

LG Sinha Calls On PM Modi In New Delhi



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Singh called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday.

"Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the PMO said in a post on X.

Sinha's meeting with the PM comes a day after he said in Jammu on Monday that the security situation in the

Union Territory has improved significantly and terrorism is "taking its last breath" there.

Besides conveying Vijaydashmi greetings, the LG also presented 'Kong Posh' (Saffron Flower) to the PM on behalf of people of the Union Territory.

"Met Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji today and wished him a blissful Vijaydashmi. Presented 'Kong Posh' (Saffron Flower) to Hon'ble PM on behalf of people of J&K UT," Sinha posted on X.

Later in the day, the LG met Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnav and discussed with him a wide range of issues related to IT sector, especially implementation of Bharat Net Phase-III to provide digital connectivity to remote and difficult areas.

"Met Hon'ble Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, Sh.Ashwini Vaishnav. More on P6

Partly Overcast Weather In J&K Till Oct 29

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Weather is likely to remain dry until October 29 and to stay fair to partly overcast with the possibility of minor precipitation in fewer spots during the next few hours, the Meteorological Department said on Tuesday.

There is no major rain or dry spell forecast for the valley until November 3, Deputy Director Meteorological Department, Mukhtar Ahmad said.

Although the weather is expected to remain dry till November 3, the MeT official however said that a Western Disturbance may occur around October 29.

The Deputy Director MeT informed Kashmir Observer that there is no significant forecast for Kashmir till 3 November and that weather is expected to be fair to partly overcast with the probability of small precipitation at fewer spots including Kupwara and Baramulla districts of north Kashmir.

"As of now, there is no significant rain or snowfall predicted for the plains of Kashmir; instead, the weather is expected to be dry till October 29. There is a possibility of light precipitation around that time since fresh Western Disturbance may occur around October 29," he added. Meanwhile a senior official at Consumer More on P6

PM Calls For Rooting Out Forces Dividing Country

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon people to finish off forces trying to divide the country with casteism and regionalism, saying Dussehra should also mark the burning of ideologies which are not about India's development but about fulfilling selfish interests.

Addressing a huge gathering at a Dussehra event here, he said the festival should not be confined to the burning of Ravana's effigies and Lord Ram's victory over the demon but also mark the triumph of patriotism over every evil in the country.

The prime minister's



comments were an apparent swipe at opposition parties whom he has repeatedly accused of seeking to divide the country in the name of caste and region to draw political mileage.

"We should pledge to end social ills and discrimination," he said, adding that every evil

which disturbs the social harmony should be burnt as well.

With the 10-day Durga Puja festival being marked with Ramlila, Modi noted that a grand temple dedicated to Lord Ram is being built in Ayodhya and said it is everyone's good fortune that they are witness to it More on P6

Only 10 Locals Joined Militancy In 2023: DGP

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Only 10 local youths joined militant ranks in 2023 in Jammu and Kashmir against 110 during the previous year, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh said on Tuesday as he appealed to the ultras to give up violence and return to the mainstream.

Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir has been "almost finished" and its "remnants" will be eliminated soon, Singh told reporters after visiting Mata Badrakali Temple at Handwara in Kupwara district.

"This year only 10 (local) youths have joined militancy. Last year, 110 had become militants. How good it



would have been if none had joined the ranks because even among the 10, six have been killed and the remaining four will also get killed.

"They should leave the path of violence and come back," he said.

Singh said militants also have families and such killings don't bring any happiness to security forces.

I also want to More on P6

Tribunal To Review Ban On Shabir Shah's JKDFP

Agencies

Srinagar: The Government of India has constituted a tribunal headed by Justice Sachin Datta, Judge, High Court of Delhi to decide whether there is sufficient cause for declaring the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) as an unlawful association.

In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has set-up a tribunal headed by Justice Sachin Datta, Judge, High Court of Delhi to decide whether there is sufficient cause for declaring the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) as an unlawful association.

The move comes 19 days after the MHA declared Shabir Shah's JKDFP as More on P6

Dussehra Celebrated With Fervour In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Kashmiri Pandits and Hindus living in Kashmir on Tuesday thronged the Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium to celebrate Dussehra, a festival that marks the victory of good over evil.

Giant effigies of Ravan, Kumbhakarn and Meghnad were set afire at the practice grounds of the cricket stadium amidst thunderous cheers from the people assembled there, officials said.

A festive atmosphere was witnessed at the venue as firecrackers were burst and sweets distributed among those present there, they added.

A large number of Muslims, including PDP leader Iltija Mufti, also came to witness the celebrations, the officials said.

The organisers of the festival Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti thanked the administration and locals for their cooperation.

Earlier, a shobha More on P6

Kashmir's 3 Wildlife Sanctuaries Declared 'Eco-Sensitive Zones'

Government Initiates Measures for Conservation

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: The Government of India has designated three wildlife sanctuaries in Kashmir Valley as 'eco-sensitive zones' and has instructed the Union Territory administration to promptly outline their boundaries.

According to a notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the Jammu and Kashmir government has been asked to constitute a committee for monitoring the eco-sensitive zones in the UT.

The monitoring committee shall be headed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and will have one expert in ecology and environment, one representative of a non-governmental organization working in the field of environment conservation, an



expert in Biodiversity besides deputy commissioners of the various districts.

The MoEFCC notes that keeping in view the rich flora and fauna in the wildlife sanctuaries; the government will protect the areas from human intervention and will immediately demarcate the boundaries of all the wildlife sanctuaries.

They include, Dachigam National Park, Thajwas (Baltal) Wildlife Sanctuary and Over-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary.

"... the Central Government hereby notifies an area to an extent varying from 200 meters to 13.15 kilometres around the boundary of Dachigam National Park, Thajwas (Baltal) Wildlife Sanctuary and Over-Aru Wildlife More on P6

G20 Summit, GI Tagging Fallout Handicrafts Worth Rs 208. 21 Cr Exported In 1st Quarter

Agencies

Srinagar: Geographic Indication (GI) tagging followed by the recently held G20 summit seems to have done its job to promote Kashmir handicrafts.

According to reports, in the first quarter of this year, handicrafts worth Rs 208.21 crore have been exported from Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the world.

The said amount constitutes 55 per cent of the exports recorded during April-September last year.

Official figures reveal that



handicrafts worth Rs 375.97 crore have been exported from Kashmir during April-September 2022, which almost

make two quarters. Noteworthy, last year, handicrafts exports from Jammu and Kashmir touched Rs. 1116.37 crore mark.

During the first quarter this year, the largest growth has been seen in carpet exports. In Quarter 1, carpets valued at Rs 88.92 crore were exported. Rumals and Shawls totaling Rs 79.95 crore were exported during the first quarter.

In Quarter 1, chain stitch exports totaled Rs 32.85 crore. During that time, Papier Machie products were exported for Rs 2.23 crore. Exports of wood-carving and other items totaling Rs 2.54 crore were recorded during the first quarter.

Kashmir, recently obtained GI tagging for More on P6

SHORT TAKES

Kidnapped Girl Rescued In Kishtwar

A girl who was allegedly kidnapped in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district was rescued within 24 hours, police said on Tuesday. Police received a complaint that a girl had been kidnapped from her house by Yasser Hussain of Methwan area in Marwah tehsil, they said.

A case was registered on Monday and Marwah police swung into action and More on P6

5 Cops Injured After Van Overturns

At least five policemen were injured on Tuesday after their vehicle skidded off the road and turned turtle in Qazigund area of South Kashmir Kulgam district.

A 407 van carrying the police personnel skidded off the road and overturned at Kurigam area in Qazigund on Tuesday afternoon leaving as many as five More on P6

4 Gamblers Held In Ganderbal

Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four alleged gamblers in a road in Ganderbal district of Central Kashmir. A police team led by SHO Kheerbawani carried out a raid in Rampora village of the district and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. In the raid carried out on specific input, More on P6

Youth Dies Of Heart Attack

A youth died of a heart attack in Rajouri district of Jammu region on Monday setting off protests by his family members over alleged medical negligence. Sikandar Aaba Bhima suffered a heart attack at his home on Monday night following which his family rushed him to the government medical college (GMC) hospital in More on P6

WATCH
Dr Karan Singh,
Former Sadr-e-Riyasat
On Kashmir Observer

THE OTHER SIDE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCay2aOqESrk1viRY7TeSE8w>



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Women Consuming Heart-Healthy Diet In Midlife Linked To Lower Cognitive Loss In Later Life

Press Trust Of India

Middle-aged women consuming heart-healthy diets were about 17 per cent less likely to report cognitive decline decades later, researchers have found.

The finding suggests that switching to the DASH diet - Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension - could improve cognitive function in later life for women who make up more than two-thirds of those diagnosed with the most prevalent form of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, said the researchers from New York University's (NYU) Grossman School of Medicine.

The DASH diet includes a high consumption of plant-based foods rich in potassium, calcium, and magnesium and is rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy foods. The diet limits saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, and sugar-sweetened foods and beverages.

"Subjective complaints about daily cognitive performance are early predictors of more serious neurocognitive disorders such as Alzheimer's,"



said Yu Chen, professor in the Department of Population Health and senior author of the study published in the journal Alzheimer's & Dementia.

"With more than 30 years follow-up, we found that the stronger the adherence to a DASH diet in midlife, the less likely women are to report cognitive issues much later in life," said Chen.

The researchers analysed the data

of 5,116 women out of the 14,000 enrolled in the NYU Women's Health Study, which examines the role of lifestyle and other factors on the development of cancer and other chronic conditions in women. They were asked about their diets through questionnaires when they enrolled for the study between 1985 and 1991.

Over a follow-up period of more than 30 years, 33 per cent of the

women reported having more than one of the six cognitive complaints, assessed using six validated standard questions indicative of later mild cognitive impairment, which precedes dementia.

The questions pertained to difficulties in remembering recent events or shopping lists, understanding spoken instructions or group conversation, or navigating familiar streets.

The chances of reporting multiple cognitive complaints reduced by 17 per cent in women consuming diets similar to the DASH diet, the researchers analysed.

"Our data suggest that it is important to start a healthy diet in midlife to prevent cognitive impairment in older age," said Yixiao Song, a lead author of the study.

"Following the DASH diet may not only prevent high blood pressure, but also cognitive issues," said Fen Wu, a senior associate research scientist who co-led the study.

Previous research has shown that high blood pressure, particularly in midlife, is a risk factor for cognitive decline and dementia.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK01AT6153. 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 office of the RTO Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Momin Khurshheed
 S/O Khurshheed Ahmad Chaila
 R/O Amira Kadal Lal Chowk Srinagar

laa

From the office of the Advocate Shuib Hafeez Tantray

Advocate J&K High Court, Srinagar.

License No. 912/2010

Office Chamber: Colleagues Law Firm behind Albaraq Hospital Lane No.2, Mirabad Batmaloo Srinagar.

in the case of
 MST. FEHMEEDA D/o; Abdul Gani Noak
 R/o Nigeen Bagh, Srinagar, Contact No. 9906912219 (Caveator)

Versus
 Public at Large

(Non-caveators)

In the matter of:-
 CAVEAT PETITION

The caveator has developed reasonable apprehension that the non-caveators may file REVISION/ APPEAL or any other proceedings against Order dated; 28.07.2023 No. DMS/RD-969/Mig/ 380-83 passed in File No. RD-969 in an application titled as Dr. M.J. Zarabi V/s Noor Mohammad Nagoo and Khurshid Ahmad Nagoo on passed by Ld. Court of District Collector/ District Magistrate (Deputy Commissioner) Srinagar before Hon'ble court and may obtain order in ex-parte by concealing of material facts. It would be fair and just if the caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

nj

Shuib Hafeez Tantray Advocate

Riding E-Bikes May Help Adults Manage Diabetes, Says Study

IANS



Electric bicycles have been identified as a type of moderate-intensity exercise that may aid in the prevention and treatment of type 2 diabetes, a new study has found.

The study, published in the journal Frontiers, said that engaging in e-cycling was perceived as an easier way of managing diabetes than diet or other types of exercise, largely due to the enjoyment of riding.

"Physical activity (PA) is a key component in the management of type 2 diabetes. However, this population have low rates of PA engagement. Electrically assisted cycling has been identified as a means to increase PA by incorporating activity into daily life while overcoming some of the barriers to conventional cycling," the study authors said.

According to the study, both men and women believed that riding an e-bike had a favourable influence on a range of health outcomes, including enhanced mental health, increased fitness, and diabetes control—through significant decreases in blood sugar levels.

The capacity to ride a bike comfortably with less physical exertion than a normal bike, as well as the ability to go further, quicker, and on hillier terrain, provided enjoyment. High degrees of satisfaction also tended to increase the sample's e-cycling habit. The majority of participants also claimed that e-bike training improved their perceived competence to ride an e-bike over time.

In addition, the study identified obstacles to e-bike riding, with users most typically identifying physical opportunity limitations, including cycling infrastructure, parking facilities and traffic, time and weather constraints, e-bike specific issues, along with weight and size of the bike and cost, and personal health issues.



WHY TO USE CRITICAL CARE AMBULANCE

Early Intervention

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Timely Transportation

- Critical care ambulances can transport patients to hospitals more quickly and safely than private transport, reducing the time between the onset of the medical emergency and the start of treatment. This can be critical in cases of heart attacks, strokes, or traumatic injuries, where every minute counts.

Reduced Complications

- Patients who receive critical care ambulance services are less likely to experience complications during transit or upon arrival at the hospital. This can result in shorter hospital stays, reduced healthcare costs, and improved patient outcomes.

Better Coordination

- Critical care ambulance services often work closely with local hospitals and emergency medical services (EMS) to ensure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment. This coordination can help to reduce the risk of medical errors and ensure that patients receive the best possible care.

Improved Accessibility:

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



9484100200/ 01942310018

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name and DOB has been wrongly written in my Passport bearing No: K6935303 as Mumtaza Bano instead of Mumtaza Begum and DOB as 05-06-1982 Instead of 13-06-1981. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mumtaza Begum
 DOB: 13-06-1981
 Cell: 9419780229

BMG

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District Judge Sgr.

IN THE CASE OF: 1. Mst. Saleema Pandit
 W/o Late Muzaffar Jan Pandit
 R/o Jamalatta Kakasuthoo
 New Circular Road Srinagar
 2. Mst. Hameeda Raina
 W/o Late Abdul Hameed Raina
 R/o Baghat Barzulla Srinagar
 3. Mrs Shazada Shaheen
 W/o Hashmatullah Khan
 R/o Zakura near Orchard Resort
 Lane Srinagar

.....(Caveators)
 VERSUS
 Public at large

.....(Non - Caveator)

IN THE MATTER OF: Caveat Application.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Caveators submit as under:

1. That the Caveators are the resident of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, as such, have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Honble court for the protection & safeguard of their legal rights and interests there of hence this petition.
 2. That the Caveators are the share holders of a piece of land situated at Rambagh Srinagar.
 3. That the some unknown persons are trying to disposes the Caveators from the possession of ancestral land /property that they have inherited from the father.
 4. That the Cavetors have every apprehension that the non Caveators may file a civil suit against the Caveators before this Hon'ble court with respect to the said plot of land.
 5. That the Caveators may be given opportunity of being heard before passing any order or direction and no order / direction be passed in ex-parte which will prejudice the rights of the Caveators.
 6. That the Cavetors have already published the same in the daily newspaper for the information to the general public.
- In the premises, it is, therefore, prayed that Honble court may be pleased that before passing any order or direction the Caveator or his counsel may be given opportunity of being heard and no order/direction may be passed in ex-parte, the same would be in the ends of justice.

CAVEATOR THROUGH COUNSEL.

Dated:-24-10-2023
 NJ

(Advocate Hamid Shafi Hakim)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my passport as Sumaira Bashir Shah while my correct name is Sumaira Bashir which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sumaira Bashir
 R/O Rawalpura Iqbal Colony Srinagar

LAA

Kander Cxot Now At Your Doorsteps

Teen Friends From Srinagar Revolutionize Breakfast Delivery

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: 17-year-old Mohammad Anas Bhat was fed up with hearing daily taunts from his parents for not contributing to his family's support. His day would start at noon as he was accustomed to waking up late. The same was true for his childhood friend Mohsin Mir, 18, who wanted to start his own business.

"But the idea for starting a business wasn't there. We explored all the options," Bhat told the Kashmir Observer.

Even though both friends are still studying, they had a strong desire to start a business and stand on their own feet. However, they wanted to create something unique and "solution-oriented."

On a typical day, Bhat's parents once again told him to fetch at least Kashmiri bread, popularly known as Kander Cxot for the breakfast.

"My father can't stand in the queue at the bakery shop for a long time because of the cold. So I decided to get the bread myself," Bhat said.

This was the time when the idea of delivering Kander Cxot to people's doorsteps came into Bhat's mind. He shared this idea with Mohsin, and both

started working on it, creating a model for the implementation of the idea.

"It was a very challenging idea since we don't come from business families. Also, with no initial investment, the job was challenging," Mir told the Kashmir Observer.

The duo created an Instagram page under the name Kander Cxot: Now at your doorstep" and shared their personal phone numbers for orders. With just eight posts, their Instagram page gained more than four thousand followers in just two weeks.

"We received an overwhelming response. Our phones rang continuously with customers asking for bread early in the morning," Mir said.

The teenagers started their operations in their locality, Qamarabad Bema, collecting over one thousand Kander Cxot from different shops every day and delivering them to their customers.

"We had never imagined receiving such an overwhelming response to this idea, though we only started our operations two weeks ago," Bhat said.

The teenagers receive orders from across the Srinagar city, but due to a "lack of manpower," they are unable to meet demands of their customers.

Waqf Head Visits Dastgeer Sahib Shrine, Reviews Urs Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board Chairperson, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi today visited the shrine of Peer Dastgeer Sahib (RA) at Khanyar to take stock of the arrangements in place for pilgrims.

The Waqf head spoke to the representatives of different departments and various other delegations at the shrine. The Urs of Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA), popularly known as Peer Dastgeer Sahab will be celebrated on Friday at Khanyar. A large number of devotees visit the shrine every year to pay obeisance on the annual Urs.

Dr Andrabi said during

her recent meeting with the administration and many departmental representatives, a roadmap for proper arrangements was devised at the shrine.

"The macadamization of the road has begun as was decided in the meeting and other facilities have also been put in place ahead of the Urs.

"I have directed the ground staff deputed at the shrine to ensure requisite facilities and services to all those visiting the shrine on the special days", said Dr Andrabi while speaking to the media during her visit.

The people at the shrine thanked the Waqf Board Chairperson for the reformatory initiatives of the Board during the past one and a half years.

5-Day Workshop On 'AGRI ROBOTICS 2023' Concludes In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 5-day Agri Robotics 2023 Workshop jointly organized by the Department of Computer Science and engineering at the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, and the National Institute of Technology, Agartala, concluded with resounding success.

The workshop was impeccably coordinated by Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Rout from the Department of CSE, Dr. Chilaka Ranga from the Department of Electrical Engineering, and Dr. Sparsh Sharma from the Department of CSE.

This interdisciplinary workshop, conducted in both online and offline formats, saw participation from a diverse range of regions, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, as well as the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, and

Gujarat, among others. The event commenced with an inaugural address by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Sudhakar Yedla. It featured a distinguished panel of guest speakers, each an expert in their respective fields and associated with prestigious institutions.

Prof. Sudhakar Yedla highlighted the pivotal role of such events in advancing technology, particularly in the agricultural sector, and stressed the importance of ongoing innovation in this field.

The esteemed speakers included Dr. Suman Deb, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at NIT Agartala; Ms. Rapti Chaudhuri, a member of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at NIT Agartala; Mr. Aditya Marathe, Founder and CEO of Nugenix; Dr. Chinmay, CEO of Udiyate Technologies Pvt. Ltd; Dr. Neeraj Goel from IIT Ropar; Prof. Gohar Wani.



Hindu believers burn giant effigies of Ravana at S.K Stadium in Srinagar on the occasion of Dussehra, commemorating Lord Rama's victory over the demon king of Lanka. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Dussehra 2023: Kashmiri Pandits Take Out Shobha Yatra In Srinagar After 35 Years

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar witnessed a vibrant revival of Dussehra celebrations as the city came alive with the return of the spectacular Shobha Yatra after a hiatus of 35 years. The Hindu festival marks the triumph of good over evil.

The highlight of the festivities was the symbolic 'Ravana Dahan', where effigies of the demon king Ravana were set ablaze in the evening at the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium.

Shobha Yatra, a colorful procession featuring religious floats, idols, and cultural performances, commenced from a prominent temple in Srinagar and wound its way through the city, drawing a large and diverse crowd.

The revival of the Shobha Yatra was met with enthusiasm from the residents of Srinagar, many of whom had fond memories of this grand event from decades ago.

Local resident Suresh Sharma

Shobha Yatra, a colorful procession featuring religious floats, idols, and cultural performances, commenced from a prominent temple in Srinagar and wound its way through the city, drawing a large and diverse crowd.

from Indra Nagar said, "I remember attending the Shobha Yatra as a child, and it is heartwarming to see this beautiful tradition return. It is a testament to our city's resilience and cultural richness."

Another local resident expressed her joy, saying, "The Shobha Yatra's return is a celebration of our diversity and unity. It is a moment of pride for all of us in Srinagar."

As the effigies of Ravana turned into ashes at Srinagar's SK Stadium, the cheers of the crowd filled the air, carrying a message of hope and triumph. "This grand celebration of Dussehra in Srinagar is poised to become a memorable and unifying moment in the city's history," said one of the persons present on the ground.

Meanwhile, the J&K Lieutenant Governor's Advisor RR Bhatnagar also participated in the Dussehra celebration in Srinagar. Speaking to the media, the advisor extended his greetings and congratulated the district administration and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said the "historic return" of the Shobha Yatra is a significant example of peace, brotherhood, and communal harmony in the valley.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

 HIJRI CALENDAR 09 Rabi-ul-Sani 1445	PRAYERS FAJR 5:20 ZUHR 12:15 ASR 4:08 Magrib 5:49 ISHA 7:10
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This Day In History

- 1930 - 1st scheduled transcontinental air service began
- 1932 - Benito Mussolini promises to remain dictator for 30 years
- 1935 - Hurricane-produced floods kill 2,000 in Jeremie & Jacmel Haiti
- 1938 - Japanese troops occupies Hankou & Wuhan
- 1944 - Battle at Cape Engano: 4 Japanese ships sink
- 1944 - Battle at Samar-island
- 1944 - Battle in Straits of Surigao: Japanese fleet destroyed
- 1951 - Peace talks aimed at ending Korean War resumed in Panmunjom
- 1952 - Nazar Mohammad scores Pakistan's 1st Test century 124* v India
- 1955 - Austria resumed its sovereignty after departure of last Allied occupation forces, for 1st time since German occupation of 1938
- 1955 - Tappan sells 1st microwave oven
- 1960 - 1st electronic wrist watch placed on sale, NYC
- 1960 - Cuba nationalizes all remaining US businesses
- 1971 - Belgium & People's Republic of China establish diplomatic relations
- 1971 - General Meeting of UN agrees to admit People's Republic of China
- 1971 - United Nations votes to expel the Chinese Nationalist ruled Taiwan and admit the Communist People's Republic of China
- 1974 - US Air Force fires 1st ICBM
- 1975 - USSR's Venera 10 makes day-side Venus landing
- 1977 - Digital Equipment Corporation releases OpenVMS V1.0.
- 1978 - Israeli government approves "in principle", a draft compromise peace
- 1979 - USSR performs underground nuclear test
- 1981 - 200,000 demonstrate in Brussel against cruise missile
- 1983 - US invades Grenada, a country 1/2,000 its population (US Wins!)
- 1984 - USSR performs nuclear test at Novaya Zemlya USSR
- 1985 - Kosmos 1700 communications satellite placed in geostationary orbit
- 1986 - International Red Cross ousted from South Africa
- 1991 - Aaqib Javed takes 7-37 in 10 overs v India in cric 1-day at Sharjah
- 1992 - Lithuania holds a referendum on its first post-Soviet constitution.
- 1997 - After a brief civil war which has driven President Pascal Lissouba out of Brazzaville, Denis Sassou-Nguesso proclaims himself the President of the Republic of the Congo.
- 2000 - A team led by Brigitte Senut and Martin Pickford discover Orrorin tugenensis, one of the earliest species on the human family tree that lived about 6 million years ago, in the Tugen Hills, Kenya
- 2001 - Windows XP first becomes available
- 2004 - Fidel Castro, Cuba's President, announces that transactions using the American Dollar will be banned by November 8

From KO Archives

'Kashmiri' Held With \$71,000 In New Delhi

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI- Busting the second major currency racket in the capital in a week, the enforcement directorate (ED) has arrested a person and recovered huge quantities of foreign and Indian currencies from his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, ED officials searched a person, hailing from Kashmir, and recovered 71,083 dollars (over Rs 32 lakh), Rs 90,000 worth Indian currency and some documents from his car, ED special director KR Bhargava said here today. He said the car was also seized and the Delhi

Police had been asked to check the person's, antecedents whether he had any links with militants in Kashmir.

ED sleuths had recovered nearly Rs one crore in Indian as well as foreign currency during raids last week at 11 premises belonging to ten global hawala operators and foreign exchange racketeers.

(Kashmir Observer, October 25, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 25-10-2023

Escalating Conflict

The ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has reached a critical juncture. Israel's response, primarily targeting Gaza, has been disproportionate, killing over 5000 Palestinians, raising serious concerns about the impact on the civilian population and the potential for further escalation. As history has shown, military responses alone may not lead to a lasting solution, and a different approach is desperately needed to bring the crisis to an end.

But this is not happening. The US recently vetoed a UN resolution calling for a humanitarian pause in the Israel-Hamas war, with the US ambassador saying draft resolution did not do enough to underscore Israel's right to self-defense. True, even if we concede that the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas necessitated a response, the retaliation has now gone far beyond self defense. Israel has killed four times more Palestinians and leveled entire neighborhoods. It is time that the world steps in and enforces a ceasefire. But that doesn't seem to be the case. Instead Israel is preparing for a ground offensive which will result in more civilian killings. And there is every possibility that the conflict could escalate and involve neighbouring countries, which would not only destabilize the region but the world. Though US has deployed forces to the region to forestall such a possibility, the situation could get out of hand if Israel persists with its offensive and civilian casualties continue to mount.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has issued a stark warning about the potential for the conflict to spill over into the wider region. Diplomatic efforts are underway to secure the release of Israeli hostages and prevent further escalation. The international community is advocating for restraint and adherence to international law but Israel has so far not heeded any of it. What is more, the US and European Union seem happy to overlook Israel's gross violations of international law.

This is the time that the war is brought to an end. The alternative is grim: a large-scale invasion would result in more casualties, and trigger a humanitarian catastrophe. It could also lead to broader regional conflicts, involving regional players and the major powers.

The urgent need for a humanitarian ceasefire is thus clear. The international community, including the US, UK, EU, China, Russia and Arab states, should unite in supporting this proposal. Failing to do so risks a wider and more devastating conflict that could have far-reaching consequences. That said, it is also time that the international community unites to find a permanent solution to lingering Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The long-stalled effort to arrive at a two state solution based on 1967 borders needed to be resurrected. Further delay would only continue the ongoing instability and bloodshed.

OTHER OPINION

Media Double Standards are Dangerous

So why is media coverage of Israel and Palestinians so asymmetrical?

The truth is: Palestinians are depicted as less deserving of our sympathy because they are seen as less than human.

When Politico (and others) quote Israeli ministers saying they are fighting "human animals" - mirroring the Nazis' description of Jews as "rats" ahead of the Holocaust or the Hutus' description of Tutsis as "cockroaches" ahead of the genocide in Rwanda - it contributes to a dehumanisation of people that makes them easier to kill (dehumanisation is a stage of genocide)...We must face up to a difficult truth. Many Western media see Palestinian and Syrian lives as less important than Israeli and Ukrainian lives because they are subject to the legacies of colonial, white supremacist thinking.

The racist coverage of the war in Ukraine proves this point.

Western journalists presented European people "with blonde hair and blue eyes" being killed in Ukraine as worse than elsewhere. Ukraine "isn't a place, with all due respect, like Iraq or Afghanistan, that has seen conflict raging for decades," one senior CBS foreign correspondent said live on air. "This is a relatively civilised, relatively European... city, one where you wouldn't expect that, or hope that it's going to happen."

We in the media can do better than that. We owe it to the professional standards we committed to as journalists to stick to verified facts, provide the broader historical perspective that helps our audiences put news into context, avoid amplifying hate speech, and call out all abuses of power, regardless of who the aggressor is.

We have a responsibility to examine the assumptions - conscious or unconscious - that underpin our framing; to recognise how perpetuating dominant narratives upholds inequitable power dynamics; and to realise that the way we frame things has a real impact on people's lives.

When we dehumanise people in a way that makes them less worthy of public sympathy and thus makes violence against them more acceptable, we have blood on our hands.

The New Humanitarian

Scrutinising Skill-Based School Education in J&K

In the last 8 years how many students have benefitted from vocational education in J&K? The Government needs to come up with a clear data

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

For quite some time now there has been a pedagogical debate about implementing a skill-based approach to learning among school children. Though many are hoping for a definitive universal rule to make this decision for their classrooms, it is simply not that easy. In fact, at the secondary school level, skill based education has been started several years back in India. However, it still remains a challenging task to make the students really skilled.

The Government and the NGOs need to undertake a study to see how many students have benefitted from skilled based courses like National Skills Qualifications Framework -NSQF. This NSQF programme is a nationally integrated education and competency-based framework that enables people to acquire desired competency levels. It organises qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills and aptitude. These levels, graded from one to ten, are defined in terms of learning outcomes which the learner must possess regardless of whether they were acquired through formal, non-formal or informal learning. It was launched in India in 2013 during UPA-II Govt but the Govt led by PM Modi enhanced budgetary allocation for this programme.

In November 2015, the J&K Govt introduced skill based programmes in Govt run schools for the students of class IX to XII. A formal order was issued by Directorate of School Education Kashmir on 13.11.2015 which reads:

"In order to enhance employability of students and equip them with skills commensurate to market requirements it has been decided to introduce vocational education from class IX onwards under NSQF."

The courses that were started included Information Technology, tourism, automobile repair, healthcare, security, among others. Later, from 2016, many other courses were also introduced and several training partners approved by National Skill Development Corporation -NSDC started providing manpower (educators and trainers) to the J&K Government through the school education department to implement this scheme in government-run schools. In J&K alone, as on date, almost 600 schools have this facility available and every year more and more Govt higher secondary schools are being included in this list.

Why skill-based education important

Skill-based education helps build a strong foundation for students at the school level. It helps build self-esteem, confidence, and leadership skills. It develops problem-solving skills and students understand the benefits of coordination and collaboration.

The skill education helps students become independent thinkers and encourages them to plan for their future at the right age. Most of the schools in India are primarily academic-centric, introducing skill development through the curriculum is now the need of the hour. I would in-fact suggest introducing skill based education at primary level, but the skill based education should be based on ethics and ethical consideration. We need the best entrepreneurs in the future but they must not compromise on values and ethics.

Skill based education helps students explore and learn things outside of their textbooks. It also gives them the freedom to think independently and make choices at an early age. Their skills are valued rather than their grades and scores. This vocational and skill based education has following benefits:

It strengthens the team spirit, creativity and assertiveness in students which intends to create a solid foundation for a great future.



The School Education Department J&K needs to come up with clear figures on this and a third party should be appointed to monitor the outcomes. It has been about 8 years since skill-based education is being offered in Govt-run schools and we need to have clear figures on the outcomes of this programme

It builds confidence in them to participate in collaborative ventures.

It helps them take responsibility for their actions and students learn to make their own decisions and understand how their decisions can have repercussions and negative impact as well

Vocational education in J&K

The erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development -MHRD now known as Ministry of Education-MoE in September 2011 brought out a revised Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Vocationalisation of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education to integrate employability education into School Education. In 2018, this scheme got further revised and brought under the integrated initiative (Samagra Shiksha) by Ministry of Education -MoE and termed as Vocationalization of School Education (VSE).

The revised norms allow a student to complete training in one Job Role in 9th and 10th standards which is followed by another Job Role in 11th and 12th standards.

As explained above, the scheme is operated within the NSQF (National Skill Qualification Framework), which establishes a system of clear educational pathways from school to higher education while providing certification of vocational skills. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has been implementing VSE in nearly 600 schools till date, as per approval and funding from the Govt of India. However, now the question arises, whether this vocational or skill-based education has helped students at all?

Does the Government have data about the students who underwent training in different trades in 2015,2016 and 2017. What is their status as on date?

If a vast majority of them are still jobless, then that is a matter of serious concern. The School Education Department J&K needs to come up with clear figures on this and a third party should be appointed to monitor the outcomes. It has been about 8 years since skill-based education is being offered in Govt-run schools and we need to have clear figures on the outcomes of this programme.

Vocational Trainers

As on date, there are more than 1200 vocational trainers who impart skill based education in various Higher Secondary schools in

J&K. These trainers are hired by service providers who are themselves hired by the J&K Govt. This means the vocational trainers are not directly appointed by the Govt and are contract based workers. On the other hand, these trainers are highly qualified who work very hard to give quality skill-based education to students. There has been no enhancement in their monthly salaries since their appointment 4 to 5 years back. The vocational trainers have held several protests in J&K in the past few years. These trainers allege that they are not getting any annual pay increase along with CPF, leave or insurance cover.

Conclusion

Skill-based education gives students ownership of their learning and helps them close the comprehension gap. The evaluation, rather than grades, scores or marks proves their proficiency. Crores of taxpayers' money is being spent on imparting vocational education to students in dozens of Govt schools in the country, especially in J&K. The Samagra Shiksha wing in the Ministry of Education is implementing this programme. There is a separate Mission Directorate of Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan in every state and UT. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12. The scheme has been prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes. The Samagra subsumes the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). This programme was launched in 2018 across the country.

Lots of questions are being raised against the functioning of J&K Mission Directorate Samagra as the skills based programme in schools isn't taken up effectively. The selection of Vocational Training partners is also being questioned.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement



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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Afghanistan's Sports Spirit

Afghanistan cricket team can no longer be called as 'minnows' of the game, as they have proved this fact in no small measure when they defeated the mighty England in a resounding manner in the ongoing ODI world cup. With their brand of attacking cricket, Afghanistan has proved that they are no pushovers in the shorter versions of the game.

For a country sharply divided along ethnic lines, Afghanistan cricket team has been a unifier. It has lived up to the flattery, taking giant strides in the game since 2008. Ironically, in a sense, war in Afghanistan has contributed to the rise of cricket there. Forced out of homes, players of the likes of Mohammad Nabi and former captain Nowroz Mangal had honed their skills at refugee camps across

the border in Peshawar. In fact, many of the Afghan players grew up in these camps, and some of them couldn't even make ends meet and didn't know whether there would be a tomorrow for them. The team of Afghan players was named as "Team of chickens", as many were trying to survive by supplying poultry in Peshawar. They had nothing, but an unflinching desire and a common will to see Afghanistan

play cricket on the world stage. And today, the team's rapid rise in international cricket, especially in white ball cricket, has been staggering indeed. For a war-torn nation, which hardly celebrates and smiles, its national cricketers are determined to bring some cheers, and they have been doing so constantly now.

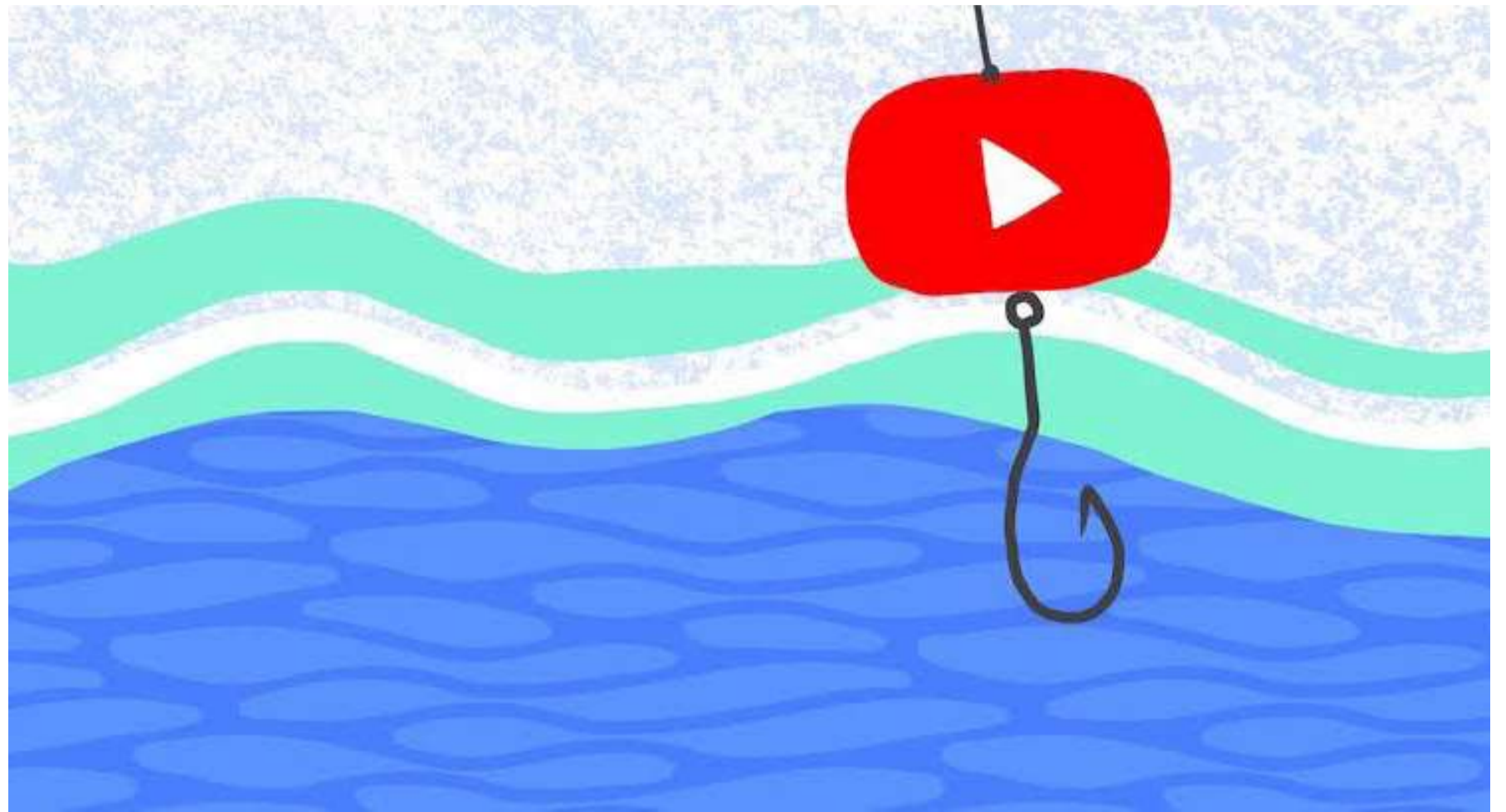
Ranganathan Sivakumar

Clickbait Culture: The Dark Side of Kashmir's YouTube

With the increasing number of content creators, it has become a common practice to use exaggerated titles and irrelevant thumbnails to attract views



IN AUTUMN, THE ENTIRE KASHMIR VALLEY IS BATHED IN DIFFERENT HUES OF RED, BROWN AND ORANGE. AT THESE TECHNIQUES ARE USED TO LURE VIEWERS, BUT OFTEN THE CONTENT FAILS TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATION, LEAVING THE AUDIENCE FEELING CHEATED. They also use sad background music and other emotional triggers to lure viewers into watching their videos



Maroof Lone

Kashmir's YouTube scene has seen an unprecedented boom in recent years. From vlogs to music videos, talk shows to tutorials, comedy sketches, dramas; you can find everything on the platform. However, with the rise of this new medium, there is also a darker side that is emerging – the rampant use of clickbait titles and thumbnails. The use of clickbait titles and thumbnails has become a trend in the Kashmir YouTube community. With the increasing number of content creators, it has become a common practice to use exaggerated titles and irrelevant thumbnails to attract views.

However, this trend is causing more harm than good. Clickbait is a term used to describe content that is designed to attract attention and

encourage people to click on a link, often with the use of sensational or misleading headlines, thumbnails, or descriptions. The purpose of clickbait is typically to generate more website traffic, social media shares, or video views, rather than to provide valuable or informative content. Clickbait can be found across a wide range of media platforms, including social media, news websites, and video-sharing sites like YouTube and A clickbait thumbnail is an eye-catching image or graphic used on social media or websites to encourage viewers to click on an article or video link. It often features bold, exaggerated, or provocative images that may not accurately represent the content.

The goal is to create a sense of curiosity or intrigue in the viewer to generate clicks and views. Many of these content

creators use this crying emoji “😭” and provocative thumbnails, which are misleading and have nothing to do with the actual content of the video. These techniques are used to lure viewers, but often the content fails to live up to the expectation, leaving the audience feeling cheated. They also use sad background music and other emotional triggers to lure viewers into watching their videos. Additionally, many of these creators use viral videos from social media platforms and add their own face cam for a few seconds, which does not add any value to the video. They then present it as their own content and use clickbait titles to attract views.

This practice undermines the value of original content and contributes to the spread of misinformation. The consequences of clickbait titles and thumbnails are significant. It

causes good content to be ignored and overshadowed by the fake, provocative ones. The focus of these content creators is to attract views rather than providing quality content, leading to disappointment for the viewers who end up being misled. Furthermore, the clickbait titles and thumbnails can negatively impact the overall perception of the YouTube community in Kashmir.

As a result, the audience may lose interest and trust in the platform, leading to the loss of valuable content creators and viewers. Creators should focus on producing high-quality content that is informative, entertaining, and engaging. Clickbait tactics should be avoided as they are harmful to the community as a whole. Instead, creators should rely on their skills and creativity to attract views and build a loyal audience. In conclusion, the use of clickbait

titles and thumbnails on Kashmir YouTube has negative consequences for both the content creators and the audience. It is important to focus on quality content rather than misleading techniques that undermine the credibility of the platform. Instead, content creators should focus on providing value to their audience through original, informative and engaging content that keeps the viewers coming back. The Kashmiri YouTube community has a lot of potential, and we should strive to make it a place where quality content thrives and clickbait is left behind.

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

The author is a blogger and tech enthusiast

3 Ways AI Is Transforming Music

Jason Palamara

Each fall, I begin my course on the intersection of music and artificial intelligence by asking my students if they're concerned about AI's role in composing or producing music.

So far, the question has always elicited a resounding “yes.”

Their fears can be summed up in a sentence: AI will create a world where music is plentiful, but musicians get cast aside.

In the upcoming semester, I'm anticipating a discussion about Paul McCartney, who in June 2023 announced that he and a team of audio engineers had used machine learning to uncover a “lost” vocal track of John Lennon by separating the instruments from a demo recording.

But resurrecting the voices of long-dead artists is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what's possible – and what's already being done.

In an interview, McCartney admitted that AI represents a “scary” but “exciting” future for music. To me, his mix of consternation and exhilaration is spot on.

Here are three ways AI is changing the way music gets made – each of which could threaten human musicians in various ways:

1. Song composition

Many programs can already generate music with a simple prompt from the user, such as “Electronic Dance with a

Warehouse Groove.”

Fully generative apps train AI models on extensive databases of existing music. This enables them to learn musical structures, harmonies, melodies, rhythms, dynamics, timbres and form, and generate new content that stylistically matches the material in the database.

There are many examples of these kinds of apps. But the most successful ones, like Boomy, allow nonmusicians to generate music and then post the AI-generated results on Spotify to earn money. Spotify recently removed many of these Boomy-generated tracks, claiming that this would protect human artists' rights and royalties.

The two companies quickly came to an agreement that allowed Boomy to re-upload the tracks. But the algorithms powering these apps still have a troubling ability to infringe upon existing copyright, which might go unnoticed to most users. After all, basing new music on a data set of existing music is bound to cause noticeable similarities between the music in the data set and the generated content.

Furthermore, streaming services like Spotify and Amazon Music are naturally incentivized to develop their own AI music-generation technology. Spotify, for instance, pays 70% of the revenue of each stream to the artist who created it. If the company could generate that music with its own algorithms, it could cut human artists out of the equation al-

together.

Over time, this could mean more money for giant streaming services, less money for musicians – and a less human approach to making music.

2. Mixing and mastering

Machine-learning-enabled apps that help musicians balance all of the instruments and clean up the audio in a song – what's known as mixing and mastering – are valuable tools for those who lack the experience, skill or resources to pull off professional-sounding tracks.

Over the past decade, AI's integration into music production has revolutionized how music is mixed and mastered. AI-driven apps like Landr, Cryo Mix and iZotope's Neutron can automatically analyze tracks, balance audio levels and remove noise.

These technologies streamline the production process, allowing musicians and producers to focus on the creative aspects of their work and leave some of the technical drudgery to AI.

While these apps undoubtedly take some work away from professional mixers and producers, they also allow professionals to quickly complete less lucrative jobs, such as mixing or mastering for a local band, and focus on high-paying commissions that require



more finesse. These apps also allow musicians to produce more professional-sounding work without involving an audio engineer they can't afford.

3. Instrumental and vocal reproduction

Using “tone transfer” algorithms via apps like Mawf, musicians can transform the sound of one instrument into another.

Thai musician and engineer

nai – which was resynthesized to perform the track.

A variant of this technology lies at the core of the Vocaloid voice synthesis software, which allows users to produce convincingly human vocal tracks with swappable voices.

Unsavory applications of this technique are popping up outside of the musical realm. For example, AI voice swapping has been used to scam people out of money.

But musicians and producers can already use it to realistically reproduce the sound of any instrument or voice imaginable. The downside, of course, is that this technology can rob instrumentalists of the opportunity to perform on a recorded track.

AI's Wild West moment

While I applaud Yaboi Hanoi's victory, I have to wonder if it will encourage musicians to use AI to fake a cultural connection where none exists.

In 2021, Capitol Music Group made headlines by signing an “AI rapper” that had been given the avatar of a Black male cyborg, but which was really the work of Factory New non-Black software engineers. The backlash was swift, with the record label roundly excoriated for blatant cultural appropriation.

But AI musical cultural appropriation is easier to stumble into than you might think. With the extraordinary size of songs and samples that comprise the data sets used by apps like Boomy – see the open source “Million Song Dataset” for a sense of the scale – there's a good chance that a user may unwittingly upload a newly generated track that pulls from a culture that isn't their own, or crib from an artist in a way that too closely mimics the original. Worse still, it won't always be clear who is to blame for the offense, and current U.S. copyright laws are contradictory and woefully inadequate to the task of regulating these issues.

These are all topics that have come up in my own class, which has allowed me to at least inform my students of the dangers of unchecked AI and how to best avoid these pitfalls.

At the same time, at the end of each fall semester, I'll again ask my students if they're concerned about an AI takeover of music. At that point, and with a whole semester's experience investigating these technologies, most of them say they're excited to see how the technology will evolve and where the field will go.

Some dark possibilities do lie ahead for humanity and AI. Still, at least in the realm of musical AI, there is cause for some optimism – assuming the pitfalls are avoided.

By arrangements with The Conversation



MACHINE-LEARNING-ENABLED APPS THAT HELP MUSICIANS BALANCE ALL OF THE INSTRUMENTS AND CLEAN UP THE AUDIO IN A SONG – what's known as mixing and mastering – are valuable tools for those who lack the experience, skill or resources to pull off professional-sounding tracks

Gaza authorities say 700 Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes as calls rise for aid to stricken civilians

Agencies

GAZA/JERUSALEM:- More than 700 Palestinians were killed overnight by Israeli air strikes, Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said on Tuesday, the highest 24-hour death toll in Israel's two-week-old "total siege", as pressure grew for aid to be allowed into the enclave unimpeded.

The Israeli military said it had hit over 400 Hamas militant targets and killed dozens of its fighters overnight, but that it would take time to destroy Gaza's ruling Islamist group, whose deadly cross-border attack on Oct. 7 shocked Israel.

With international aid agencies warning of a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, French President Emmanuel Macron flew to Israel to offer its support.

Macron told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that France stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Israel in its war with Hamas but that it must not fight "without rules". Netanyahu said Israel would try to protect civilians as it worked to ensure they "will no longer live under Hamas tyranny".

United Nations agencies called "on our knees" on Tuesday for emergency aid to be allowed unimpeded into Gaza, saying more than 20 times current deliveries were needed to support its Palestinian population after two weeks of Israeli bombardment.

The World Health Organization, in the latest of increasingly desperate U.N. appeals, called for "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire" to allow safe deliveries of aid.

Doctors in Gaza say patients arriving at hospitals are showing signs



of disease caused by overcrowding and poor sanitation after more than 1.4 million people fled their homes for temporary shelters under Israel's heaviest-ever bombardment.

But there appeared to be little prospect of a ceasefire any time soon in the bloodiest episode in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for decades.

Gaza's health ministry said at least 5,791 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli bombardments of the densely populated territory since Oct. 7, including 2,360 children. A total of 704 were killed in the previous 24 hours alone, it said.

Ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra said it was the highest 24-hour number of deaths in the two weeks of Israeli bombing.

After an air strike in Khan Younis, Abdallah Tabash held his dead daughter Sidra, refusing to let go as he held

her bloodstained face and hair. "I want to look at her as much as I can," he said.

Israeli tanks and troops are massed on the border between Israel and the enclave awaiting orders for an expected ground invasion - an operation that may be complicated by fears for the hostages' welfare and militants heavily armed by Iran dug into a crowded urban setting using a vast network of tunnels.

The bombardments were unleashed in response to a shock cross-border Hamas assault into southern Israel in which gunmen killed over 1,400 people - mostly civilians - in a single day.

'I'VE BEEN THROUGH HELL'

Hamas on Monday freed two Israeli women who were among the more than 200 hostages taken during the



rampage - the third and fourth to be released.

Yocheved Lifshitz, 85, said she was beaten by militants as she was abducted and had difficulty breathing. "They stormed into our homes. They beat people. They kidnapped others, the old and the young without distinction," she said, seated in a wheelchair and speaking in barely a whisper to reporters.

"I've been through hell," Lifshitz said.

Inside Gaza, a group of hostages were led into what Lifshitz called a "spider's web" of damp tunnels and eventually reached a large hall where, under 24-hour guard, a doctor visited every other day and brought them medicines they needed.

"They treated us gently and met all our needs," she said.

'READY AND DETERMINED'

Among the targets Israel said it hit overnight was a tunnel that allowed Hamas to infiltrate Israel from the sea, as well as Hamas command centres in mosques, it said. Reuters could not verify the report.

Wide areas of highly urbanised Gaza have been demolished by Israeli bombs, forcing more than half of its 2.3 million people to seek shelter elsewhere in the territory. Food, clean water, medicine and fuel are fast running out.

Residents said several people were killed or wounded when an Israeli missile hit a petrol station in Khan Younis, where people who fled the eastern side of the city were gathered to charge their devices and fill water canisters.

"They bombed them in their sleep,"

said Abdallah Abu Al-Atta, who lives by the petrol station.

More than 40 medical centres halted operations after they ran out of fuel or were damaged by Israeli bombing, the health ministry spokesman said.

'NO GREEN LIGHT'

How soon Israel might launch a full-scale invasion of Gaza remains unclear. The Middle East's most powerful military faces a group that has built up a powerful arsenal with Iran's help.

World powers are concerned the conflict could ignite the entire region and some have urged Israel to exercise restraint, while affirming its right to self-defence.

The outcome is unclear: Palestinian hopes for an independent state in Israeli-occupied territory were already remote, with peace talks a distant memory, and Netanyahu's right-wing government expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Deadly clashes have worsened between the Israeli military and Palestinians in the West Bank, and resurged between Israel and Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group along the two countries' volatile border.

Fears of regional escalation focus on Iran's network of proxies in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Any wider conflagration would jeopardise security in a region key to global energy supplies.

U.S. officials told Reuters the U.S. military is taking new steps to protect its troops in the Middle East as concerns mount about attacks by Iran-backed groups, and it is leaving open the possibility of evacuations of military families if needed.

Shashi Tharoor terms circulation of his cropped image with Mahua Moitra 'cheap politics'

Press Trust Of India

Kottayam: Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday criticised the circulation of cropped images showing him with Trinamul Congress MP Mahua Moitra, calling it an act of "cheap politics".

The Thiruvananthapuram MP clarified that he was present at Moitra's birthday party, attended by around 15 people, including his sister. He said he was being trolled by displaying the cropped version of the image taken during the event.

"This is just cheap politics. It was at the birthday party of that child. Well, she is not a child, but for me, she is like one. That MP is around 20 years younger to me. It was her birthday party, in

which around 15 people, including my sister, participated. Instead of showing the full image, they are spreading the cropped one," Tharoor said.

He said he doesn't give importance to such trolls and is busy working for the people. "They are spreading it as a private meeting, but then who clicked the picture?" Tharoor asked. Moitra had earlier said that she was "most amused" to see some personal photos of her being circulated on social media by "the BJP's troll sena".

"I like green dress better on me than white blouse. And why bother cropping - show rest of the folks at dinner as well. Bengal's women live a life. Not a lie," she had posted on social media platform X.

Kerala temple body issues fresh circular banning RSS activities on shrine premises

Press Trust Of India

Thiruvananthapuram: The Travancore Devaswom Board, the apex temple body which manages major shrines in Kerala's Travancore region, has issued a new circular banning the activities of the RSS on temple premises and its properties.

According to the circular issued by the Devaswom Commissioner, the 'namajapa protests' (protests by chanting mantras) have also been banned inside the premises of shrines managed by the temple body.

It said all the activities of the RSS and outfits with "extreme ideologies," without the permission of the TDB, have been prohibited.

The circular, dated October 20, directed the Devaswom Vigilance Wing to carry out surprise raids to find out whether the RSS or other outfits were running 'shakhas' (branches), mass drills, or arms training on temple properties.

It directed employees and priests of respective temples to inform the TDB management about the presence of such outfits and their operations, if any. Those who failed to inform the same would face disciplinary action, it said.

The circular also made it clear that photos, flags and flex boards of those who have no relation to the temples should not be kept on their premises. Any failure to follow the directives

would be treated as a violation of high court verdicts in this regard, it added.

Last month, the Kerala High Court had said that no mass drill or weapons training shall be permitted on the premises of Sarkara Devi Temple in Thiruvananthapuram district, which is under TDB's management.

The direction came while disposing of a plea filed by two devotees seeking an order to prevent "illegal use and unauthorised occupancy" of the temple premises by the RSS and its members.

In May this year also, the TDB had issued a circular asking officials to strictly follow its earlier order banning RSS 'shakhas' (branches) or mass drills at the shrines under it.

In a circular issued on May 18, the TDB said its 2021 order directing the officials to stop the sangh parivar organisation from using the temple properties for arms training, was not being implemented.

In 2016, the TDB had issued a circular banning all types of arms training on temple complexes by the RSS. Later, on March 30, 2021, the board re-issued the circular, asking the officials to take action in this regard.

The then Devaswom Minister, Kadakampally Surendran, had alleged that the RSS was trying to turn temples into storehouses of arms in Kerala and that the government had been receiving a large number of complaints in this regard.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Sinha Calls

We discussed a wide range of issues related to IT sector, especially implementation of Bharat Net Phase-III to provide digital connectivity to remote and difficult areas," Sinha wrote in another tweet.

Partly Overcast

Affairs and Public Distribution Department (CA&PD) Kashmir said there is adequate stock of food grains and other essentials including Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Kerosene and petroleum products available in the godowns of Srinagar and other districts of the valley.

He said that in addition to CA&PD godowns, FCI has enough food grains stocked for the impending winters, while market checking squads have been established to combat hoarding and illicit profiteering in the marketplaces.

It is worth mentioning that Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar, a day earlier had claimed that the administration is equipped with an abundance of contemporary tools to handle any situation.

He said that improved plans have been put in place for winter preparedness and that the government is preparing to address the power outages in the valley.

PM Calls For

after a wait of centuries.

The temple will be completed in a few months and it marks the victory of people's patience, he said.

"Bhagawan Shri Ram bas aane hi wale hain (Lord Ram's arrival is imminent)," he said, asserting that prayers at the temple during the next Ramnavmi will spread happiness in the entire world.

The construction of the temple, he said, is happening amid many auspicious developments and cited India's successful lunar mission, inauguration of the new Parliament building and the enactment of women's reservation law.

India is today emerging as the world's largest democracy as well as the most trusted democracy, he said.

As Lord Ram is coming under such auspicious signs, he said after 75 years of independence, India's fortunes are now going to rise. Modi also asked people to take 10 pledges, including helping at least one poor family to raise its socio-economic status.

The country will become a developed nation when everyone is developed, he said.

"As long as there is even a single poor person in the country who does not have basic

facilities, we will not rest," he said.

The other causes he mentioned included saving water, digital transactions, cleanliness, vocal for local, quality work, domestic tourism, natural farming, consumption of millets and fitness.

Vijaydashami is a festival of victory of justice over injustice, of humility over arrogance and patience over anger, Modi said, adding that it is also a day of renewing pledges.

Referring to the tradition of "shastra puja" (worshipping weapons) tradition on this day, he said weapons in India are not used for annexation but for the defence of one's territory.

He emphasised on the eternal as well as modern aspects of Indian philosophy. "We know 'maryada' of Lord Ram as well as also how to defend our borders," he said.

Dussehra Celebrated

yatra was taken out from a temple at Indira Nagar here to the Dussehra venue. This procession was carried out after a gap of 33 years. The last Shobha yatra for Dussehra was taken out before the advent of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir in 1989.

The festival was celebrated with great fervour in Jammu as well.

Thousands of people turned up to witness giant effigies of demon king Ravana burst into flames at selected places in Jammu and elsewhere amid tight security arrangements, officials said.

The officials said elaborate security arrangements were made at all the venues to avoid any untoward incident.

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, Inspector General of Police (Jammu zone) Anand Jain and Jammu Mayor Rajinder Sharma were among the prominent persons who joined the crowd at Parade Ground to witness 'Ravan Dahan' shortly after dusk.

A religious procession by artists and members of Shri Sanatan Dharam Natak Samaj was taken out from Diwan Mandir and went around various parts of the old city before reaching the Parade Ground. Special puja was also performed at the historic Raghunath temple in the city.

Extending Dussehra greetings to people, the DGP said this festival reminds one of the victory of good over evil and similarly, the day is not far when terrorism will be over in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There has been an atmosphere of evil prevailing in J-K for a very long period. The good is taking over this evil and this process is almost

finished," Singh said referring to the fight against terrorism.

To a question about the possibility of a spike in infiltration before the winter, the DGP said everything is under control as the police and other security agencies are fully alert.

Earlier during the day, various groups including the local units of RSS, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Amar Kshatriya Rajput Sabha performed Shastra Puja (arms worship) on the occasion of Vijaydashami.

In Leh, the capital city of Ladakh, hundreds thronged the historic Polo Ground to celebrate Dussehra and witness 'Ravan Dahan'.

Several dignitaries, including Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Pawan Kotwal, Chief Executive Councillor LAHDC Tashi Gyalson, and Additional Director General of Police Ladakh S D Jamwal, were present at the ground for the festivities.

The Dussehra celebrations at the Polo ground were organised by the Members of the Hindu Trust (Maha Sabha) Leh. The president of the trust Balbir Singh conveyed best wishes to the people of Leh on the occasion.

Earlier, a religious procession was taken out in Leh from Hare Krishna Mandir. It travelled through the main market and culminated at the Polo Ground.

Kashmir's 3 Wildlife

Sanctuary as Eco-sensitive Zone," reads the notification.

It further says that no new commercial hotels and resorts shall be permitted within one kilometer of the boundary of the protected area or upto the extent of eco-sensitive zone, whichever is nearer, except for small temporary structures for eco-tourism activities.

The government has also asked the UT administration to prepare a Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) within a period of two years in consultation with local people and adhering to the stipulations given in the notification for approval of the competent authority in the Union Territory.

However, the notification says that the ZMP shall not impose any restriction on the approved existing land use, infrastructure and activities, unless so specified in the notification.

"The Zonal Master Plan shall factor in improvement of all infrastructure and activities to be more efficient and eco-friendly," the notification reads.

It adds that the ZMP will have to demarcate all the existing worshipping places, villages and urban settlements, types and kinds of

forests, agricultural areas, fertile lands, green area, such as, parks and like places, horticultural areas, orchards, lakes and other water bodies with supporting maps giving details of existing and proposed land use features.

They also have to regulate development in Eco-sensitive zones and adhere to prohibited and regulated activities to ensure and promote eco-friendly development for security of local communities' livelihood.

Only 10 Locals

say that it is not as if we feel happy about the death of militants. They also belong to a family. We want that if anyone has left the path of peace should come back and drop his weapons to lead a normal life, he added.

The DGP said there has been a great change in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir over the last five years.

The militancy, which had struck like a calamity on the entire Jammu and Kashmir, has been almost finished and whatever remnants are left will be eliminated soon.

"The atmosphere of fear has ended and people of all ages can move around freely. Today we have times of peace and happiness," he said.

North Kashmir is almost free of militancy, he said, adding, "There is no active militant but there are a few odd floating militants who keep moving from one place to another. They will also be eliminated."

Tribunal To Review

an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Handicrafts Worth

its renowned handicrafts, including Pashmina shawls, carpets, and exquisite Papier-mâché items.

The GI tagging ensures the authenticity and origin of these products, offering protection from duplication and counterfeiting while also enhancing their marketability in international trade.

Earlier this year in May, G20 summit was held in Kashmir during which many handicraft products were displayed to woo the visiting delegates.

While the delegates acknowledged the art behind handicrafts, a lot of them toured Srinagar areas and purchased handicraft items.

An official said that the G20 meet and GI tagging has boosted the sales of Kashmiri handicrafts.

"There has been a good demand for Kashmiri handicrafts this year. The G20 summit

promoted our craft as demand for Kashmiri handicrafts is more from European countries," he said.

Pertinently, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday said Jammu and Kashmir administration will work to provide infrastructure support to the artisans-(KNO)

Kidnapped Girl

successfully located her within 24 hours at the Old bus stand area of Kishtwar on Tuesday, they said.

The accused person was apprehended on the spot, police said.

Kishtwar SSP Khalil Poswal urged the general public to cooperate with the police in combating social crimes in their communities.

5 Cops Injured

cops injured, reports said. All the injured policemen were removed to the emergency hospital in Qazigund for treatment. However, two among the injured cops were referred to government medical college (GMC) Anantnag for advanced treatment.

The injured have been identified as Head Constable Mushtaq Ahmad, Constables Waseem Ahmad, Murtaza Ahmad, Amir Suhail and Special Police Officer (SPO) besides driver Sajad Ahmad.

4 Gamblers

he said, an amount of Rs 4400 besides playing cards were seized.

All the accused, the spokesperson said, have been shifted to police station.

They have been identified as Fayaz Ahmad Ganie, Muzaffar Ahmad Danga, Kaisar Ahmad Bhat and Mehraj-u-din Parry.

Accordingly, the spokesperson said, a case vide FIR No. 67/2023 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Kheerbawani & further investigation has been taken up.

Youth Dies

Rajouri for treatment, a local news agency Kashmir Scroll reported.

Quoting the family members, the report says that doctors were not available to attend Bhima due to which he passed away.

The family alleged that Bhima died due to medical negligence. They also staged a protest against GMC administration, accusing them of negligence and lack of timely medical assistance.

Meanwhile, the police have initiated an investigation in this regard.

Chandigarh Girl Wins Devotional Song Competition In Katra

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Laisal Roy, a teenage girl from Chandigarh, won the All India Devotional Song Competition held at Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir.

Anmol Raja and Sukhjinder, both from Punjab, got the second and third position, respectively. The event was organised as part of the nine-day Navratri festival and concluded on Monday evening, chairman of the devotional song competition, Rakesh Wazir told PTI.

Roy received gold worth Rs three lakhs and a recording contract with Venus Worldwide Entertainment, while Raja and Sukhjinder got gold worth Rs one lakh and Rs 50,000, respectively, he said.

Wazir said over 2000 budding singers from across the country turned up for auditions during the event which was jointly organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), tourism department and others with "active support" of the district administration and the local community.

Wazir, who is also the president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Katra, said 21 participants competed in the quarter-final and five of them were shortlisted for the final by the judges who included Bollywood singers.

Bollywood singers Shanker Sawhney, Amrinder Bobby and former winners of the competition Sonali Dogra, Mool Raj and Ravi Kumar presented live performances.

Police Officers Visit Families Of Fallen Colleagues In Kishtwar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: In a display of gratitude to those killed in the line of duty, police officers launched an outreach initiative by visiting scores of families of these bravehearts, and paid tributes to them in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kishtwar Khalil Poswal extended his condolences to the families, and presented them with tokens of appreciation.

The police officers visited the homes of four security personnel who laid down their lives and met their next of kin in various areas of the district, officials said.

This compassionate gesture

stands as a solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices made by these valiant heroes who devoted their lives to the service of the community and the nation, they said.

Poswal said the visit was a heartfelt expression of gratitude on behalf of the entire community and the law enforcement fraternity.

It signifies the unwavering support and deep respect for these families who have borne the ultimate sacrifice, he said.

The SSP said Kishtwar Police is steadfast in its commitment to preserving the memory of these heroes and providing an unwavering support to their loved ones during these trying times.

Indians Will Be Affected If Conflict Spreads Beyond Gaza: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said if the conflict in the Middle East spread beyond Gaza, a large number of Indians working in the region will be affected.

"If the conflict drags on, we will definitely get affected. No other country has more nationals working in that region than we have. If the conflict spreads beyond Gaza, our people will be affected by it."

"That is why we want the war to stop, the bombings should stop. The United Nations (UN) and other countries will have to do justice. They cannot have different rules for different countries," Abdullah told reporters at the party headquarters in Srinagar.

Asked if the UN had maintained silence on the ongoing conflict, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said while the global body has spoken about the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza, it has not been taken as seriously

as it should have been. "The UN is not silent, but unfortunately not much attention is being paid to what it is saying. As far as I saw, the UN



has spoken about the humanitarian crisis there, but Israel is getting so much support from the US, the UK and other countries that we do not see as much impact of the UN as we would have liked," he added.

Abdullah also criticised the J&K administration for not allowing Friday prayers at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar for the last two weeks.

"Four weeks ago you (government) made so much noise that the situation has improved and there was no need to stop him (Mirwaiz). However, for two weeks now, the Friday prayers have not been allowed in the Jamia Masjid, and Mirwaiz has been confined to his home."

You want to tell the world that the situation has improved and it is normal. If it is so, allow the prayers at the Jamia Masjid and remove the curbs on Mirwaiz," he said.

In J&K, GI Index Of Hr Edu Institutes Above National Average For 18 To-23-Year Old Students

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In Jammu and Kashmir, Gender Parity Index (GPI) is above the national average in higher educational institutes for 18-23 year-old students.

As per the official figures, the national average of GPI in higher educational institutes for 18-23 year old students is 1.05 in all categories.

However, Jammu and Kashmir has a GPI of 1.18 in all categories.

In the education space, GPI is used to measure gender equality in education access.

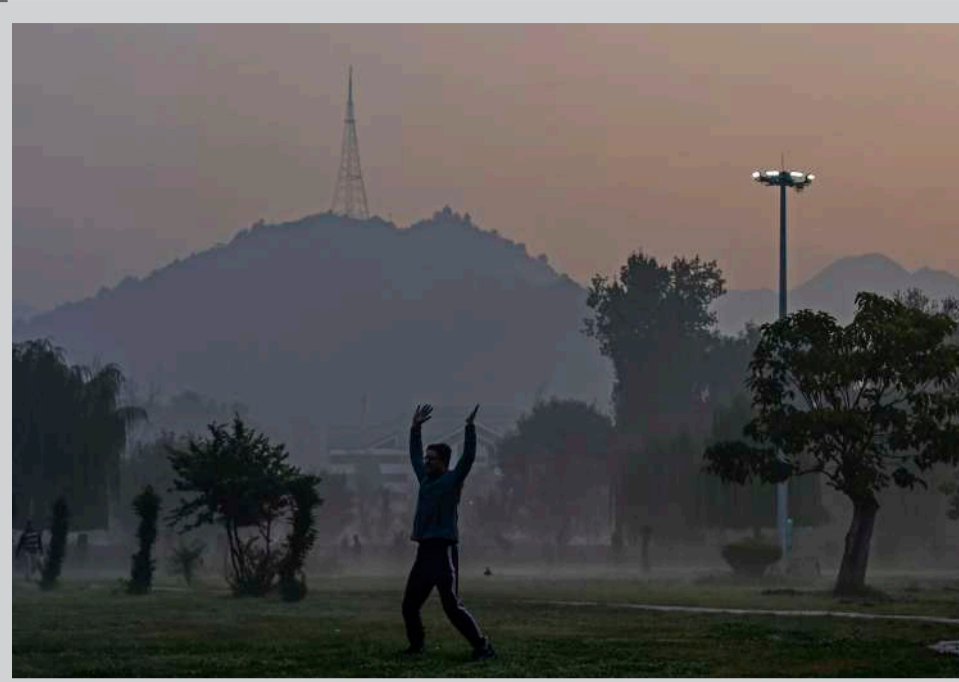
Government and international organisations such as

UNESCO and the United Nations monitor the gender gap in education access, using GPI to identify sectors where intervention is needed to address gender disparities.

Among the scheduled caste students, GPI in Jammu and Kashmir is also above the national average with 1.27 whereas the national average lies at 1.7.

Likewise, the GPI of Schedule Tribe students of higher education in Jammu and Kashmir is 0.92 while the national average is 1.02.

A GPI of less than 1 suggests girls are more disadvantaged than boys in learning opportunities and a GPI of greater than 1 suggests the other way around—(KNO)



A MAN DOING WORKOUT exercises inside a park in Srinagar on a cold and foggy Tuesday morning..

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

BJP Starts Booth-Level 'Jan Samvad Abhiyan' In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The BJP in Jammu and Kashmir launched its mass contact programme 'Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyan' on Tuesday under unit president Ravinder Raina's leadership, conducting a series of 111 events on the first day of the campaign, the party said.

The party gave a call to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to re-elect the Narendra Modi government at the Centre in 2024, highlighting that this would further accelerate the pace of development across the entire nation, particularly in the Union territory.

Launching the campaign from the Patyari Panchayat in Bishnah, Raina said the initiative was aimed at familiarising the people with the welfare schemes, accomplishments and initiatives of the Modi government over the past nine years.

"PM Modi's efforts have brought development to every village as well as prosperity and peace everywhere. The BJP



has undertaken this abhiyaan with the target to reach every home in every village," he said.

Raina also announced that the party will organise "choupaal" sessions to engage with the public and discuss the achievements of the BJP-led government. "People should re-elect the Modi government in 2024," he said.

The general secretary of J&K BJP and in-charge for the abhiyaan in the Union territory Vibodh Gupta said 111 programmes were conducted on the inaugural day.

He said speakers addressed the public at the panchayat and ward levels, enlightening them about the remarkable strides in development and welfare under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Gupta highlighted the improved security situation and the substantial development projects undertaken in the region.

He said selected party activists will serve as speakers, engaging with the public over the next three months to inform them about these policies, schemes, and accomplishments.

HOMELESS IN HOME DISTRICT

Families In Bandipora's Shamthan Return To Roots After 30 Yrs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After over three decades of long wait, scores of families in Bandipora's Shamthan are returning to their native village with a hope to live a peaceful life ahead.

These families were forced to leave the village after facing the severe impact of terrorism. All these years, they were living with their relations with some of them putting up in Kothas many kilometres away from their home. These families have been homeless in their own home district since 1990.

The village, which consists of 25 households, has now embarked on a journey to revive their long-deserted homes after two decades, with the hope of resuming peaceful lives in their ancestral dwellings, driven by the overall tranquillity that has prevailed in J&K over the past few years.

According to local residents, in the 1990s, when militancy was at its peak in Kashmir, the village suffered significant damage, traumatizing its residents and eventually forcing them to leave their homes for Dardpora village in Bandipora.

"We had been longing for the day when we could return to our homes and lead peaceful lives in our village and now that day has arrived. We have

started to breathe life back into our long-neglected homes," the local residents told a local news agency KNO. With a belief in the power of hope, the locals now wish to live peacefully in their homes, preserving their traditional culture for years to come.

"It felt like a race against time as we yearned for the day when our settlements would come back to life. We had our apprehensions due to the situation in the 1990s, but now with normalcy in Kashmir, we've returned to our decades-old homes, filled with cherished memories," said an elderly resident.

"Returning here rekindles our childhood memories, and we'll forever hold this land close to our hearts," he added.

Another villager said that "Even if you offer a person everything, asking him to leave his ancestral home is something he'll never accept. We were no different; we yearned for the day to return. Our children yearn for a peaceful life ahead."

However, he acknowledged the challenges the village faces, including the absence of road connectivity and healthcare facilities, despite having functional electricity. He also noted that while there is a school building, it remains non-operational.

Mohammad Subhan, a local resident of Dardpora vil-

lage, welcomed the return of these residents to Shamthan after a three-decade absence. He urged the administration to take note of their challenges, including the lack of basic amenities, and provide comprehensive support to help them rebuild their lives.

He went on to mention that Shamthan village is in close proximity to Chota Amarnath, which was reopened on August 31 this year after a decade-long hiatus. He expressed that these positive developments are rekindling his childhood memories.

Meanwhile, other residents have also joined in appealing to the government for the construction of road connectivity to the area, along with the establishment of healthcare and education facilities.

Gulam Mohiuddin Rather, the District Development Council (DDC) representative for Arin Constituency, extended a warm welcome to the returning villagers and affirmed the administration's commitment to addressing their concerns.

He noted, "During my recent visit to the village, I had the opportunity to hear their grievances. With the invaluable support of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad, we are dedicated to advancing the village's development."

Sanjeev Verma Reviews Arrangements For National Unity Week, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In connection with National Unity Week and Rashtriya Ekta Diwas-2023 celebrations, Commissioner Secretary General Administration Department, Sanjeev Verma, Tuesday chaired a high level meeting to review arrangements for the celebrations.

The meeting among others

was attended by the Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu, ADGP Kashmir, Secretary Culture Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department.

The meeting had threadbare discussions on the details of events planned to be organized for the celebrations within broad contours of the program notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It was

emphasized that the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in close collaboration with Police, Youth Services and Sports and Culture Departments shall ensure befitting celebrations of the Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign as well as National Unity week and the UT Foundation Day at the UT, Divisional, District, Block and Panchayat level.

Mirwaiz Pays Tribute To Moulvi Abbas Ansari On His 1st Death Anniversary

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Awami Action Committee (AAC) chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has paid rich tributes to the leading religious scholar, political and social leader late Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari on his first death anniversary.

Mirwaiz in a statement said that Maulana Abbas Ansari belonged to a family that has a history of close ties with the Mirwaizeen and he shared a close and warm relationship with him and his late father.

"He was a mentor to me, when I became the Mirwaiz at the early age of 17, and like a father figure guided me in political and diplomatic matters. He always stood by me and gave me valuable advice and encouragement at every stage," he said.

He said that Abbas Sahab was a man of principles and a farsighted political leader, and a distinguished religious scholar, preacher and writer.

He added that Maulana Abbas had a close relationship with Mirwaiz Maulana Muhammad Farooq, and from the time of the Moi-e-Muqadas movement to the establish-



ment of the Awami Action Committee, stood by him.

"He devoted his life in pursuit of a political ideal and till his demise, did not deviate from his ideals. Apart from being a prominent religious scholar and speaker, he is also known as an advocate of unity among Muslims in Kashmir. The sacrifices he made for communal harmony and mutual brotherhood will always be remembered forever," he said.

He said that with the passing away of Maulana Abbas Ansari, Kashmiris lost a visionary and committed leader and this loss cannot be filled for a long time.

Commissioner State Taxes Visits Lower Munda

Inaugurates Renovation Work On Enforcement Office; Leads Sanitation Drive Under Swachata Hi Sewa Campaign

Observer News Service

QAZIGUND: Commissioner State Taxes Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh on Tuesday visited Enforcement office Lower Munda here, where she inaugurated the repair and renovation works on office of Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement South Kashmir Lower Munda.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes Department, Kashmir, Shakeel Maqbool, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement Central, Parvaiz Ah Raina, Deputy Commissioner Enforcement South, Shahnawaz Ah Shah, State Taxes officers, Inspectors, Sub-inspectors and other officials of the department were present on the occasion.

After the Inaugural session, an overall overview of infrastructure and working of the Department was presented to the Commissioner.

Later, Dr. Rashmi Singh also led a sanitation drive at Enforcement office South Kashmir Lower munda which was

carried out under Swacchta Hi Sewa campaign.

Officers and officials of State Taxes department also joined the sanitation drive.

While addressing on the occasion, Commissioner emphasised upon the importance of Swacchta and exhorted upon the employees to ensure that their offices are clean.

Dr. Rashmi Singh also impressed upon the officials to work with much zeal and dedication to boost the revenue of UT of J&K.

Additional Commissioner State Taxes emphasised on importance of Enforcement activities in GST and its role in overall revenue implication of the UT. He directed the officers and officials of the department to widen the enforcement activities under GST.

Following sanitation drive, DC Enforcement presented vote of thanks and urged all the participants to ensure cleanliness of their offices and surroundings.

PIB Organises Vartalap Programme With Media In Katra

ADG, PIB Urges Media To Use Feedback Mechanisms To Bring Any Shortcomings To Government's Notice For Course Correction



Observer News Service

KATRA: Media should write ground level stories that focus on the beneficiaries of government schemes. This was stated by Rajinder Chaudhry, Additional Director General (ADG), PIB, Northern Region while addressing Vartalap programme with media in Katra district of Reasi district in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir held on Monday.

PIB Jammu's Vartalap acts as a bridge between the government and media in order to reach out to the people at grassroots. Chaudhry also urged the media to highlight success stories of persons who have benefited from government schemes in the region. At the same time, he urged the media to use feedback mechanisms to bring to the government's notice any shortcomings in the implementation of the schemes and development programmes.

Making a presentation on 9 Years of Seva, Sushasan and Gharib Kalyan, the ADG said a lot of work has been done on the development front in J&K in these years. He said

the region is uniquely placed as it has now its own AIIMS, IIM, IIMC and IIT. Talking about the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Mission, he said the UT of J&K has universal healthcare coverage. Similar achievements must be highlighted by the media, he called upon media persons attending the programme.

Among the speakers at the event were Rakesh Kumar Salgotra, Horticulture Development Officer, Reasi, Gopal Dutt, Block Medical Officer, Reasi and Mohd. Arif Lone, Assistant Director, Tourism. They shared the achievements and programmes undertaken by their departments in the last nine years.

In his opening remarks, Gulam Abbas, Joint Director, PIB, Jammu, asked media to carry balanced stories in their outlets for greater credibility among the masses. He also appealed to the media to inform and educate the public about the Government of India's welfare programmes and schemes. Abbas urged the media to avail of the Journalist Welfare Scheme which offers financial assistance to journalists and their families in extreme hardship.

Resurgent Australia Face Tenacious Netherlands



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Bolstered by the revival of their batting firepower, a rejuvenated Australia will look for another dominating show but need to be cautious when they face a tenacious Netherlands in their next World Cup match here on Wednesday.

After a disappointing start to their campaign, the five-time champions turned it around with two solid performances against Sri Lanka and Pakistan but they know very well that they can ill-afford to take the Dutch lightly in what is turning out to be a World Cup of upsets.

The Netherlands have been one of the success stories of this showpiece event as they stunned an in-form South Africa at Dharamsala after returning to the World Cup following a 12-year hiatus. They will look to take a cue from Afghanistan's win over Pakistan to keep their story alive.

However, it will be easier said than done, especially after the marauding show of the Aussies against Pakistan.

The return to form of David Warner and Mitchell Marsh is good news for Australia as they can blow away any opponent with their sheer ruthless batting. A case

in point is the 259-run opening partnership that the two shared against Pakistan.

But Australia will need to add firepower in their middle order, especially with Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne struggling at the moment.

The Dutch, on the other hand, have never beaten Australia in ODIs. They lost the two times they met way back in 2003 and 2007.

But the Orange Brigade as shown what they are capable of in the run-up to the World Cup and also during their sensational win over South Africa and a narrow loss to Sri Lanka in the last match.

De Kock Leads Batting Carnage As South Africa Trounce Bangladesh

Agencies

MUMBAI: Quinton de Kock led South Africa's batting carnage with an incendiary 174 as they crushed Bangladesh by 149 runs to stay on course for a place in the semi-finals of the 50-overs World Cup on Tuesday. De Kock smashed the ongoing tournament's highest individual score and South Africa's middle order hectored a listless Bangladesh attack to amass 382-5 after electing to bat at the Wankhede Stadium.

Their fiery pace attack reduced Bangladesh to 58-5 and eventually bundled them out for 233 in 46.4 overs to register their fourth win in five matches. For Bangladesh, Mahmudullah offered resistance with a run-a-ball 111 but it was not enough to avert a heavy defeat.

De Kock had announced he would quit one-day internationals after the World Cup in India and the opener appeared determined to make his farewell a memorable one. South Africa lost Reeza Hendricks and Rassie van der Dussen in successive overs after Aiden Markram, leading the side in the absence of the un-



well Temba Bavuma, won the toss and elected to bat.

De Kock combined with Markram (60) in a 131-run stand to steady the innings before he and Heinrich Klaasen tore apart the Bangladesh attack plundering 142 runs from 87 balls. De Kock duly brought up his third hundred in five matches and went on to topple India's Virat Kohli as the tournament's leading scorer.

A double hundred looked on the cards too before de Kock before he was out after a 140-ball blitz that includ-

ed seven sixes and 15 fours. His exit brought no relief for Bangladesh though as Klaasen and David Miller, who made 34 not out off 15 balls, continued the mayhem hitting a combined 12 sixes between them.

Klaasen belted 90 off 49 balls and South Africa plundered 144 runs from the last 10 overs to leave Bangladesh with a mountain to climb when they returned.

After six quiet overs, Marco Jansen dented the Bangladesh top order removing Tanzid Hasan and Najmul

Hossain Shanto with successive deliveries.

The match was effectively over for Bangladesh when they slumped to 42-2 inside 12 overs with skipper Shakib Al Hasan and veteran Mushfiqur Rahim also back in the pavilion. South Africa were not equally clinical against the Bangladesh tail though.

Mahmudullah hit four sixes and 11 fours in his gritty knock, which merely delayed Bangladesh's fourth defeat in five matches. (Reuters)

JD YSS Flags Off Girls Trekking Contingent To Gulmarg



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports J&K launched the second phase of its Annual Residential Trekking Camp for girls at the picturesque region of Gulmarg.

The first phase of the camp, which featured 40 boys from various educational institutions across District Srinagar, recently concluded. On Tuesday, the second phase of the camp began with 40 girls from diverse girls' educational institutions in Srinagar being flagged off by the Joint Director of YSS Kashmir, Was-eem Raja.

The flag-off ceremony took place at the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports Wazir Bagh and was

attended by District YSS Officer Srinagar Ghulam Hassan Lone, and other senior Officers and officials from the Department.

The young participants were encouraged to maintain their physical fitness and embrace the exciting adventure of trekking along the pristine natural tracks of Gulmarg. All the participants were given Tracksuits and Tracking Sticks free of any charges.

The officers took the opportunity to interact with the girls, offering words of encouragement and emphasizing the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Their heartfelt wishes for good health and a memorable trekking experience accompanied the girls as they embarked on this exciting journey.

'Badamwari Athletes' Club Felicitates 'Outstanding Sportspersons'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The "Badamwari Athletes" club on Tuesday organised a felicitation program to honor "Outstanding Athletes of the Kashmir Valley" at Badamwari here.

The event started with the recitation of Qalam E Pak by the youngest member of the club Mohammad Ammar, followed by Naat recitation by the valley's renowned Naatkhan Akeel Fida. The welcome note was addressed by Bilal Beigh and Javid Hussain. The event was attended by valley's top-notch athletes, including members from Pathfinders, Alpine Adventures, Crampon Adventures, AJKMF, JK Adventure Sports Club, Kashmir Runners

Club, KMBA, Foreshore Athletes, who have made their mark in Fitness and Adventure Activities.

Prominent sports personalities Tani Khan, Danish Dhaar, Jalal Jee-lani, Sunny Sajad Hyder Wani, Boyie Bulla, Mudhasir Bashir Shah, Muzamil Hussain Mir, Cyclist Mush-taq Ahmad Bhat, Shafat Ul Bashir, Harshpal Singh, Arshid Bashir, Anwar Hussain Nagoo, Shariq Masoodi, Numan Bashir Lone, Mohammad Maqbool Zarger, Mohammad Afzal Zaroo were felicitated at the function. Shariq Masood did the honors as a Chief Guest.

"We are indebted and highly thankful to our dignitaries who attended today's felicitation event and also to our team members who made earnest efforts to make it a grand success. We are

here to recognize the local talent who can bring phenomenal changes in the society-The main motive of today's event and at the same time recognize our glaring mistake of not including other towering sports personalities of the Valley -Which had happened due to shortage of time and weather Vagaries," the club said in a statement.

"We assure you that we will focus on uplifting the spirits of sports community in Kashmir without any prejudice or playing foul. With this pressing concern in mind, going forward, we will be more extensive in our approach to value the contribution of every sports person in our annual grand function of "Amadi Bahar" festival at Badamwari," it added.

ARCO, Syed Tajuddin Register Wins In Srinagar Premier League



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three Round 18 matches of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League were played on Tuesday at Bakshi Stadium.

In the first game ARCO FC took on J&K Bank Academy. Favourites to win the game, ARCO took the lead in the 8th minute through Sujith. Many would have thought the goal was one of many to come, however, the academy boys hung tight to give ARCO a difficult matchup. After the half time ended 1-0, the second half turned nervy for ARCO as the team defended its slender lead. ARCO held on till the full time whistle to get a well-earned victory. Imraan was awarded man of the match.

The second game saw Kashmiri Avengers FC lock horns with Syed Tajuddin FC. Abid gave Syed Tajuddin the lead in 28th minute. The game turned out to be a carbon copy of the first match, as Syed Tajuddin held on to their 1-0 lead till the dying moments of the game, when Shayik scored in minutes added on to make it 2-0. Abid was awarded man of the match.

Real Kashmir FC (Reserves) played J&K United FC in the final game of the day. Shoaib gave J&K United the lead in 16th minute, before Mehran doubled it in the 48th as J&K United won 2-0. Shoaib was awarded man of the match.

Two Srinagar Premier League games are on schedule today, Wednesday, October 25, at Bakshi Stadium. Jhelum FC are set to take on LoneStar Kashmir FC at 10:00 AM, while J&K Police will play Kashmir Panthers FC at 12:00 PM.

Sarfraz, Shaheen, Rizwan To Replace Babar As Captain?

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Sarfraz Ahmed, Muhammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi are being discussed as potential candidates who could replace Babar Azam as captain when the national team returns home from the World Cup in India.

Pakistan are scheduled to tour Australia immediately after the World Cup. The team also needs to plan for the 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 ICC Champions Trophy. There is a clear consensus developing in the Pakistan Cricket Board that Babar has had his chance to prove himself and he has failed to deliver as captain.

Pakistan have four more league games left in the World Cup, having lost their last three including against Afghanistan on Monday. They can still qualify for the semifinals.

"Only if Pakistan can stage a miracle and win all their remaining matches to qualify for the semi-finals of this World Cup does Babar stand any chance of surviving as captain and even then he might be relegated to skipper in just the red ball format," one reliable source close to the developments said.



The source said that the knives were out for Babar and he might as well announce his resignation as captain if the team returns home without playing in the World Cup semifinals.

"It is over for Babar because he has been given unbridled power and authority as captain and more importantly he has always had players of his choice in the team. There has never been any attempt to reduce his authority and so he is now being held solely responsible

for the Asia Cup and World Cup defeats," the source added.

He noted that even for the Asia Cup and World Cup, despite advice from former captains Misbah ul Haq and Muhammad Hafeez to make some changes for the event in India, Babar had got all the 18 players he asked for and chief selector, Inzamam ul Haq had also supported him completely.

"The PCB Chairman, Zaka Ashraf ignored the advice of Misbah and Hafeez and some other former players whom he consulted as Babar was adamant he didn't want changes in the team for the World Cup," the source said.

Misbah also confirmed on a television channel that he had advised Babar to include mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed in the World Cup but Babar refused and only agreed to take him as a travelling reserve to India.

The interesting part is that lobbies for the possible candidates including Sarfraz, Shaheen, Rizwan and Shan Masood have started their work to get their candidate selected as captain with the board now likely to name differ-

ent captains for the red and white ball formats.

"Sarfraz might win the nod to captain the Test and ODI sides again while Shaheen may get a chance to be the T20 captain," the source added. Sarfraz is currently not part of the World Cup squad.

The source also disclosed that the support staff of Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn, Mornie Morkel, Andrew Puttick and manager Rehan ul Haq are also under the scanner and will be asked to step down after the World Cup.

"They are very bright chances that Pakistan will have a new coaching staff and captain when they embark on the Test tour of Australia and for the white ball series in New Zealand after the WC," the source said.

The source said that the board was also not happy with reports leaking out of some differences and disputes in the dressing room, something that PCB rubbished on Monday.

Babar was initially named T20 captain in late 2019 but by 2021 he had taken over captaincy of all three formats.

Donnarumma Ready As PSG Hosts AC Milan In CL

Agencies

PARIS: Emotions will be on display and points will be on their minds when Paris Saint-Germain hosts AC Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma, who joined PSG two years ago as a free agent after leaving AC Milan, will be up against his old club while brothers Lucas and Theo Hernandez will be facing each other for the first time.

"There will be a lot of emotions. It will be special," Donnarumma said Tuesday. "But you have to put all that to one side and just think about the match."

"I feel really good here, it's like a big family, just like I had at Milan. I will always be grateful to Milan ... but I want to give everything for PSG now."

Milan, which reached the semifinals last season, is a point further back after starting its Champions League campaign with two goalless draws - against Newcastle and Dortmund.