Federation President Philippe Diallo said Atal had relayed "appeals for violence." Diallo said in a statement that he "condemns them with the greatest severity" and that the case will be handled by the federation's ethics committee.

Writing on Instagram, the defender said he understood that his post "shocked several people, which was not my intention."

Atal also said he condemns all forms of violence, "no matter where in the world." (AP)

MATCHDAY: England Plays Scandal-Hit Italy In Euro 2024 Qualifying

The Associated Press

A look at what's happening in European soccer on Tuesday:

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING GROUP C

A European Championship spot is within reach for England as Gareth Southgate's team hosts scandal-hit Italy at Wembley in a repeat of the 2021 final. England is unbeaten in seven games since last year's World Cup and will qualify with a win, or even a draw if Ukraine doesn't beat Malta.

Italy is without midfielders Sandro Tonali and Nicolò Zaniolo, who were sent home last week after being questioned by police over alleged involvement in an illegal betting ring. It's a big match for the Azzurri, who are level with Ukraine three points behind England.

Italy returns to the venue where it beat England on penalties to win the European Championship in 2021. "We have great memories of that stadium," forward Domenico Berardo said. "We're going to play our game and try to win."



GROUP G

Hungary can book its place at the European Championship with a win away to Lithuania after an unbeaten campaign so far in its all-Eastern European group. Following a 2-1 win over

Serbia on Saturday, Hungary is on the verge of qualifying for its third European Championship in a row. Before the tournament expanded from 16 teams to 24 in 2016, Hungary hadn't qualified since 1972.

Serbia hosts Montenegro in Belgrade as they battle for the second qualifying spot. Neither Serbia nor Montenegro has featured at the European Championship since they both contributed players to the team which played as

Yugoslavia in 2000, even though Serbia has regularly qualified for the World Cup since then.

GROUP H

In one of the most open groups of all, Slovenia, Denmark, Finland and Kazakhstan all have hopes of qualifying with three games to go.

The only team which can make sure of qualifying Tuesday is Denmark but that requires a particular combination of results in all three of the day's games. The Danes would need not only to beat San Marino, but also must hope that Kazakhstan draws with Finland and that Slovenia doesn't lose to fifth-place Northern Ireland.

FRIENDLIES

Two already-qualified teams meet at Lille's stadium for a friendly as France hosts Scotland. France cruised through its qualifying group with six wins from six games but was beaten 2-1 by Germany in a friendly last month for its first loss since last year's World Cup final. Scotland too has had an impressive campaign with five wins to qualify for just the second time since 1996.

Prominent Iranian Director Dariush Mehrjui Stabbed To Death

Agenceis

TEHRAN: One of Iran's most prominent film-makers, Dariush Mehrjui, was stabbed to death on Saturday evening alongside his wife at their home near Tehran.

A provincial chief justice said Mehrjui and his wife, Vahideh Mohammadifar, "were killed by multiple stab wounds to the neck", the judiciary's Mizan Online website said.

According to Hossein Fazeli-Harikandi, chief justice of Alborz province near Tehran, Mehrjui sent a text message to his daughter, Mona, at about 9:00 pm local time (1730 GMT) inviting her for dinner at their home in Karaj, west of Tehran.

But upon her arrival an hour and a half later, she found the bodies of her dead parents with fatal wounds to their necks.

Later in the day, police said "no signs of forced entry can be seen at the crime scene", adding that "no damage has been done to the doors" of their home.

However, they said "traces have been found" at the scene they believe to be "related to the murderer".

According to Iran's ISNA news agency, quoting the police headquarters, four suspects have been identified for their links with the case and two have been arrested.

On Sunday, the Etemad newspaper included an interview with the film-maker's wife saying she had been threatened and that their home had been burgled.

"The investigation revealed that no complaints had been filed regarding the illegal entry into the Mehrjui's family villa and the theft



of their belongings", said Fazeli-Harikandi.

"Everything is political"

In a statement, Iran's minister of culture, Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili, hailed Mehrjui as "one of the pioneers of

Iranian cinema" and "the creator of eternal works".

Born on December 8, 1939 in Tehran, Mehrjui studied philosophy in the United States before his return to Iran where he launched a literary

magazine and released his first film in 1967, "Diamond 33", a parody of the James Bond series.

The 83-year-old was indelibly associated with the Iranian new wave of cinema, with his

1969 film "The Cow" one of the movement's first pictures.

He then directed a string of well-regarded films including "Mr Gullible" (1970), "The Cycle" (1977) before leaving Iran in the wake of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Between 1980 and 1985, he lived in France where he worked on the documentary "Journey to the Land of Rimbaud" (1983).

On returning to his homeland, he triumphed at the box office with "The Tenants" (1987).

In 1990, he directed "Hamoun", a dark comedy showing 24 hours in the life of an intellectual tormented by divorce and psychological anxieties in an Iran overwhelmed by the technology companies Sony and Toshiba.

Throughout the 1990s, Mehrjui also depicted the lives of women in "Sara" (1993),

"Pari" (1995) and "Leila" (1997), a melodrama about an infertile woman who encourages her husband to marry a second woman.

In interviews with the Iranian media, Mehrjui said he was "greatly influenced" by Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman and Italian Michelangelo Antonioni.

"I don't make directly political films to promote a particular ideology or point of view. But everything is political," he once said.

To Mehrjui, cinema was like "poetry, which cannot take sides with anyone" and he remained adamant that "art must not become a propaganda tool".

In addition to his cinema career, he translated works by the French playwright Eugene Ionesco and the German Marxist philosopher Herbert Marcuse into Persian.

Challenges In Implementing 'Normative' AI Guidelines, Say Researchers

Agenceis

Reviewing global guidelines around the use of AI, researchers found that while most of the guidelines valued privacy, transparency, and accountability, very few valued truthfulness, intellectual property, or children's rights.

Further, most of these guidelines described ethical principles and values without proposing practical methods for implementing them and without pushing for legally binding regulation, a team of researchers from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, found.

To determine if a global consensus existed regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI), the researchers identified and analysed 200 documents related to AI ethics and governance published between 2014 and 2022 from 37 countries and six continents and written or translated into five different languages - English, Portuguese, French, German and Spanish.

They found that the most commonly appearing principles were transparency, security, justice, privacy, and accountability, showing up in 82.5, 78, 75.5, 68.5, and 67 per cent of the documents, respectively.

On the other hand, labour rights, truthfulness, intellectual property, and children/adolescent rights appeared

the least - 19.5, 8.5, 7, and 6 per cent, respectively - in these documents, they said in their study published in the journal Patterns, emphasising that these principles deserved more attention.

"Previous work predominantly centred around North American and European documents, which prompted us to actively seek and include perspectives from regions such as Asia, Latin America, Africa, and beyond," said lead author Nicholas Kluge Correa.

About 96 per cent of the AI-use guidelines were "normative", that is, describing ethical values that should be considered during AI development and use.

However, only 2 per cent of them recommended practical methods of implementing AI ethics, and only 4.5 per cent proposed legally binding forms of AI regulation, the researchers found.

"It's mostly voluntary commitments that say, 'these are some principles that we hold important', but they lack practical implementations and legal requirements," said social scientist and co-author James William Santos.

"If you're trying to build AI systems or if you're using AI systems in your enterprise, you have to respect things like privacy and user rights, but how you do that is the gray area that does not appear in these guidelines," said Santos.



Early Warning System Likely At High-Risk Glacial Lakes In 2024: Official



REUTERS

NEW DELHI: India aims to install the first part of an early warning system at some high-risk glacial lakes in the Himalayas next year, as the country responds to deadly floods this month that killed at least 60 people.

There are 56 at-risk glacial lakes in India and the urgency to monitor them was stepped up after Lhonak Lake in the eastern Himalayas burst its banks two weeks ago and caused widespread damage in Sikkim, a small mountainous state wedged between China, Nepal and Bhutan.

Reuters was the first to report that India was working on a pilot project with Swiss experts to set up the country's first early warning systems at Lhonak Lake, and also at nearby Shako Cho lake. If the systems had been installed, they could have given 90 minutes warning before floods

engulfed homes and structures.

"We will try some monitoring systems at lakes that are at risk," Krishna S. Vatsa, a member of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), told Reuters. The NDMA is coordinating with Indian and international institutes for the project.

State governments will provide recommendations on which of the 56 at-risk glacial lakes in India need to be prioritised for setting up the monitoring systems, Vatsa said.

Vatsa said authorities will aim to set up some of these systems by next year to monitor the weather and environment at the lakes as a first component of an early warning system. The full system would be installed later based on the outcome of monitoring.

He added though that this was "easier said than done" given the difficulty in reaching these lakes high in the mountains, which

can be accessed only during summer months. Also, these will be unmanned systems running on solar or battery power.

As climate change warms high mountain regions, many communities are facing dangerous glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Lakes holding water from melted glaciers can overflow and burst, sending torrents rushing down mountain valleys.

More than 200 such lakes now pose a high hazard to Himalayan communities in India, Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bhutan, according to 2022 research, and India currently lags behind its South Asian neighbours in deploying glacial flood early warning systems.

The Economic Times newspaper reported on Monday that top officials from multiple ministries will meet on Wednesday to formulate a plan for early warning systems.

Plea Challenging Designation Of Lawyers As Senior Advocates Dismissed

Agenceis

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a petition challenging the designation of lawyers as senior advocates. A bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul delivered its verdict on a plea filed by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara and seven others.

The petitioners had challenged sections 16 and 23 (5) of the Advocates Act, 1961, claiming these "creates two classes of lawyers, senior advocates and other advocates, which in actual practice has resulted in unthinkable catastrophe and inequities which Parliament certainly would not have contemplated or foreseen".

While section 16 of the Advocates Act pertains to senior and other advocates, section 23 (5) says senior



advocates shall have pre-audience over other lawyers and their right of pre-audience inter se shall be determined by their respective seniority.

The plea had claimed that the designation of lawyers as senior advocates, which is "creating a special class of advocates with special rights, privileges and status not available to ordinary advocates, is unconstitutional, being violative of the mandate of equality under Article 14...".

'Fake Guide' Booked For Taking US Official On Taj Mahal Tour

Agenceis

Agra: A case has been registered at the tourism police station here against a man who allegedly accompanied the US Naval Secretary as guide during his visit to the Taj Mahal in November 2022, even though he did not have a proper licence or authority from the Archaeological Survey of India to function as a guide.

The action came after a detailed probe conducted on a complaint lodged by the president of the Tourist and Guide Welfare Association, who called it a serious crime and security lapse.

"A case was registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code on October 9, 2023, at tourism police station of Agra on a complaint by Deepak Dan, president of Tourist and Guide Welfare Association, for the incident which

took place on November 19, 2022," said Syed Areeb Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Taj Security) at Agra.

Deepak Dan had complained to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, highlighting the security lapse during the VVIP visit. Dan mentioned that Carlos Del Toro, the US Naval Secretary, visited the Taj Mahal on November 19, 2022, and was accorded a VIP protocol by the Indian government.

"The matter being sensitive in nature, a detailed probe was conducted and after verification of facts and circumstances, an FIR was registered on October 9 against the accused. There will be further investigation after registration of the FIR and arrest will take place if allegations related to the document are found to be correct," said Syed Areeb Ahmed, ACP, Taj Security.

Commercial Pilot Licenses To Be Valid For 10 Years: Aviation Ministry

Agenceis

Commercial pilot licenses will now be valid for ten years, with the government amending rules as part of efforts to further improve the ease of doing business in the aviation sector. Till now, the validity of the Commercial Pilot License (CPL) was for five years and after completion of that period, it had to be renewed.

The Civil Aviation Ministry amended the Aircraft Rules, 1937. Among various changes made, the validity of licenses in relation to Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) and CPL holders has been increased from five years to ten years.

"This change is expected to reduce the administrative burden on pilots and aviation authorities like DGCA, promoting a more streamlined and efficient licensing process," the ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Besides, rules have been amended to address concerns related to the display of lights in the vicinity of an aerodrome. It has also been clarified that the term 'light' encompasses

lantern lights, wish kites, and laser lights. Also, the government's jurisdiction over those exhibiting such lights has been extended from five kilometres to five nautical miles around an aerodrome.

"It is made explicit that the government possesses the authority to take action against individuals displaying lights that disrupt the safe operation of aircraft or pose hazards to the operating crew. Should such lights remain unattended for 24 hours, the government is empowered to enter the location and extinguish them," the Ministry said.

Simultaneously, the matter should be reported to the relevant police station for legal action under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). When the source of the observed light is unidentifiable or if it shifts locations, the airport or airline operator is obligated to promptly report the incident to the local police station, initiating potential criminal proceedings.

Another amendment is that the requirement for validation of foreign licenses has been removed.