

Centre Suggests Tough Measures To Save Kashmir's Biodiversity

Raises Red Flag On Commercial Mining, Stone Quarrying; Industries And Establishment Of Hydroelectric Projects In ESZs Of Valley

AUQIB JAVEED

Srinagar: In a move aimed to protect Kashmir's biodiversity, the government of India has suggested a slew of measures to Jammu and Kashmir administration, including restrictions on commercial mining, stone quarrying, crushing units and industries besides establishment of major hydroelectric projects in the eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) of the Valley.

The centre has also asked the LG Manoj Sinha led dispensation to constitute a monitoring committee for monitoring the eco-sensitive zones (ESZs) in the UT.

In a notification issued, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has said that all activities in the ESZs shall be governed by the provisions of the Environment Act and the rules made thereunder including the Coastal Regulation Zone, 2011 and



the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and other applicable laws including the Forest (Conservation) Act,

1980 (69 of 1980), the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927), the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972).

Notably, the government has designated three wildlife sanctuaries in Kashmir as ESZs and has instructed the Union Territory administration to promptly outline their boundaries.

The notification says that there will be no industries that are causing pollution (Water,

Air, Soil, Noise, etc. It adds that the use or production or processing of any hazardous substance is also prohibited.

"Only non-polluting industries shall be allowed within Eco-sensitive Zone as per the classification of Industries in the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board in February, 2016, as amended from time to time unless so specified in this notification, and in addition, the **More on P6**

Vetoes Fly in UNSC as Israel Readies Ground Assault



UN Security Council

GAZA CITY: Facing growing international pressure to rethink plans of a massive ground assault, PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday that Israel was preparing for a ground incursion into Gaza, even as Tel Aviv shelling killed more civilians amid growing pressure to deliver aid to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. At the United Nations, meanwhile, Russia and China vetoed a draft UN Security Council Resolution, whereas a rival Russian-drafted text failed to win the minimum number of votes.

Anger over civilian deaths has been inflamed further by a sense of betrayal, as many of those who heeded Israel's call to move south are also being killed. Hundreds of **More on P6**

Border Situation Remains Stable: Army Chief

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict reaffirmed the significance of land warfare and the domain will remain "extremely important" in India's case as well as for countries having contested borders, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande said on Thursday.

In an interactive session at an event, referring to the situation along the Line of Actual Control with China, he said the border situation remains stable and that his force is focusing on boosting its overall combat capabilities to effectively deal with any future security challenges.

Delving into global geopolitical upheavals, the Chief of Army Staff said the key lesson that the Army has learnt from the Russia-Ukraine conflict is that it can't rely on import of military hardware and achieving self-reliance in defence is very important.

He described the Indo-Pacific as a key region and noted that India has an important role to play.

The Army chief was speaking to Lt Gen Raj Shukla (ret'd) at the curtain-raiser for the first Chanakya Dialogue.

He said the first batch of 40,000 Agniveers **More on P6**

5 Infiltrators Killed While Crossing LOC

Our Intelligence Maintains A Hawk-Eye On LoC: ADGP Kashmir



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Five unidentified terrorists were killed by security forces in a joint operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Machil Sector of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said Thursday.

The joint anti-terror operation, a police spokesperson said, was launched during the intervening night of October 25-26th at Sardari Nar area along the LoC in Machil Sector on the basis of an intelligence

input generated by police.

Besides, he said, multiple ambushes were laid by the joint teams of police and army's 56RR along the LoC.

"Today, the joint team observed movement of terrorists in the thick dense forests of the area who took advantage of difficult terrain infiltrated to our side. Employing meticulous tactics, the terrorists were intercepted who fired indiscriminately upon the **More on P6**

40 Terrorists Killed This Year Along LoC: DGP

Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh Thursday said that this year 40 infiltrating terrorists were killed along the Line of Control (LoC) while the counter infiltration grid was robust. During the visit, the DGP chaired a crucial joint security review meeting at 28 Div Zangli along with the Army and other security officers. "Following the joint review meeting, he headed towards forward areas on **More on P6**

THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE KILLED TERRORISTS IS BEING ASCERTAINED.

Huge cache of arms & ammunition, including five (05) AK rifles & other incriminating materials have been recovered from the site of encounter."

BJP Takes Out 'Tiranga Rallies' To Celebrate Accession Day

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The BJP took out "tiranga rallies" on Thursday to mark the day of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India in 1947.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina, who led a "tiranga rally" here, said the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are also proud citizens of India and will one day celebrate freedom after their liberation from Pakistan.

The BJP's youth wing BJYM organised a run to mark "Accession

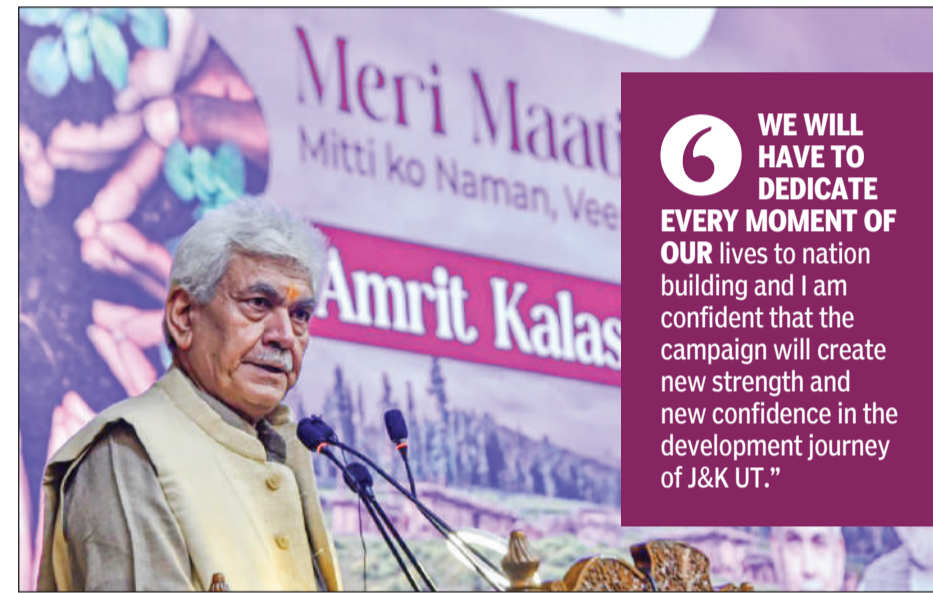
Day" and the women wing took out another rally.

At the rally led by Raina, hundreds of people carrying the national tricolour (tiranga) chanted slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai", "Vande Mataram" and "Maharaja Hari Singh Ki Jai".

BJYM activists also paid floral tribute at a statue of Hari Singh. On October 26 in 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession by which Jammu and Kashmir became a part of India.

Raina said October **More on P6**

J&K Marching Ahead With Renewed Vigour, Strength: LG



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asserting that 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' is not an event but a symbol of the hopes and aspirations of the common man of Union Territory, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Thursday that the pan-India campaign is also a clarion call of the rise of a new Jammu and Kashmir that is marching ahead with renewed vigour and strength.

Sinha made these remarks after receiving the Amrit Kalash from all blocks and

municipal bodies of Kashmir under the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign. He also flagged off the Amrit Kalash Yatra for onward journey to New Delhi via Jammu.

From September 11-30, Mitti and Rice were collected from households across all villages and urban wards, marked with over 1.5 Lakh special celebrative events organized across J&K.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor dedicated 3952 Amrit Vatikas and 4605 Shilaphalakams across the UT in the memory of great

WE WILL HAVE TO DEDICATE EVERY MOMENT OF OUR lives to nation building and I am confident that the campaign will create new strength and new confidence in the development journey of J&K UT."

personalities who had made invaluable contributions and laid down their lives for the progress and prosperity of Jammu Kashmir.

"Meri Maati Mera Desh is an occasion to remember the sacrificial struggle of freedom fighters and bravehearts. The sacred flame of their selfless sacrifice and contribution of our charismatic forefathers in development will illuminate our journey of Amrit Kaal," he said.

"It is not an event but a symbol of the hopes and aspirations of **More on P6**

Honours Women Achievers Of Kashmir

S tating that empowerment of women is pivotal for the empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir; Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Thursday that his administration has given priority to women empowerment based on the principles of equality, equal rights and equal opportunities as enshrined in the Constitution.

"I am proud to say that half of our population has made an immense contribution in the prosperity and growth of UT," he said. The LG made these remarks while addressing an event to honour women achievers of Kashmir Division. The felicitation event was organized by the army's Chinara Corps, on Thursday. In his address, Sinha congratulated all the women achievers who have carved a niche for themselves and inspiring other women to dream and accomplish new heights of success in various fields.

He lauded the noble initiative of Chinara Corps to empower Nari Shakti and acknowledged their contribution **More on P6**

Says Govt Reviving Golden Days Of J&K's Movie Culture

The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that his administration has taken several steps, including a new film policy, operationalization of cinema halls in various districts after three decades to revive the golden days of Jammu and Kashmir's

movie culture. "Cinema connects people and brings them closer. Bollywood has made a special contribution to strengthen the diversity of our nation with the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'. It is a powerful medium to nourish social-cultural ethos and ad-

vance human values," the LG said.

He was addressing a gathering of prominent artists and film personalities during the 2nd International Film Festival of Srinagar (TIFFS) at Tagore Hall here on Thursday. Sinha also presented awards in various categories to the

J&K Witnessing Tourism Boom Post G-20 Meet: Secy Tourism

Agencies

Srinagar: Secretary Tourism and Culture, Syed Abid Rashid Thursday said that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a tourism boom as domestic and foreign tourist arrivals are record breaking this year while elaborate arrangements are being made to lure more tourists in winter.

"This year we are witnessing a tourist boom. Post G-20 event, tourist arrivals, both domestic as well as foreigners are arriving in record numbers. Apart from the traditional



winter tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam, we are exploring more winter destinations in J&K," Secretary

Tourism told reporters on the sidelines of an event at the International Convention Centre here. **More on P6**

Jawahar Tunnel To Transform Into Tourist Destination

Agencies

Qazigund: In a landmark development, the iconic Jawahar Tunnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is set to undergo a significant renovation, transforming it into a key tourist destination, officials said.

Named after India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, the Jawahar Tunnel holds historical significance. It was constructed between 1954 and 1956 and has been operational since December 22, 1956.

An official from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) said that a multi-crore tender has been floated as part of the pioneering Beacon project to re-vamp and upgrade the 2.85-kilometre-long tunnel.

"Our focus is on enhancing security, safety, surveillance, and upgrading mobility infrastructure within the tunnel," the official said, adding, "Our goal is to augment the tunnel's visual appeal, presenting it as an attractive tourist spot."

The renovation initiative comes in light **More on P6**

Mehbooba Re-Elected PDP Chief

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti was on Thursday unanimously re-elected president of the party for a three-year term. People's Democratic Party (PDP) general secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura proposed the name of Mehbooba for the post of president, which was seconded by former minister Abdul Gaffar Sofi. All the members of the electoral college supported the nomination through a voice vote. The election process was **More on P6**

Soldier Allegedly Shoots Self Dead

An Army man allegedly shot himself dead with his service rifle in Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday. An official said that the soldier shot himself dead with his service rifle at Chandhara area of Pampore. He said that police have taken cognisance of the matter under 174 CRPC. The official said that it was not immediately known as to why the soldier man took this extreme step **More on P6**

KCCI, HBOA Call On LG

Javid Ahmad Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here on Thursday, an official spokesperson said. Besides, he said, a delegation of Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association led by Sh Manzoor Pakhtoon also called on the LG and projected various welfare issues of Houseboat owners. The LG, the spokesperson said, assured delegations of **More on P6**

Man Killed After Car Overturns

A man was killed and two others, one among the brother of the deceased, critically injured in a road mishap along Bandipora-Srinagar highway this morning. Quoting officials, news agency GNS reported that a vehicle bearing registration number JK01J 5560 turned turtle at Shilvat, near Asrar Motors, resulting in injuries to three persons. The injured trio identified as Bilal Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar, Rafeeq Ahmad Dar, **More on P6**

House Collapse Kills Man In Poonch

One person was killed and three injured when a mud house collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Thursday. The incident occurred in Gursai Mohri village past midnight, they said. While Rayaz Hussain died while being taken to **More on P6**

Pak, India Troops Trade Fire Along IB

The Pakistan Rangers opened unprovoked firing at Indian posts along the International Border in the Arnia sector in Jammu Thursday night, a senior BSF official said, adding that its troops were retaliating "befittingly" to it. The firing by Pakistani troops started around 8 pm, the Border Security Force (BSF) said. "The firing is still on," it added. "Tonight at about 2000 hours, unprovoked firing started by Pak Rangers on BSF posts in Arnia area which is being **More on P6**

S H O R T T A K E S



Global Study Shows Over Half Of Earth's Vital Signs At Record Extremes

Press Trust Of India

A global team of scientists has shown in a new study that 20 of the Earth's 35 vital signs have "worsened beyond anything humans have seen, to the point that life on Earth is imperilled".

The 20 signs, such as the Arctic sea-ice levels, ice mass loss in Antarctica and Greenland, sea level rise and surface temperature anomaly, are at record extremes, the team of researchers, including those from the US, the UK, Brazil and Bangladesh, said.

The study, published in the journal *BioScience*, also established pertinent statistics regarding temperatures and greenhouse gas emissions.

For example, 2023 has already witnessed 38 days with global average temperatures more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the researchers said in their study.

Further, the highest average Earth surface temperature ever recorded was in July, and there was reason to believe it was the highest surface

temperature the planet has seen in the last 1,00,000 years, they said.

"Life on our planet is clearly under siege," said co-lead author William Ripple, a distinguished professor at the Oregon State University, US.

"The statistical trends show deeply alarming patterns of climate-related variables and disasters. We also found little progress to report as far as humanity combating climate change (was concerned)," said Ripple.

On greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers asserted that the Canadian wildfires this year pumped more than 1 gigatonne of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which they said was higher than the country's total greenhouse emissions of 2021.

Their study also acknowledged that fossil fuel subsidies had roughly doubled between 2021 and 2022 globally, from USD 531 billion to just over USD 1 trillion. The authors noted that rising energy prices, brought about by Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, could have contributed to this rise in subsidies.



"The trends indicate the need to drastically speed and scale up efforts globally to combat climate change while more generally reducing our ecological footprint," said study author Thomas Newsome from the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney, Australia. "Extreme weather and other

climate impacts are disproportionately felt by the poorest people, who have contributed the least to climate change," he said, stressing that that all climate-related actions must be grounded in equity and social justice.

The authors say policies are needed that take aim at the underlying issue of "ecological overshoot" and urge transitioning to a global economy that prioritises human well-being and curtails overconsumption and excessive emissions by the rich.

Specific recommendations in their study include phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, transitioning toward plant-based diets, scaling up forest protection efforts and adopting international coal elimination and fossil fuel non-proliferation treaties.

"Without actions that address the root problem of humanity taking more from the Earth than it can safely give, we're on our way to the potential partial collapse of natural and socio-economic systems and a world with unbearable heat and shortages of food and freshwater," said Ripple.

'People Who Communicate More, Show Expertise More Likely To Be Considered Valuable Team Members'

ANI

A new study provides light on the vital function of communication and knowledge within organisations, highlighting how they affect collective performance. Researchers investigated how individuals become involved in communication networks, as well as the impact of selection procedures on group performance. People who communicated more during training were more likely to be picked as central members of the network, according to the study.

In addition, teams that chose their central member performed as well as and often better than teams whose central member was randomly assigned.

The study, by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University, the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and Clark University, is published in *Frontiers in Psychology*.

The people in network positions and the processes by which they arrive at those positions play a significant role in determining team performance," says Linda Argote, Professor of Organizational Behavior and Theory at Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business, who co-authored the study. "For centralized network positions which require occupants to transfer information to other members of the network, it is critical to have good communication skills."

Communication networks serve as the conduits for knowledge ex-



The Carnegie perspective speaks to formal and informal communication structures in organizations but not about the processes through which workers come to occupy network positions

change, and central members in a network are often responsible for gathering and sharing that information. Researchers drew on studies on communication networks as well as the Carnegie research perspective, which studies the ways organizations gain efficiency through learning, developing routines and structures, and exchanging knowledge.

To test whether group members who choose the occupants of network positions select themselves and others that best suit skill

requirements of the position, the authors compared the performance of groups whose members received their choice of who occupied which network position to the performance of groups whose members did not. They conducted a lab study that involved nearly 125 university students. They had two experimental conditions: in one condition, members received their choice of who occupied the central position; in the other condition, members did not receive their choice.

Allowing group members to

choose who occupies which network positions enabled teams to optimize their position assignments based on individuals' skills and expertise (e.g., organization, delegation), which boosted groups' performance. Team members were more likely to choose individuals who communicated frequently and those who appeared to have task-related expertise to occupy the central network position. Teams receiving their choice of central member performed better than teams not receiving their choice or teams in which members were randomly assigned to the position.

Among the study's limitations, the authors note that they investigated the effects of choice as they pertained to network positions in a single network structure, not whether groups performed differently when they could choose their network structures.

"The Carnegie perspective speaks to formal and informal communication structures in organizations but not about the processes through which workers come to occupy network positions," explains Jerry Guo, Assistant Professor of Strategy at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, who led the study. "We extended this perspective by showing that the process through which individuals come to occupy network positions affects the performance of networks. In this way, we contribute to an understanding of how the development of a network, not just its structure, influences performance."

AI At Par With Docs For Cancer Diagnoses, Not At Treatment Decisions: Study

IANIS

Artificial intelligence-(AI) based cancer diagnosis is as accurate as those made by doctors, but is inferior when it comes to treatment decisions, according to a study.

In the study published by *The Lancet Digital Health*, researchers compared the accuracy in diagnosis and therapy recommendation of skin cancer using two different algorithms in smartphone applications with that of doctors.

The results show that the AI application generally performs well in diagnosis. However, doctors were clearly superior when it came to treatment decisions.

The research team from Medical University of Vienna in Austria tested the AI application under realistic clinical conditions in two skin cancer centres.

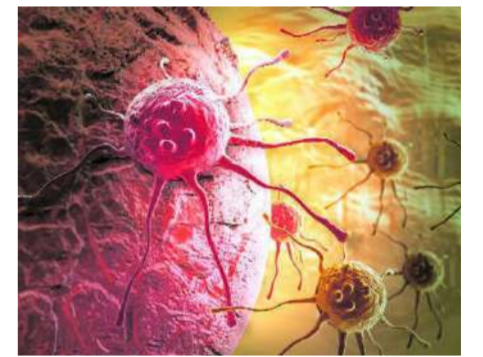
The prospective study consisted of two scenarios, with AI being used in scenario A for changes suspicious of skin cancer and in scenario B for patients with many moles. The AI-assisted application was compared in both cases with both medical experts and less experienced physicians.

In scenario A, 172 suspicious pigmented lesions (of which 84 were malignant) were examined in 124 patients; in scenario B, the research team analysed 5,696 pigmented lesions (of which 18 were malignant) in 66 patients. Two different AI-based smartphone applications were used: a novel 7-class AI algorithm and an ISIC algorithm already used in retrospective preliminary studies.

In scenario A, the 7-class AI algorithm showed equivalent diagnostic accuracy compared to the experts while it was sig-

nificantly superior to the less experienced physicians. The ISIC algorithm, on the other hand, performed significantly worse compared to experts, but better than the inexperienced users. In terms of treatment decisions, the 7-class algorithm was significantly inferior to the experts but superior to the inexperienced users.

The results suggest that an AI-assisted smartphone application for skin cancer diagnosis makes similarly good diagnostic de-



terminations as experts in a real clinical scenario. When it came to treatment decisions, however, the experts were superior to the AI.

"The AI application tends to remove more benign lesions in the treatment recommendation than experts would. If you take this into account, the AI application can certainly be used. It should also be borne in mind that if it is used uncritically, too many false-positive findings would have to be clarified," said dermatologist Harald Kittler from the varsity.

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RASHEED NEWS AGENCY	DALGATE	ASHIQ NEWS AGENCY	GAGRIBAL
IMRAN NEWS AGENCY	KOHNKHAH	SAMA NEWS AGENCY	SHALIMAR
KOHINOOR NEWS AGENCY	NISHAT	WANI NEWS AGENCY	HYDERPORA
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FAIRDEAL NEWS AGENCY	AIRPORT	BISMILLAH NEWS AGENCY	BAGH E MEHTAB
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NAZIR NEWS AGENCY	RAINAWARI	CHANDER NEWS AGENCY	BEMINA
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BILAL NEWS AGENCY	KAK SARAI	KHALIQ NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEHRA
MUZAFFAR ALI NEWS AGENCY	ALAMGIRI BAZAR	BILAL NEWS AGENCY	NOWSHEHRA
TARIQ NEWS AGENCY	M.K. CHOWK	MUZAMIL NEWS AGENCY	SOURA
GULZAR NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	SUBHAN NEWS AGENCY	SKIMS SOURA
HASAN NEWS AGENCY	SOURA	NISAR NEWS AGENCY	LAL BAZAR
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From The Office Of Advocate Sheikh Irshad Rashid

In the case of 'I.Rubeena Maqbool wife of Riyaz Ahmad Gheelani R/o Jalsheeri Baramulla 2.Rozeena Shah wife of Sajad Ahmad Wani R/o Mustafa Abad Zainakot H.M.T Srinagar 3.Rizwana Shah

(Caveators)

Vs Public at Large

Non Caveator

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A The caveators may have apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

NJ

Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (previous name) Shaheen Bashir to (New name) Shaheen Bashir Munshi. In future I will be known as (new Name) Shaheen Bashir Munshi. I am holding passport bearing number L5704716 were my name reflects as Shaheen Bashir Munshi while as my academic records and reflects my name as SHAHEEN BASHIR. I had applied for re-issue of passport to Passport Office, Srinagar. Now I want my passport particulars as per my previous passport, AADHAAR and PAN Card. If anybody having any objection may file to RPO Srinagar within seven day. After stipulated period No objection shall be entertained.

From. SHAHEEN BASHIR MUNSHI (New Name) S/o. BASHIR AHMAD MUNSHI R/o. BUI BUI BAGH BARZULLA SRINAGAR (M). 908680SS05

bmj_r

Govt Warns Against Child Labor, Asks Service Providers To Submit Documents

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Oct 26 (KNO): The government has issued a warning to service providers of domestic helpers, stating that those who fail to submit necessary documents till November 15 will face imprisonment for one year.

Assistant Labor Commissioner, Srinagar, Arshid Qadir emphasized that the authorities have registered an astounding 100 per cent of domestic helper service providers and all of them have been enlisted under three crucial acts.

Assistant Labor Commissioner Srinagar, Arshid Qadir said, "We have registered more than 100 of service providers of domestic helpers, and we have registered them under three acts: the J&K Shops and Establishments Act, the Contract Labor Act, and the Industrial Mining Work Sector Act."

He added that their registration has been done as per the

prescribed and required documents.

"As some incidents happened last year, the district administration has acted swiftly in this regard, and as per their direction, all the service providers who are registered with the Labor Department under any of the above-mentioned acts have to complete some formalities," he said.

"Until the 15th of November, the registered service providers under the Labor Department had to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from some departments, including the Child Welfare Committee and the Anti-Trafficking Committee, the Anti-Child Trafficking Unit of the police department," he said, adding that they have to provide the list of house owners where they have sent these domestic helpers, and the house owners themselves should also check whether these maids, servants, or others are registered with any department.



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Srinagar Smart City A Role Model For Other Cities Of Country: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Terming Srinagar Smart City as a role model for other cities of the country with impactful pedestrian plazas, recreational spaces by the waterfronts, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Thursday that one can feel the soul of Srinagar city with excellent urban design of streets and public spaces.

"Most important element of a city is its people. With infrastructure and modern facilities, it is equally important to have vibrant public spaces to enhance aesthetics, ensure quality of life and bring positive change, solace in the lives of the citizens," the LG said.

He made these remarks during the inauguration of two-day National Workshop of Smart Cities Mission on 'Streets & Public Spaces' here on Thursday.

In his address, Sinha expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for organizing the national workshop in Srinagar. He welcomed the Mayors, Municipal Commissioners, Chief Executing Officers and officers representing 100 Smart Cities to J&K for knowledge sharing and experiential learning through project visits of Srinagar Smart City.

"Srinagar Smart City is a role model for other cities of the country with impactful pedestrian plazas, recreational spaces by the waterfronts. One can feel the soul of this city with excellent urban design of streets and public spaces," he said.

At the inaugural session, the LG talked about various initiatives like Srinagar Square, beautification of ghats to revive water transport, rejuvenation of lakefront, heritage conservation of Old City, beautification of under-utilized spaces making Srinagar a great inspiration for experts.

He said under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his administration is making committed efforts to strengthen the core infrastructure in a planned and sustainable manner.

"While developing Srinagar Smart City, we have adopted a human-centered approach and ensured elements of traditional art and culture, heritage, smart facilities, smart governance, and sustainability are based on social equity to provide high quality of life to the residents," the LG said.

He emphasized the need to develop cities to meet the challenges and the growing aspirations of the people.

"Cities must be flexible to respond to the needs of citizens, competition and changes in the market and nurture core competencies for economic growth," Sinha added.

Biz Community Urges Govt To Speedup Maintenance Work Of Old Habba Kadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Shopkeepers at the historic old Habba Kadal area of Srinagar Tuesday expressed concern over the slow maintenance work on the iconic bridge.

The shopkeepers complained that delays have caused significant disruptions in the day to day life of locals and business people alike.

"The old Habba Kadal Bridge, known for its architectural significance and historical importance, has been undergoing maintenance for the past many years. We as shopkeepers and residents are feeling frustrated as the project seems to be progressing at a snail's pace," said the shopkeepers.

Prof. H C Verma Held Special Interaction With NIT Srinagar Students

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Renowned Scientist and Padma Shri awardee, Professor H. C. Verma, engaged in a special interaction with a fresh batch of B-Tech 1st Semester students (Batch-2023) at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The event was presided over by Prof. M A Shah Former, Head Department of Physics. Large gathering of students interacted with the legend in a highly disciplined manner.

Dr. M Z Ansari and Dr. Nadeem served as the Coordinators for the event and the proceedings were overseen by several distinguished academicians, including Mr. Khurshid as the Convener.

In his address, Prof. H.C. Verma emphasized the importance

of equipping students with the latest technologies and techniques, beyond the standard curriculum. The students need to be critical, analytical, and innovative.

He pointed out that teaching science requires a unique approach, stressing the need to provide students with opportunities to learn various methods and processes in laboratories. He emphasized the significance of conducting experiments, closely reviewing the results, and responding to analytical comments.

Verma further highlighted that educational institutions that combine traditional classroom teaching with hands-on science laboratory experiments tend to yield the best results for their students.

"It plays a pivotal role in preparing the next generation of scientists, engineers, and medical professionals, ultimately shaping the future of these fields," he added.

Prof Verma has authored several schools, undergraduate and graduate level textbooks, including but not limited to the most popular and most reputed two-volume Concepts of Physics, extensively used by students appearing for various high-level competitive examinations.

The event evoked a very good response and the feedback of the participants was recorded. They acknowledged the scientific services of Prof Shah for hosting the vital event on the campus. Meanwhile, all M Sc Physics students worked as volunteers in the program.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that mother's name of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned in her school records as Nusrat instead of correct name Nusrat Bano. Now I want to apply for its correction. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact concerned department within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Zahoor Ahmad Khan
F/o Soha Ali Khan
R/o Shalimar Srinagar

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-TENDER NOTICE			
Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date 16.11.2023 up to 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in .			
Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works
Date of Uploading Tenders	25.10.2023	Bid Starting Date	02.11.2023
		Bid Closing Date/Time	16.11.2023 15:00 hrs.
Sr. No. Tender No. Details of Tender			
1.	285-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR	TRR (P) 8.56 km from km 15 to 15.560, km 19 to 23, km 41 to 43 & km 49 to 51 on JAT-SVDK section under ADEN/UHP.	
Advertised Value	₹2,33,600/-	Validity of offer	60 Days
Earnest Money	₹2,33,600/-	Period of Completion	12 Months
Similar Nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including Raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28".			
Note: 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No.: 285-2023-24-UHP-DRM-FZR Date: 25.10.2023 3344/2023			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

NORTHERN RAILWAY			
E-Tender Notice			
Sr. DEN-II/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- 16.11.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information log on to www.ireps.gov.in .			
Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works
Date of Uploading Tenders	25.10.2023	Bid Starting Date	02.11.2023
		Bid Closing Date/Time	16.11.2023/15:00 Hrs
S.No. Tender No. Details of Tender			
1.	274-2023-24-PLMX-DRM-FZR	Misc. P.Way Works for track maintenance in the section of PTK-JDNX under ADEN/PLMX.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	36,95,615.58/-	Earnest Money	73,900.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	12 Months
Similar nature of work :- "NIL".			
2.	275-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Upgradation and Modification of existing RPF barrack complex for provision of 40 bedded female barrack accommodations for RPF staff at PTK in the section of ADEN-I/PTK.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	2,11,82,896.54/-	Earnest Money	2,55,900.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	08 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
3.	276-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Repair of Guide Bund, Protection work and other miscellaneous work of Br. No. 137 DN and 139 DN in BHRL-JAT section.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	2,25,38,490.04/-	Earnest Money	2,62,700.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction/Rehabilitation of Bridges".			
4.	277-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Improvement to protection work of Bridge no. 28 at Km 19.21 & Br No. 43 at 25.633 on BHRL-JAT section under ADEN/JAT.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	2,33,83,596.67/-	Earnest Money	2,66,900.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	08 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Construction/Rehabilitation of Bridges".			
5.	278-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Repair and Maintenance of Bridges including repairing to flooring, protection works, improvement to embankment & approaches and misc. work in the section of SSE/W/JAT under ADEN/JAT.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	39,89,618.21/-	Earnest Money	79,800.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "NIL".			
6.	279-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	Repair and Maintenance of Bridges including repairing to flooring, protection works, improvement to embankment & approaches and misc. work in the section of SSE/W/KTHU under ADEN/JAT	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	39,89,618.21/-	Earnest Money	79,800.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "NIL".			
7.	280-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR	Provision of epoxy repair, Hump, DE-Silting and other misc. works at LHS C-8 on the ASR-PTK section under ADEN/PTK.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	88,66,533.49/-	Earnest Money	1,77,300.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	08 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
8.	282-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR	TRR (P) 25.712 Km on BHRL-JAT section i.e. 22.495 Km at Km 38.817 to 42.8 DN, 46.8 to 52.934 DN, Km 32.112 to 33.879 UP, Km 35.756 to 37.755 UP, Km 42.85 to 47.048 UP, Km 52.897 to 59.57 UP, Km 63.798 to 64.799 UP and 3.217 Km at Km 20.178 to 21.133 DN, Km 37.522 to 38.817 DN and Km 21.033 to 22.00 UP under ADEN/JAT on BHRL-JAT section in jurisdiction of Sr. DEN-II/FZR	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	4,46,77,887.84/-	Earnest Money	3,73,400.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track/screening distressing of track/pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machine/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28.			
9.	283-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR	Provision of 12.00 m wide FOB at Gurdaspur Railway station on ASR-PTK section under ADEN/PTK in C/W/ABS.	
Advertised Value (Rs.)	2,66,83,022.12/-	Earnest Money	2,83,400.00/-
Validity of Offer	60 Days	Period of Completion	10 Months
Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work".			
Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No.: 274-2023-24-PLMX-DRM-FZR, 275,276,277,278,279&282-2023-24-JAT-DRM-FZR, 280&283-2023-24-PTK-DRM-FZR Dt.26.10.2023 3350/2023			
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- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 245222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5:22
ZUHR 12:15
ASR 4:06
Magrib 5:47
ISHA 7:08

HIJRI CALENDAR
11 Rabi-ul-Sani
1445

This Day In History

- 1627 - English assault on French Il de Ré
- 1644 - Second Battle of Newbury: King Charles I beats parliamentary armies
- 1702 - British troops plunder St Augustine, Florida
- 1795 - Pinckney's Treaty [Treaty of San Lorenzo] signed by Spain and US, establishing the southern boundary of the US and giving Americans right to navigate the Mississippi River
- 1806 - The French Army enters Berlin
- 1810 - United States annexes West Florida from Spain
- 1916 - Battle of Segale: Negus Mikael, marching on the Ethiopian capital in support of his son Emperor Iyasus V, is defeated by Fitawrari abte Giyorgis, securing the throne for Empress Zauditu.
- 1922 - In Italy, Liberal Luigi Facta resigns in the face of threats from Mussolini that 'either the Government will be given to us or we will seize it by marching on Rome'
- 1924 - The Uzbek SSR is founded in the Soviet Union
- 1941 - Nazi's direct gypsy ghetto in Belgrade
- 1942 - 5th day of battle at El Alamein: heavy battles/ Australian advance
- 1948 - Israel recaptures Nizzanim in Negev
- 1954 - President Eisenhower offers aid to South Vietnam Prime Minister Ngô inh Di m
- 1957 - Celal Bayar re-elected president of Turkey
- 1958 - General Ayub Khan succeeds Iskander Mirza as President of Pakistan
- 1959 - Rare Pacific hurricane kills 2,000 in Western Mexico
- 1961 - 1st Saturn launch vehicle makes an unmanned flight test
- 1962 - Black Saturday - Russian nuclear missile crisis in Cuba
- 1966 - UN deprives South Africa of Namibia
- 1969 - Nobel Prize in Economics awarded to John Tinbergen
- 1971 - Republic of Congo-Kinshasa becomes Republic of Zaire
- 1972 - OPEC approves plan providing for 25 percent government ownership of all Western oil interests operating within Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia
- 1977 - NASA launches space vehicle S-200
- 1979 - St Vincent & Grenadines becomes independent of UK (National Day)
- 1981 - The Soviet submarine U 137 runs aground on the east coast of Sweden.
- 1982 - China announces its population has reached 1 billion plus people
- 1982 - IBM ROM is capable of EGA graphics
- 1986 - British government deregulates financial markets in a "Big Bang", enhancing London's status as a financial

From KO Archives

70-Yr-Old Sets Himself Ablaze

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Overcome by his daughter's defiance, a 70-yr-old set himself and his house ablaze in Sopore village today. Mu-hammad Sabir Malla later succumbed to burn injuries.

Reports said that Sabir's daughter had opposed the match he had arranged for her. Unable to bear this rebellion, Sabir drenched himself and his two-story home with petrol, climbed atop the building and set himself alight. The village Sopar Naghama some 7 kilometres from Handwara watched aghast as flames engulfed the man and his dwelling. Fire tenders rushed from Dangiawacha prevented the blaze from spreading to the ground floor. Sabir who had sustained extensive burns passed away soon after.

Meanwhile there were reports of two youth and women trying to put an end to their lives in different parts of the Valley.

Tired of his life Shiraz Ahmad Lone of Sahpora Pattan attempted suicide but was rushed to the hospital, where he is reported to be in a serious condition.

Saleema w/o Muhammad Shaban Bhat of Baran Pattan was rushed to hospital after she consumed some poisonous substance in a bid to put an end to her life. Doctors saved her life.

(Kashmir Observer, October 27, 2000)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 27-10-2023

Pre-Emptying Gaza Fallout

Security agencies in the region are taking proactive measures to reassess their security strategies in the backdrop of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a rise in the number of foreign militants in Jammu and Kashmir. A meeting of top officials and security agencies was held at the headquarters of the 15 Corps in Srinagar, to discuss the need for a security response to the evolving situation.

Since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the frequency of street protests in Jammu and Kashmir has progressively abated to a point where such protests are no longer held. However, the ongoing Israeli invasion of Gaza has triggered concerns that street unrest might resurface. People in Kashmir are closely watching the situation in Gaza, and there is a fear that it could lead to a law-and-order situation.

One of the major concerns discussed in this high-profile meeting was the changing landscape of militancy in the region. The role of foreign militants has become increasingly prominent as local recruitment dwindles. Official figures reveal that out of the 46 militants killed in the Union Territory this year, 37 were foreigners, while only nine were locals. This is the first time after 2015 that the number of foreign militants killed significantly outweighs that of local militants.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, around 130 militants are currently operating in the Valley, with more than half of them being foreigners. The apprehension is that those hiding in the upper reaches may descend into the Valley, further complicating the security situation.

The security dynamics in Kashmir are further complicated by the impending winter season. The treacherous terrain and extreme weather pose additional challenges for security personnel. It is true that the evolving security situation in the union territory demands a proactive and adaptive approach from the administration. As the situation in Kashmir remains fluid, staying ahead of the curve in terms of security is important to maintaining peace and order.

That said, while security agencies need to prepare for the worst case scenarios, it is not necessary that such scenarios will come to pass. For example, the apprehensions that the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in 2021 will revive militancy in Kashmir didn't materialize. Over the last two years, even though the militancy in Kashmir has been very low-key, and a large number of militants have been killed, the militancy is very much alive and kicking. But at the same time it hasn't dented the prevailing sense of normalcy in the region and for which people haven't been sufficiently rewarded. What is needed is a political outreach which has been singularly missing for the past four years.

OTHER OPINION

Pain Points

The Indian economy grew at a healthy 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of the ongoing financial year. Going by the high frequency indicators, the economic momentum has continued in the weeks and months thereafter, and may sustain due to the impetus from spending during the festive season.

In the latest state of the economy report, economists at the Reserve Bank of India also express optimism, pegging growth at 6.8 per cent in the second quarter, marginally higher than expectations. This is good news.

The report presents data on a plethora of economic indicators to make its case. These point towards a sustained momentum. For instance, the purchasing managers index for manufacturing and services continues to remain in expansionary mode. Sales of automobiles show an uptick, driven by the three-wheeler segment. Steel consumption is up almost 18 per cent, while cement production has risen by almost 19 per cent, indicating robust construction activity. Residential real estate markets across the country are witnessing a steady growth momentum even as interest rates remain high and property prices surge. Toll collections have expanded by a healthy 20 per cent and both air cargo and railway freight have registered high growth. Alongside, the unemployment rate has declined further in both rural and urban areas.

However, pain points remain. Exports continue to contract, signalling sluggish global demand. There are few signs of a broad-based pick-up in the investment cycle even though the corporate sector is in much better financial shape.

And while the labour force participation rate has edged upwards, especially for females, there has been a concomitant increase in self-employment, indicating that the economy is perhaps not being able to create enough high quality jobs for the millions entering the labour force. Demand for work under MGNREGA remains higher than last year, and above pre-pandemic levels. Some FMCG companies have in fact pointed out in their quarterly results that rural demand remains under pressure, and continues to lag the urban market. Alongside, the sharp rise in household borrowings has also raised concerns.

Data from the RBI shows that household financial liabilities rose from 3.8 per cent of GDP in 2021-22 to 5.8 per cent in 2022-23. While part of the credit has been used to finance purchase of houses and vehicles, some have argued that this surge in borrowings is also indicative of growing financial distress. In any case, there are limits to debt-fuelled consumption. Any slowdown in credit will have implications for the growth momentum in the wider economy.

The Indian Express



Women's Reservation Bill Beyond Numbers That Matter

Gifty Ann Babu

Working on a common interest can be challenging in a country like India, where there are more differences among social categories than similarities. This, however, does not diminish the importance of the women's quota in India, as this can be a stepping stone for further empowerment of women in politics

The Women's Reservation Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on 21st September and became law on 29th September with the approval of the President of India. The new bill, officially known as Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, aims to increase the presence of women in Parliament and state legislatures by assigning 33% of seats to women. However, the one hundred and twenty-eighth Constitution Amendment Bill can only be implemented after the next census and the following electoral delimitation process. Women in India have been active in politics and social movements since the late nineteenth century. Though these women were predominantly from the upper-caste elite groups, their presence was instrumental in the independence movement. Later, when an independent government of India was formed, the number of women who participated in the movements was not reflected among the newly elected representatives of the parliament. Some of the leaders foresaw this issue, and a gender quota for the parliament was discussed at the Constituent Assembly. However, the idea of a quota system was rejected even by women representatives who considered it undemocratic. The bill's supporters argued that the political parties are fundamentally patriarchal and, therefore, are reluctant to give candidature to women. Also, research suggests that 30% of women representatives are needed to influence policy outcomes effectively in a parliament. As a positive turn in favor of the reservation bill, the 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments of 1993 mandated a one-third reservation for women candidates in the local government bodies. Soon, in 1996, for the first time, the women's reservation bill was introduced in the parliament as the

81st Amendment Bill, which proposed 33% of seats to be reserved for women in state legislative assemblies and Lok Sabha. However, it failed to pass in the parliament due to a lack of consensus among political parties and was again introduced in 1998 when the NDA government came to power. The bill again failed to get approval from the parliament, and it recurred in 1999, 2002, and 2003. The UPA government, in 2010, was successful in passing the bill in the Rajya Sabha, however, it was not considered for discussion in the Lok Sabha. Many political parties refused to accept the bill on the grounds that the bill ignored the intersectionality of women's issues. They demanded reservations for backward and marginalized women within the women's reservation bill. Even after decades of experience in democratic functioning, India stands far behind in gender equality in society and politics. The current parliament comprises only 14% of women legislators, which is also the highest number in the history of the Indian parliament. The newly passed Women's Reservation Bill expects to improve the situation by bringing more women into politics. However, there is also uncertainty regarding the bill's implementation, and it may only be made possible for the 2029 or 2034 general election. Even after the implementation of the bill, there are a few issues that may continue to arise. The countries that have implemented similar types of quotas for women have had an increase in the number of women parliamentarians; however, a mere increase in the number of women in politics did not mean the upliftment of women in society. Research shows that the increased number of women in parliament may not necessarily reflect in their substantive representation. Substantive repre-

sentation is a concept prominent in the field of gender and politics that looks at the role of women parliamentarians in promoting women's interests. In some countries, elected women representatives collectively work for women's interests irrespective of party differences. But working on a common interest can be challenging in a country like India, where there are more differences among social categories than similarities. This, however, does not diminish the importance of the women's quota in India, as this can be a stepping stone for further empowerment of women in politics. Irrespective of the implementation of the Bill, the political parties in India can play a significant role in women's access to parliament. The parties act as a gatekeeper to political office. The voters in India, in general, give their vote, keeping the political party in mind rather than the candidate. Moreover, in most cases, if a political party has strong supporters in a constituency, they can win the election irrespective of the gender of the candidate. Political parties in India can also adopt the voluntary quota system that many countries have adopted and implemented. However, the fundamental problem lies in the patriarchal structure of society. The quotas and laws that help improve the representation of women in politics must be accompanied by structural changes in society.

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

The author is a PhD Scholar at JNU



OBSERVER
MAIL

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

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The Legendary Spinner

Legendary left-arm spinner Bishan Singh Bedi's demise comes as a big shock and his passing away is an irreparable loss to the world of cricket. From the bylanes of Amritsar to the Indian cricket team, Bedi forged his way into cricketing folklore by becoming a part of the famed spin quartet, which was a revolution of sorts in India's spin bowling history. While Bedi was known as the magician of

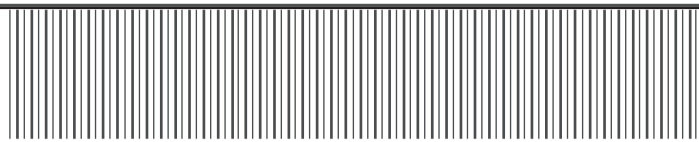
left-arm spin bowling, who could make the ball hold or hurry at will as it traversed the winding arcs in the air, he was equally well known for his benignity and a human being par excellence.

Ten years ago, when I had the opportunity to interact with Bedi for a few minutes during his address at the Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture in Chennai, the bowling genius was candid in his views about the IPL

and said he totally disliked it as he felt that it tampers with the purity of the game, and made no bones about expressing his disapproval of the shenanigans associated with it. Bedi vehemently opposed politics entering into cricket in any form. And no surprise, when the idea of erecting a statue for the former and late Finance Minister, and DDCA president Arun Jaitley at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium was broached, Bedi gave up

his DDCA membership and firmly suggested his name be removed from the Kotla stand. Bedi remains an esteemed figure in Indian cricket, celebrated for his artistry, and for his unflinching passion and dedication towards the game. It is a gift of our times that the legendary spinner graced the game across the globe.

Ranganathan Sivakumar



Mindful Fridays

The Perilous Confusion: Pleasure vs. Happiness

Wasim Kakroo

In our quest for contentment and emotional well-being, we often find ourselves grappling with the fundamental distinction between pleasure and happiness. This confusion, deeply rooted in human nature, has the potential to significantly impact our lives, shaping our choices and the paths we traverse. Understanding the disparity between these two emotional states is crucial for navigating the complexities of our existence. One of the biggest problems at an emotional level arises when we confuse pleasure with happiness.

THE NATURE OF PLEASURE

Pleasure is the immediate and transient gratification of our desires and sensory experiences. It is often associated with the fulfillment of our basic human instincts and physical cravings. Pleasure can be found in the simple joys of life, such as indulging in delicious food, experiencing physical intimacy, or the rush of adrenaline from an exciting adventure. While pleasure is undoubtedly a delightful sensation, it is fleeting, tied to the external world, and often leaves us wanting more.

THE QUEST FOR PLEASURE

Our modern society has become increasingly oriented toward the pursuit of pleasure. The consumer-driven culture, with its constant barrage of advertisements and instant gratification, reinforces the idea that pleasure equates to happiness. The impulse to seek pleasure is deeply ingrained in our psyche, as it can be a source of momentary escape from life's complexities and challenges. However, this constant quest for pleasure can lead to a hedonistic lifestyle, where we prioritize immediate satisfaction over long-term well-being.

THE PITFALLS OF CONFUSING PLEASURE WITH HAPPINESS

Confusing pleasure with happiness has profound implications for our emotional well-being. When we prioritize the pursuit of pleasure, we may find ourselves on a never-ending treadmill, always seeking the next high but never truly content. This hedonistic approach can lead to a cycle of addiction, as we become dependent on external stimuli to feel



good, while neglecting the deeper, more enduring sources of happiness.

HAPPINESS: A DEEPER AND LASTING STATE

In contrast to pleasure, happiness is a more profound and enduring emotional state. It is rooted in a sense of inner contentment, well-being, and fulfillment that transcends momentary pleasures. True happiness is not solely dependent on external factors; it is a product of our attitudes, relationships, and inner sense of purpose. It is a state of being rather than an event.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

The pursuit of happiness involves cultivating a deep connection with oneself, nurturing meaningful relationships, and finding purpose and meaning in life. It requires self-awareness and introspection to understand our values and what truly matters to us. Unlike pleasure, which can be acquired through material



THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS INVOLVES CULTIVATING A DEEP CONNECTION WITH ONESELF, nurturing meaningful relationships, and finding purpose and meaning in life. It requires self-awareness and introspection to understand our values and what truly matters to us

possessions or fleeting experiences, happiness often emerges from a life of well-lived and meaningful contributions to others and society.

THE FULFILLMENT PARADOX

One of the paradoxes of happiness is that it often arises when we are not directly seeking it. Rather than relentlessly pursuing happiness, we often find it when we engage in activities that challenge us, give us a sense of purpose, and connect us with others. The pursuit of pleasure may provide short-lived satisfaction, but it lacks the depth and profound meaning that happiness can bring

into our lives.

BALANCING PLEASURE AND HAPPINESS

While pleasure and happiness are distinct emotional states, they are not mutually exclusive. It is entirely possible to experience pleasure within the context of happiness. In fact, the enjoyment of life's simple pleasures can enhance our overall sense of well-being. The key is to strike a balance between the pursuit of immediate pleasure and the cultivation of lasting happiness.

PRACTICAL STEPS:

In the pursuit of genuine and last-

ing happiness, there are practical steps one can take to navigate the often-confusing distinction between momentary pleasure and a more profound sense of well-being.

1. **Self-awareness:** First and foremost, self-awareness is the foundational pillar of this journey. It's crucial to introspect and understand your inner self, values, and desires. Reflect on what truly brings you fulfillment beyond fleeting pleasures. By taking the time to delve into your own psyche, you can pinpoint the activities and experiences that

2. **Nurture relationships:** Happiness doesn't exist in a vacuum; it thrives within the context of relationships. Cultivating and nurturing connections with friends and family is another essential step. These meaningful relationships provide a support system, a source of joy, and emotional stability, all of which are critical to long-term well-being.
3. **Find purpose:** Finding purpose is yet another significant stride on this journey. Whether through personal goals, career ambitions, or contributing to a cause you're passionate about, a sense of purpose infuses your life with meaning and direction. It fuels your daily activities with a sense of fulfillment that transcends momentary pleasures.
4. **Mindfulness and gratitude:** To maintain happiness, practicing mindfulness and gratitude is indispensable. These practices allow you to live in the present, appreciating life's small but precious moments. Shifting your focus from what you lack to what you have can drastically alter your perspective, helping you find contentment in the here and now.
5. **Practice moderation:** While enjoying life's pleasures is entirely acceptable, it's vital to do so in moderation. Overindulgence can lead to addiction, compromising your long-term pursuit of happiness. Thus, practicing restraint and balance in all areas of your life ensures that your quest for lasting happiness remains unencumbered by the pitfalls of excessive pleasure-seeking.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a consultant clinical psychologist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

Is Hoarding a Disorder?

Jessica Grisham
Keong Yap
Melissa Norberg

Hoarding disorder is an under-recognised serious mental illness that worsens with age. It affects 2.5% of the working-age population and 7% of older adults. That's about 715,000 Australians.

People who hoard and their families often feel ashamed and don't get the support they need. Clutter can make it hard to do things most of us take for granted, such as eating at the table or sleeping in bed.

In the gravest cases, homes are completely unsanitary, either because it has become impossible to clean or because the person saves garbage. The strain on the family can be extreme - couples get divorced, and children grow up feeling unloved.

So why do people with hoarding disorder hoard? And how can we help?

WHAT CAUSES HOARDING DISORDER?

Saving millions of objects, many worthless by objective standards, often makes little sense to those unfamiliar with the condition.

However, most of us become attached to at least a few possessions. Perhaps we love the way they look, or they trigger fond memories.

Hoarding involves this same

type of object attachment, as well over-reliance on possessions and difficulty being away from them.

Research has shown genetic factors play a role but there is no one single gene that causes hoarding disorder. Instead, a range of psychological, neurobiological, and social factors can be at play.

Although some who hoard report being deprived of material things in childhood, emotional deprivation may play a stronger role.

People with hoarding problems often report excessively cold parenting, difficulty connecting with others, and more traumatic experiences.

They may end up believing people are unreliable and untrustworthy, and that it's better to rely on objects for comfort and safety.

People with hoarding disorder are often as attached or perhaps more attached to possessions than to the people in their life.

Their experiences have taught them their self-identity is tangled up in what they own; that if they part with their possessions, they will lose themselves.

Research shows interpersonal problems, such as loneliness, are linked to greater attachment to objects.

Hoarding disorder is also associated with high rates of attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder. Difficulties with



decision-making, planning, attention and categorising can make it hard to organise and discard possessions.

The person ends up avoiding these tasks, which leads to unmanageable levels of clutter.

NOT EVERYONE TAKES THE SAME PATH TO HOARDING

Most people with hoarding disorder also have strong beliefs about their possessions.

For example, they are more likely to see beauty or usefulness in things and believe objects possess human-like qualities such as intentions, emotions, or free will.

Many also feel responsible for objects and for the environment. While others may not think twice about discarding broken or disposable things, people with hoarding disorder can anguish over their fate.

This need to control, rescue, and protect objects is often at odds with the beliefs of friends and family, which can lead to conflict and social isolation.

Not everyone with hoarding disorder describes the same pathway to overwhelming clutter.

Some report more cognitive difficulties while others may have experienced more emotional deprivation. So it's

important to take an individualised approach to treatment.

HOW CAN WE TREAT HOARDING DISORDER?

There is specialised cognitive-behavioural therapy (CBT) tailored for hoarding disorder. Different strategies are used to address the different factors contributing to a person's hoarding.

Cognitive-behavioural therapy can also help people understand and gradually challenge their beliefs about possessions.

They may begin to consider how to remember, connect, feel safe, or express their identity in ways other than inanimate objects.

Treatment can also help people learn the skills needed to organise, plan, and discard.

Regardless of their path to hoarding, most people with hoarding disorder will benefit from a degree of exposure therapy.

This helps people gradually learn to let go of possessions and resist acquiring more.

Exposure to triggering situations (such as visiting shopping centres, op-shops or mounds of clutter without collecting new items) can help people learn to tolerate their urges and distress.

Treatment can happen in an individual or group setting, and/or via telehealth.

Research is underway on ways to improve the treat-

ment options further through, for example, learning different emotional regulation strategies.

SOMETIMES, A HARM-AVOIDANCE APPROACH IS BEST

Addressing the emotional and behavioural drivers of hoarding through cognitive behavioural therapy is crucial.

But hoarding is different to most other psychological disorders. Complex cases may require lots of different agencies to work together.

For example, health-care workers may work with fire and housing officers to ensure the person can live safely at home.

When people have severe hoarding problems but are reluctant to engage in treatment, a harm-avoidance approach may be best. This means working with the person with hoarding disorder to identify the most pressing safety hazards and come up with a practical plan to address them.

We must continue to improve our understanding and treatment of this complex disorder and address barriers to accessing help. This will ultimately help reduce the devastating impact of hoarding disorder on individuals, their families, and the community.

By arrangements with The Conversation

CASH-FOR-QUERY ROW LS panel hears BJP MP Dubey, lawyer Dehadrai; calls Mahua Moitra on October 31

Press Trust of India

New Delhi: The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has asked TMC member Mahua Moitra to appear before it on October 31 in relation to cash-for-query allegations levelled against her by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who told the panel on Thursday that it was an "open and shut" case and she should be disqualified.

Dubey and advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai gave "oral evidence" to the panel against the Trinamool Congress MP during the day, after which its chairperson Vinod Kumar Sonkar said the committee will also seek assistance from the Ministries of Home

Affairs and IT in probing the allegations.

Sources said the panel will seek details of Moitra's foreign visits from the Home Ministry and tally it with the places of log-ins to her parliamentary IDs as it works to submit its recommendations to the House next month.

The panel's meeting began with sharp differences among the 10 members present, excluding the chairperson, on who should they hear first -- the complainant or the accused -- forcing a vote to resolve the matter.

Opposition members cited the recent case involving BSP MP Danish Ali and BJP's Ramesh

Bidhuri to note that another parliamentary panel had called the ruling party member, accused of making derogatory comments in Parliament, first, whereas the Ethics Committee was recording the statement of Dubey, the complainant, in its first meeting.

The vote ended in a tie as the members -- five of the ruling BJP and five of opposition parties -- voted on partisan lines, with the Chair casting his deciding vote in favour of hearing Dubey first, as scheduled.

After the meeting, Sonkar, a BJP MP, told reporters, "We have decided to ask Mahua Moitra to appear before us on October 31."

In his statement before the panel, Dubey pitched for her disqualification saying the matter pertains to Parliament's dignity and is an issue of national security, sources said, adding that he noted it was an "open and shut" case as even businessman Darshan Hiranandani, who allegedly paid her bribes, has admitted to the charge.

Some panel members belonging to opposition parties, including BSP's Danish Ali and JD(U)'s Giridhari Yadav, called for taking a lenient view in the matter as she was a first-term MP, to which Dubey insisted that an example should be made of her to serve as a lesson to other parliamentarians, sources said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Centre Suggests

non-polluting cottage industries shall be promoted," the notification reads.

Apart from this, the discharge of untreated effluents in natural water bodies or land area and setting up of new sawmills have also been banned.

The MoEFCC has also banned activities related to tourism like flying over the ESZs by hot air balloon, helicopter, drones, Microlites, etc.

The government order further bans vehicular pollution in these areas and has asked the administration to take steps to stop the same.

"The vehicular movement of traffic shall be regulated in a habitat friendly manner and specific provisions in this regard shall be incorporated in the Zonal Master Plan and till such time as the Zonal Master plan is prepared and approved by the competent authority in the Union Territory Government, the Monitoring Committee shall monitor compliance of vehicular movement under the relevant Acts and the rules and regulations made there under," reads the notification.

The MoEFCC also instructs the administration to dispose of solid and Bio-Medical Waste in accordance with the Management Rules of 2016.

The government, however, has encouraged rain water harvesting, organic farming, adoption of green technology for all activities, cottage industries, including village artisans, etc. use of renewable energy and fuels, bio-gas, solar light etc in the ESZs of the Valley.

40 Terrorists Killed

Line of Control (LoC) as part of the security review."

Later talking to reporters, the DGP said that this year, 40 infiltrating terrorists were killed along the LoC alone. "Those who managed to sneak into this side were eliminated in different operations in the hinterland. Counter-militant operations will continue," he said.

"Since the border areas on the other side of the LoC have a bad record for many reasons. For a very long time militant training camps, and launching pads have been active. About 16 active launching pads are located on the other side of the border in this sector in PoK. Activities to infiltrate more infiltrators, push weapons and narco smuggling is a constant tool from another side of the border," he said.

The DGP said that Kupwara police had to act tough against those involved in acts of arms and narcotics smuggling from border areas. "We have so far been very successful in combating narcotics and weapon smuggling," he said.

About infiltration, the police chief said that infiltration bids continue to happen. "These are continuous attempts from the other side of the border but active vigil and cooperation of joint security forces including intelligence agencies all are timely countered. Infiltration attempts will happen in the future as well given the onset of snowfall. Infiltrators are pushed before snowfall given the accumulation and challenging conditions," the J&K DGP said.

Regarding the number of active militants in the region, the J&K DGP said that the number of active militants has significantly come down to record numbers compared to previous figures.

"Security forces have been able to achieve success in eliminating the number of active militants. With the killing of militants, people have been able to live happily in peace. We believe in peace and both security forces and administration have been able to achieve it so far. Numbers aren't that high and whatever the number is it will also come down," he said.

Asked about the missing SPO in Sopore, the DGP said that the matter is being verified.

For many years, the DGP said that there has been a constant strategy from the neighboring country to push a maximum number of infiltrators from their launch pads ahead of the snow accumulation in border areas.

"These attempts take place in border areas like Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division. Similarly in Kashmir division border areas of Kupwara and Baramulla, all such attempts were foiled in the past and counter-operations will continue in future as well. Even this year, large groups of infiltrators were killed along LoC." --(KNO)

Vetoes Fly in UNSC

thousands of Palestinians fled from north to south in tiny, crowded Gaza after Israel warned them it would mainly bombard the north in its quest to eliminate Hamas. However, the bombing has been indiscriminate, targeting civilian buildings, schools and hospitals.

Violence has also risen sharply in the

occupied West Bank, where health officials said more than 100 Palestinians had been killed, mostly in raids by Israeli troops or in clashes with Israeli settlers.

In a rare rebuke to Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, US President Joe Biden reiterated calls for a two-state solution for Palestinians and the Israelis once the current conflict subsides.

"I continue to be alarmed about extremist settlers attacking Palestinians in the West Bank," Biden said, accusing them of pouring gasoline on a fire. "They're attacking Palestinians in places that they're entitled to be."

Healthcare collapse
According to the health ministry, Israeli strikes have now killed more than 6,500 people in Gaza, including over 700 who died on Tuesday -- the highest death toll for a single day so far.

Among Wednesday's casualties, an internally displaced person was killed and 44 were injured in an air strike near a UNRWA school in the southern town of Rafah, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip said.

The school was sheltering 4,600 people and sustained severe collateral damage, an UNRWA statement said.

The United Nations said 12 of the territory's 35 hospitals have closed due to damage or insufficient fuel.

"The hospitals are in a state of complete collapse," said Mohammed Abu Selmeia, head of Shifa, the biggest hospital in the Gaza Strip.

He told AFP "more than 90 percent of medicines" had run out and "we urgently need fuel to run the generators and to operate hospital departments and operating theatres."

On the 19th day of Israeli air and artillery strikes and a near-total land, sea and air blockade of Gaza, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees warned operations were at breaking point.

"If we do not get fuel urgently, we will be forced to halt our operations in the Gaza Strip," said the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which provides aid to 600,000 displaced in Gaza.

UN vote
At the UN, Russia and China vetoed on Wednesday a US-drafted Security Council resolution to address a worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, calling for pauses the violence to allow aid access. The United Arab Emirates also voted no, while 10 members voted in favor and two abstained.

The council then voted on a Russian-drafted resolution that called for a humanitarian ceasefire. Only Russia, China, the UAE and Gabon voted in favor of the draft, while nine members abstained and the United States and Britain voted no.

The Russian document, seen by AFP, calls for "an immediate, durable and fully respected humanitarian ceasefire" and "condemns all violence and hostilities against civilians" and also says it "rejects and condemns the heinous attacks by Hamas" of October 7.

Meanwhile, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that Israel's campaign against Palestinians could spread well beyond the Middle East and that it was wrong that innocent women, children and old people in Gaza were being punished for other people's crimes.

"Our task today, our main task, is to stop the bloodshed and violence," said Putin, according to a Kremlin transcript of the meeting.

"Otherwise, further escalation of the crisis is fraught with grave and extremely dangerous and destructive consequences. And not only for the Middle East region. It could spill over far beyond the borders of the Middle East."

Also Wednesday, the Palestinian Authority's foreign minister Riyad al-Maliki met with senior officials from the International Criminal Court in The Hague, the court said, without giving further details.

"Severe pain but no anaesthetic"
Fuel is used to power vital services such as hospitals in Gaza which rely on generators, and aid agencies have warned that more people will die if medical equipment, water desalination plants and ambulances stop running.

Once the generators stop running, hospitals will "turn into morgues", the Red Cross has warned.

Hospitals are also struggling with a dramatic shortage of medicines and equipment. "There's not enough anaesthetic," said Ahmad Abdul Hadi, an orthopaedic surgeon working at Nasser hospital in Khan Yunis.

"The wounded are in severe pain but we can't wait for the procedure so we're forced to do the operation. We performed a number of surgeries without anaesthetic. It's tough and painful, but with the lack of resources, what

can we do?"

5 Infiltrators Killed

joint team," the spokesperson said.

He said that fire was retaliated, leading to the elimination of five unidentified terrorists of LeT.

"The identification of the killed terrorists is being ascertained. Huge cache of arms & ammunition, including five (05) AK rifles & other incriminating materials have been recovered from the site of encounter," he added.

The spokesperson said all the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. He said extensive search of the area is being carried out and further details, if any will be shared accordingly.

"In this regard, Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated," he added.

According to the spokesperson, ADGP Kashmir has appreciated the role of Kupwara Police for generating the actionable input & the role of joint forces for swiftly tracking & neutralizing the infiltrating terrorists to defeat the nefarious designs of inimical elements who are hellbent to disrupt peace and harmony in the valley.

J&K Marching

the common man of J&K UT. It is also a clarion call of the rise of a new J&K that is marching ahead with renewed vigour and strength," he added.

The LG administered the 'Panch Pran' pledge to the people and called for united efforts for realizing the vision of developed India. He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for showing a new path through Panch Pran.

"The goal of developed India, to remove any trace of colonial mindset, take pride in our roots, unity and sense of duty among citizens, these five Pran will guide us in Amrit Kaal," he said.

'Meri Maati Mera Desh', he said, is also a symbol of new resolve, an opportunity for collective reflection and new resolution for team J&K.

"We will have to dedicate every moment of our lives to nation building and I am confident that the campaign will create new strength and new confidence in the development journey of J&K UT," Sinha added.

He also planted a sapling of Picea smithiana (Himalayan Spruce) to mark the occasion.

Honours Women

in nation building.
"Empowerment of women is pivotal for the empowerment of J&K UT. In the last few years, the J & K Administration has given priority to women empowerment based on the principles of equality, equal rights and equal opportunities as enshrined in the Constitution," the LG said.

He highlighted several schemes and programmes being implemented in J&K, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are intended for holistic empowerment of women and realizing their full potential.

"We have taken several steps through Schemes of NRLM, Mission Youth, JKIPO, Industry & Commerce for the speedy economic empowerment of women in urban and rural areas," Sinha said.

"In academics, our daughters are scripting new history and charting a new future with new confidence and a sense of self-esteem," he added.

On the occasion, Women Achievers were felicitated by the Lt Governor for their extraordinary contribution in diverse fields like Education, Law, Entrepreneurship, Social Work, Health, Literary, Sports, and Journalism.

Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, GOC 15 Corps; Maj Gen Mohit Seth, GOC Kilo Force, senior officers from Army, eminent personalities from diverse fields and family members of women achievers were present.

Border Situation

have joined the units and the feedback on them from the field units has been encouraging.

To a question on increasing global focus on the maritime domain while both Russia-Ukraine war and Hamas-Israel conflict have the dimension of land, Gen Pande said land warfare will remain crucial in the Indian context.

Though he chose not to make specific reference, it was clear the Army Chief was indicating the border issue with China.

"I mentioned about the lessons we drew from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. And if I can delve on one of the key lessons -- I think land will continue to be a key domain of warfare, especially in cases where you have contested borders just as in our case," he said.

Family of Al Jazeera journalist killed in Gaza strike

AGENCIES

wAl Jazeera said the wife and two children of its Arabic-language channel's Gaza correspondent Wael Al-Dahdoh were killed in a strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

"The Al Jazeera Media Network extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to our colleague Wael Al-Dahdoh on the loss of his family in an Israeli airstrike," it said.

"The indiscriminate assault by the Israeli occupation forces resulted in the tragic loss of his wife, son and daughter, while the rest of his family is buried under the rubble."

Israel launched

withering strikes on the narrow Palestinian territory in response to a massive cross-border attacks by Hamas fighter on October 7 that Israeli officials say have killed more than 1,400 people. More than 220 people were taken hostage and are currently held in Gaza, Israel says.

Israel's retaliatory strikes have killed more than 6,500 people in Gaza, a rise of more than 700 since Tuesday, according to the health ministry.

In images and footage run by Al Jazeera and shared on social media, Al-Dahdoh was shown mourning over the bodies of his wife and children at a hospital in Deir el-Balah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Al Jazeera said the family

were staying in a temporary home after evacuating Gaza City following Israel's warning for residents to move south as its forces intensified strikes targeting Hamas.

"This is the safe zone the occupation (Israeli) army was talking about," Al-Dahdoh said on Al Jazeera.

The media organisation said "their home was targeted in the Nuseirat camp in the centre of Gaza, where they had sought refuge after being displaced by the initial bombardment in their neighbourhood".

"Al Jazeera is deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of our colleagues in Gaza and hold the Israeli authorities responsible for their security," it added.

KL Saigal Award.

Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Bharat Singh Manhas, Secretary JKAACL; Rakesh Roshan Bhat, Festival Director, TIFFS, prominent artists and film personalities were present.

BJP Takes Out

26 is a very important day for Jammu and Kashmir as well as India. It is being celebrated with enthusiasm across Jammu and Kashmir. "Tiranga rallies are being taken out everywhere in J-K. It is as important for us as August 15 and January 26," he said.

He said that some parts of Jammu and Kashmir are still under the illegal occupation of Pakistan and China and the day is not far when "we will hoist the tricolour there as well".

"PoK areas are ours. The people of that area are ours. They are citizens of J-K. They are citizens of India. They are under occupation. They will shun chains of bondage of Pakistan and will be liberated today or tomorrow. They will celebrate this day and freedom of India with us," he said.

J&K Witnessing

He said that tourism is the backbone of J&K's economy which contributes almost 7.2 per cent of GSDP while over 22 lakh are affiliated with this sector directly and indirectly.

"Efforts are on to make the tourism sector a grand success this year. This year, the winter will be cold but the warm hearts of people are ready to welcome tourists who wish to spend some time in Kashmir," he said.

The Tourism Secretary said that he took a detailed review of the winter arrangements in Gulmarg recently and the place is set to host a large number of tourists.

About the Kailash Yatra, he said J&K despite having just one percent of the country's population has taken a lead and all programs under the banner of Azadi Ka Mahaoutsav--(KNO)

Jawahar Tunnel

of the recent inauguration of the Banihal-Qazigund Nayvug tunnel, which restricts the passage of fuel-laden tankers, trucks carrying gas cylinders, and other explosive materials. These vehicles, along with local traffic from nearby villages, still rely on the Jawahar Tunnel for their transportation needs.

The official said that a new company is soon expected to take charge of the renovation and repair process. The authorities aim to enhance safety measures, implement advanced surveillance systems, and improve overall mobility within the tunnel, he said.

The previous major renovation of the Jawahar Tunnel took place in 1997. However, the advent of the Nayvug tunnel and the evolving tourism landscape have necessitated modernisation efforts, focusing not only on safety and infrastructure but also on transforming the tunnel into an appealing destination for tourists--(KNO)

Mehbooba Re-Elected

held simultaneously in Jammu, which was connected to the Srinagar office of the party via a video link.

KCCI, HBOA

appropriate redressal of their demands and issues on merit.

Man Killed

son of Abdul Majeed Dar and Saleem Ahmad Dar all residents of Gundroshan Narayan Bagh Ganderbal, were shifted to JVC Srinagar, where Saleem Ahmad Dar was declared as brought dead on arrival.

Confirming it, a police official said that an FIR number 174/2023 under section 279, 337 IPC has been registered in this regard for further investigations.

House Collapse

hospital, three others, including his wife, have been hospitalised, officials added.

Pak, India Troops

befittingly retaliated by BSF troops," the BSF said.

This comes a week after two BSF personnel were injured after the Rangers "resorted to unprovoked firing" in the Arnia sector around the same time on October 17.

There have been more than a dozen such ceasefire violations after India and Pakistan signed an agreement on February 25, 2021, to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

Newly-Wed SPO Goes Missing, Police Seek Public Help

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A special police officer (SPO) has gone missing from his home in the Duroo area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Tahir Ahmed Dar, 25, as per his family, went missing from his home. Tahir, who worked as a CCTNS operator at Police Station Sopore and was recently married.

"He left his home yesterday morning, saying he was going to visit a doctor. However, he has not returned. We are very much worried," Tahir's brother, Amir said.

We have filed a missing report at Police Post Warpora, which falls under the jurisdiction of Police Station Sopore, he said.

A senior police officer confirmed the incident, saying that Tahir, who was on leave,

has been struggling with depression recently, a factor that could be among the reasons for his disappearance. "Efforts have been initiated to locate him and ensure his safety," he said.

A statement from the police informed that they received an application from Muhammad Akbar Dar, Tahir's father, stating that his son went to the hospital for medical treatment and did not return. A missing report has been filed at Police Post Warpora, and the authorities have urged the general public to assist in any way possible.

The statement reads, "The general public is requested that if anybody has any information, they may kindly inform Sopore Police at 7006900942, 9596773010, 9596773004, and 9596773024."—(KNO)

10 Child Labourers Rescued In Sumbal

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As many as 10 child labourers were rescued in the Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district by a team of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Bandipora, Mission Vatsalya, and the police, officials said Thursday.

The children were rescued during the drive conducted under the supervision of the Chairperson CWC, Bandipora Dr Asima Hassan along with members of the Committee Hashim and Shahnaz in Sumbal areas on Wednesday, they said.

10 children, who were working as labourers in various shops were found and rescued by the CWC Bandipora.

"During the drive against child labour, raids were carried out at workshops, restaurants and other places and ten children who had been engaged as child labourers were rescued. During the drive, on-spot counselling was done to the children," Dr Asima said, adding during the drive, owners of these workshops and restaurants were asked to produce

themselves before the committee.

She said that CWC Bandipora has started a campaign against child labour in the district which will continue in coming days and months.

The drive was executed on the directions of District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Bandipora, Mission Vatsalya, Hidayatulla Mir.

"Child labour deprives children of their right to go to school and reinforces inter-generational cycles of poverty. Child labour is a major barrier to education, affecting attendance and performance in school. Our main motive is to address this issue and rescue the children on time, said Dr Asima.

Children are forced to work in restaurants, shops and factories to support their families who are stricken by poverty and other tragedies of life.

"We will ensure that no children in the district is engaged as child labour and those found engaging them will be dealt strictly as per the law," she asserted.(KNS)

BJP Govt's Failure On Security Front Led To Revival Of Militancy: Wani

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president Vikar Rasool Wani on Thursday expressed grave concern over the revival of militancy in the union territory, especially in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, and flayed the BJP government for its "failure" on the security front.

Addressing a meeting of district-level party workers in Poonch, he also accused the Centre of failing to address issues concerning people, including joblessness and lack of development.

"The revival of militancy in Rajouri, Poonch and other border districts is a matter of grave concern. The BJP government has failed on the security front, which resulted in the revival of militancy," he said.

He alleged that the BJP's politics was divisive and based on hate and division.

He said the Congress will defeat the designs of BJP-RSS which are hell bent upon dividing people on religious and regional lines.

"The BJP government, instead of focusing on development and protection of people, especially in border areas, is out to mislead people," he said.

"...the Centre's failure on the security front has led to the militancy revival, which is a matter of grave concern and should work as an eye-opener for BJP leaders who are only making tall claims and praising the Modi government for nothing," he said.

Wani said the Congress will make every possible effort to ensure the people have a dignified life.

Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign Culminates In Budgam

DC Flags Off Amrit Kalash Yatra For SKICC Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign held under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations culminated on Thursday in Budgam.

On the concluding ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), Budgam, Akshay Labroo flagged off an Amrit Kalash Yatra with representatives from all blocks and municipal committees of the district towards SKICC Srinagar, where from they will move towards national capital Delhi to participate in creation of "Amrit Vatika" near the National War Memorial.

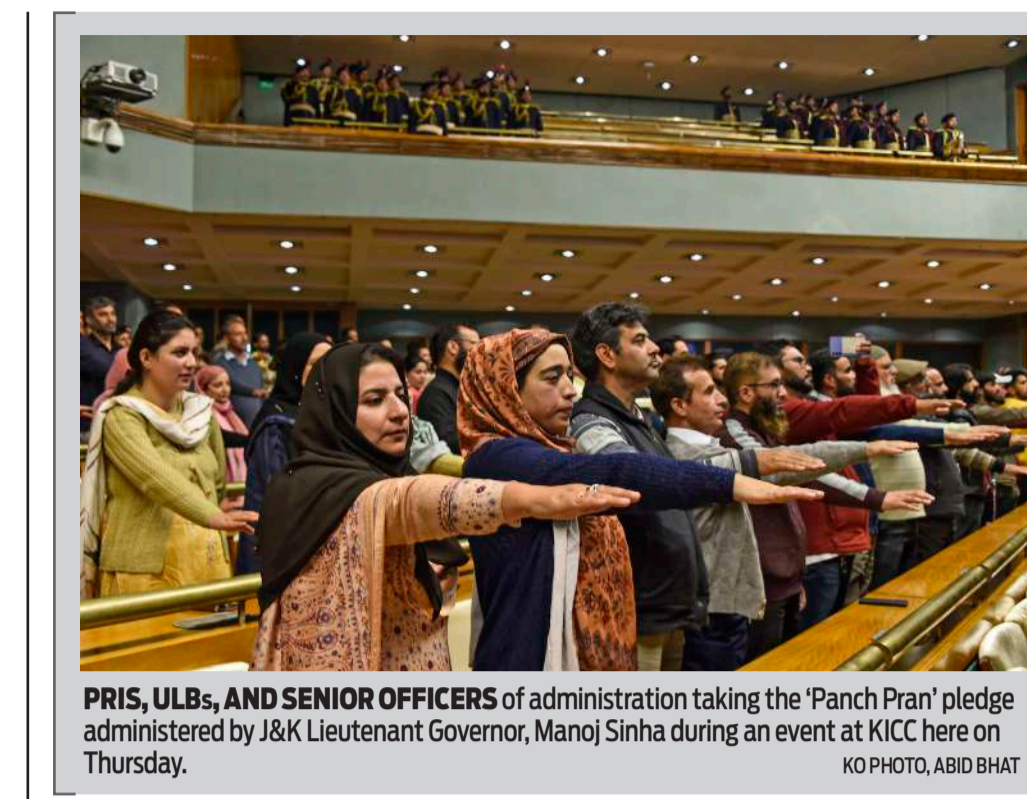
Speaking on the occasion, the DC paid rich tributes to the veers of the nation and highlighted the importance of remembering them for their



selfless services and sacrifices for the nation.

While paying glowing tributes to the martyrs, he emphasised on taking their mission ahead with utmost dedication and honesty.

While honouring the selfless services being made by the jawans of army, police and other paramilitary forces, the DC appealed to officials of all



PRIS, ULBs, AND SENIOR OFFICERS of administration taking the 'Panch Pran' pledge administered by J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha during an event at KICC here on Thursday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Enrolment Count In Govt Schools Shows 19% Dip

'Schools With Less Enrolment To Be Merged As Per Catchment Area Facility'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Owing to the 'zero or low enrolment of students in government schools, the count of overall public schools in Jammu and Kashmir have reduced by nearly 19 percent'.

"We had some government schools wherein the student enrolment was very low or even some with less than five. We had merged them with the nearby government schools," top officials of the department told a local news agency KNO.

It is also said that such schools were being reflected on UDISE as separate schools. "Earlier we used to have 23,117 government schools as per UDISE but in the

updated database, we have only 18,820 schools."

"We had nearly 4300 government schools wherein the student enrollment was less than five or zero," the official said, adding that as of now there was no such government school with zero enrolment.

"In past couple of months we have been in touch with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and those schools with inadequate or zero enrolment of students has been deleted from the UDISE data," the official said.

He said those schools which had less than five students enrolment do not exist on UDISE data and they were already merged and functional from

one school complex but were being shown as separate entities on UDISE. "So we dropped them from the data."

Pertinently, the School Education Department in the previous year had said that it had identified more than 1200 such government schools that were having low enrolment of students.

It had said that such schools would likely be merged in accordance to the catchment and feasibility of the students.

In April-2022, the School Education Department had said that it was all set to merge 720 government-run-schools of Jammu and Kashmir having an inadequate student enrolment—(KNO)

Bidhuri Reviews Preps For UT Foundation Day Celebrations

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Thursday convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners and HoDs to frame the plan to organise mega colorful activities to highlight the transition, transformation, development and achievements of last four years of UT of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion celebration of UT Foundation Day/ Ekta Diwas.

The activities shall showcase the hue of transformation of Kashmir Division through art exhibitions, paintings, debates, Run for Unity, selfies with developed projects, heritage sites besides the achievements by individual departments.

The Divisional Commissioner on the occasion directed Director Colleges and Director Schools to ensure uploading of selfies by students and staff on the portal and sites.

To mark the Foundation Day, Director College will organize a mega event at Amar Singh College while Director School Education will organize a grand function at SP Higher



Secondary School, Srinagar.

Both Directors revealed that Painting Competitions, Quiz Sessions, lectures besides cultural parades and programme shall be organized during the event.

While finalizing the route for "Run for Unity", Div Com directed the Secretary Sports Council to ensure participants do not face any hardship.

Besides, Div Com also directed for installation of stalls to showcase the products of artisans and Self Help Groups of NRML at Kashmir Haat.

He also instructed for open exhibitions of art and paints at Zero Bridge, so that people at large may also participate.

He was appointed for conducting plantation drives by all the departments involving of-

cers, public representatives, students, and the general public.

While addressing the meeting, Div Com emphasized on DCs to upload the selfies of PRI representatives with the development works completed during the last four years.

He asked them to organise charity camps, blood donation camps and other campaigns like Swachta Hi Sewa Hai and Nasha Mukhat Bharat programmes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Secretary Tourism, Syed Abid Rashid; Deputy Commissioners, Secretary Sports Council; Directors of Health Services Kashmir, Colleges, School Education, H&H, RDD, Horticulture, Agriculture, SP Headquarter Srinagar and officers of AACL, Youth Services & Sports.

District Hospital Kishtwar Ranks 2nd Among Top Performing District Hospitals In J&K

Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: District Hospital Kishtwar has achieved a significant milestone by securing the second position among the top five performing District Hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, according to the ranking of the facilities and best-performing districts released by the National Health Mission J&K.

In the remarkable feat reflecting the determination and teamwork, the District Hospital Kishtwar has swiftly climbed from the 19th position to an impressive 2nd position. This achievement stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment and dedication of the hospital's staff and medics, alongside the Health Department Kishtwar.

Their relentless efforts have

not only transformed healthcare in the region but have also demonstrated the potential for substantial progress in a short span of time. The remarkable rise of the hospital underscores the vital role that hard work and dedication play in improving the healthcare infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Kishtwar, Dr. Yudveer Singh, while expressing his gratitude and highlighting the collaborative efforts of the Health Department and district administration.

These efforts have led to different initiatives aimed at enhancing and upgrading health facilities in the district hospital including QR code-based OPD registration services, launched in the hospital for the ease of patients.



Saffron Growers Expect Bumper Crop Due To Timely Rains

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Saffron growers in the Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district are anticipating a bumper crop this year, saying timely rains have brought a sense of optimism to the agricultural community.

The growers expressed their initial concerns about a reduced crop due to an extended dry spell. However, recent rains have rejuvenated their hopes, they said.

Abdul Majeed Wani, Chairman of the Saffron Growers Association Kashmir, explained: "Traditionally, saffron blooms are seen around October 20. However, this year, due to the rains and a sudden drop in temperature, the bloom has been delayed, and growers are now anticipating the vibrant saffron flowers to grace their fields from the first week of November."

Wani highlighted the critical need for rain, especially in saffron lands lacking irrigation facilities. "This timely rain

is instrumental in aiding the growth of saffron crops, potentially leading to a bumper harvest, for which the growers have eagerly awaited since 2014," he said.

He also pointed out the importance of proper drainage facilities in fields to prevent damage to the crop during incessant rains.

Reflecting on the challenges faced by saffron growers, Majeed acknowledged that the absence of functional water pumps, part of the National Saffron Mission, has hindered irrigation efforts during dry spells. However, he remained optimistic, saying that the government's recent initiatives to promote saffron cultivation would yield positive results soon.

Growers also praised the impact of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag on Kashmiri saffron. This recognition in both international and domestic markets has bolstered the crop's value, contributing to increased market rates, they said—(KNO)

BMO Visits PHC Lamberi, Finds All Employee Absent

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The health department on Thursday ordered withholding salaries of the employees of primary health centre (PHC) Lamberi in Rajouri district after they were found absent from duties.

According to reports, Block Medical officer (BMO) Nowhera Rajouri on Thursday visited PHC Lamberi and found all employees unauthorisedly absent following which he ordered for keeping salaries of employees withheld.

In a notice issued later, the BMO said that he paid a surprise visit in Primary Health Centre Lamberi (24x7) on October 26 and found the employees absent from duties with their whereabouts not known to his office.

"With the result, undersigned has facing lot of difficulties about management of patient health care services and other activities and you are well aware that government provides extra 2 days salary to non-gazetted staffs of Health & Medical Education Department who performs additional duties on Sunday and Holidays in various Health & Medical Insti-

tutions," he said.

He also referred to the recent order issued by Director Health Services stating that the employees have to perform their duties on holidays as per roster duties with certification of the DDO.

"Unfortunately, it is disheartening to say that you have not performing legitimate duties on Sunday and Gazetted Holidays, it is clear that all health institution shall remain operation for half a day, from 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM, on holidays, but this is not being done," he said.

The BMO further said that the higher authorities are continuously issued necessary directions to implement Target Deliverable Services for next 10 days which have already been started from October 25 under Ayushman Bharat Campaign (Ayushman Bhava Cards Distribution, ABHA ID, Vaccination, Junk Free Hospitals, Cleanliness, Anaemia Mukta, TB Mukta, NCD Screening, Dental Check-up, Eye Screening, Screening of School Children, awareness about flagship programmes/schemes etc.).

"But you have failed to comply the orders of higher authorities as well as this office," the notice adds.

JKESL Demands Elevation Of Brigadier Rajinder Singh's MVC Honours To PVC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Ex-Service League (JKESL) on Thursday pushed for the elevation of Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) bestowed on Brigadier Rajinder Singh to a Param Vir Chakra (PVC) and designating his annual commemoration as an "official" event.

The JKESL also strongly urged for the establishment of a memorial honouring the former Dogra maharajas and valiant warriors in Jammu, advocating

for their inclusion in the region's history textbooks.

The Jammu and Kashmir government and the army paid tributes to Brigadier Rajinder Singh on his 76th martyrdom day.

"We have submitted a resolution to the administration, urging the official recognition of this event. We have discussed this with the Divisional Commissioner, who assured us that the resolution will be acted upon," JKESL President Lieutenant General R K Sharma said addressing the function here.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the following particular in my passport bearing No. L5700604 wherein the name and parentage were inadvertently written as Mohamad Aslam Haroon S/o Ali Mohamad Haroon instead of Mohammad Aslam Haroon S/o Late Ali Mohammad Haroon and mother's name also written as Noorie instead of Noora, and spouse name Hadiya instead of Jozia R/o H. NO 303 Sector B Usmanabad Bemina, Srinagar Jammu and Kashmir, India PIN: 190018 as per my Aadhar Card. In this regard if anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with Passport Officer Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

Pakistan In A 'Do-Or-Die' Battle Vs South Africa

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: His captaincy on line after a hat-trick of defeats, Babar Azam will be keen to find some inspiration and that exclusive piece of Pakistani magic when his team squares off against a formidable South Africa in a do-or-die game of the World Cup here on Friday.

One more defeat and knock-out doors will be shut on Pakistan and Babar, who is already feeling the heat, might end up losing captaincy as it will be virtually impossible for his team to salvage the campaign in remaining three games even if it wins those.

From here on, Pakistan needs to win all its matches and expect Australia to falter in at least two of their remaining four games.

There's a saying in world cricket that one doesn't know which Pakistani team will turn up on a particular day. There could



be a genius at work one day and on other days, they could even embarrass themselves leave alone their legion of fans.

A gutsy Pakistan team is always necessary for a global tournament like World Cup and Babar would expect that against a rampaging South Africans, it would produce a world class performance.

The gulf in performance between two teams has been huge de-

spite the Proteas' shock defeat against the Netherlands at Dharamsala.

Quinton de Kock and Heinrich Klaasen have headlined the batting with timely contributions from others like Aiden Markram while Pakistan's archaic batting approach has left them in dire straits at the halfway of the league stage.

The difference in approach is evident when one looks at the bound-

ary count of the two sides. South African batters have hit 155 fours and 59 sixes while Pakistan managed only 24 sixes in five games and 136 boundaries.

An embarrassing statistic is Pakistan batters hitting a six in Power-play after consumption of 1200 deliveries across games in first six overs.

In head-to-head record, Proteas enjoy a 51-30 in 82 clashes.

Defending Champions England Near Elimination After Sri Lanka Defeat



Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: England's reign as the 50-over World Cup champion sunk into serious jeopardy as resolute fifties by Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama along with a set of on-the-money bowlers spurred tenacious Sri Lanka to an eight-wicket victory here on Thursday.

England, opting to bat first, suffered a baffling batting implosion and were bundled out for a paltry 156, courtesy the five wickets shared among themselves by comeback man Angelo Mathews (2/14) and impressive Lahiru Kumara (3/35).

Despite losing a couple of early wickets, Sri Lanka confidently finished their chase as Nissanka (77 off 83 balls) and Samarawickrama (65 off 54 balls) led the process with an unbroken 137-run stand for the third wicket.

With just two points from five matches, England retain a mere theoretical chance to make it to the semifinals, while the Islanders, who now have four points, can eye a few stronger outings in the remaining four matches.

England might have hoped for a miracle when they dismissed opener Kusal Perera and Lankan captain

Kusal Mendis through left-arm pacer David Willey to reduce their opponents to 23 for 2.

But Nissanka and Samarawickrama, two of SL's best ODI batters this year, combined to produce a solid partnership to ease Lanka's nerves.

England lacked determination on the day. It was just a matter of a couple of batsmen sticking out in the middle for the Three Lions to reach a far better and competitive total.

But none barring Ben Stokes (43) and Dawid Malan (28) did not even remotely attempt to bat with purpose for a team that was playing in a must-win match.

PM Modi Inaugurates 37th National School Games

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 37th National Games at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Thursday. The games will be held from 26th October to 9th November and will witness the participation of more than 10,000 athletes from across the country who will compete in over 43 sports disciplines across 28 venues.

Addressing the gathering,



the Prime Minister remarked that the journey of Mahakumbh of Indian Sports has arrived in Goa and the environment is filled with colors, waves, enthusiasm and adventure. "There's nothing like the aura of Goa," PM Modi said. He congratulated the people of Goa and conveyed his best wishes on the 37th National Games.

The Prime Minister underlined the contribution of Goa to the country's sports and mentioned Goa's love for football. The fact that the

National Games are taking place in sports-loving Goa is energizing in itself, he added.

Prime Minister Modi underlined that the National Games are taking place at a time when the nation is achieving new heights in the world of sports. He mentioned the successes in the Asian Games breaking a 70-year-old record and also spoke about the on-going Asian Para Games where all previous re-

ords have been smashed with a medal tally of more than 70. He also mentioned the recently concluded World University Games, where India created history.

Governor of Goa, P. S. Sreedharan Pillai, Chief Minister of Goa, Pramod Savant, Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Anurag Singh Thakur and President of Indian Olympic Association, Dr P T Usha, among others were present on the occasion.

AG's Office Rout Jhelum FC 5-0 In Srinagar Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the lone Round 18 match of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League on Thursday, AG's Office XI took on Jhelum FC at Bakshi Stadium here.

The game got off to a tough start for the departmental team led by midfield stalwart Shah Nawaz Bashir, as AG's Office failed to get the better off their lower ranked opponent in the first half. However, the team bounced back in style in the second half.

Adil opened the scoring for AG's Office in the 53rd minute, before Waseem made it 2-0 in 58th. Waseem got his second in 61st minute and his hat trick in the 77th minute. Amanjot scored the other goal of the game in 66th minute, as AG's Office XI romped to a 5-0 win over Jhelum FC.

The Srinagar Premier League is organised by DFA Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Football Association and J&K Sports Council.



PROBABLES FOR J&K SENIOR WOMEN'S FOOTBALL team pose for a group photograph during Thursday's final selection trials at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar. The team will compete in the upcoming National Championship.

Image via JKFA

Laxman Likely To Lead India In Australia T20Is Post WC

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: National Cricket Academy head VVS Laxman could be in-charge of the Indian team for the five-match T20 International series against Australia, which will start within a week after the conclusion of the ODI World Cup.

Head coach Rahul Dravid's contract will run its course at the end of the World Cup and obviously the BCCI has the option of requesting the former India captain to reapply as the board will have to reinstate applications for the post following the norm.

It will be interesting to see if 51-year-old Dravid wants to continue as head coach of the national team, which involves extensive travelling and constant pressure. There is a possibility that Dravid, who has previously coached IPL teams like Delhi Capitals and Rajasthan Royals, might return to the T20 league fold which has 10 teams.

But it is highly likely that Dravid, as well as the entire squad save Suryakumar Yadav, will be given much-needed rest after a gruelling campaign in which they had to travel more than 10,000 kms across the country.

Most of the members in the T20 squad for the Australia series will comprise of players, who were part of the T20 series in the West Indies, Ireland and the Asian Games as the big boys like Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul and Jasprit Bumrah will be given a break to freshen up for the big ticket series against South Africa where India play three T20Is, as many ODIs and two Tests.

The five-match T20 series against Australia will begin in Visakhapatnam on November 23.



Celtic Fans Defy Club To Fly Palestine Flags In Champions League Match

Agencies

GLASGOW: Fans of Scotland's Celtic Football Club have defied their club's directives and waved thousands of Palestine flags during their team's UEFA Champions League match against Atletico Madrid.

The Scottish Premiership champions hosted the Spanish club for their group-stage match at Glasgow's Celtic Park on Wednesday.

Hours ahead of the match, the club issued a statement saying both teams' players and coaching staff would wear black armbands "as a show of respect and support for all those affected by the conflict [between Israel and Palestine]," but told fans to refrain from displaying their support in the stands.

"We ask that banners, flags and symbols relating to the conflict and those countries involved in it are not displayed at Celtic Park at this time," the club said in its statement.

However, fans paid no heed to the directives and held up thousands of Palestine flags ahead of



kickoff and continued to wave them during the match.

Fans at the North Curve section of the stadium prepared a tifo - a choreographed display - of the Palestine flag and unfurled large flags behind the home team's goal during the first half of the match.

Several thousand fans in other parts of the stadium held up a

sea of smaller flags as they sang along to the famous football anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" and shouted slogans in support of Palestine before the match got under way.

The Green Brigade, an ultras group of hardcore Celtic fans, had encouraged supporters to defy the club's statement and continue

their display of solidarity with the Palestinians.

Celtic have banned the group from attending their team's away matches until further notice after their "unsafe and unacceptable behaviour" at recent matches away to Motherwell and Feyenoord.

The group said hundreds of fans were suspended from at-

tending away matches "due to an association with the Green Brigade; despite receiving no correspondence, no allegations, nor any detail regarding any investigatory process".

"Despite disingenuous claims, we have absolutely no doubt that these sanctions are motivated by a desire to quash political expression within the Celtic support, specifically in relation to Palestine at this time," the group said in its statement on Tuesday.

"In spite of this, and any further obstruction, we once again encourage fans to courageously fly the flag for Palestine."

Celtic were handed a fine by UEFA over their fans' use of flares during their match at Feyenoord last month and could face another fine over last night's display of solidarity with Palestine.

Earlier this month, Celtic's board distanced itself from the group after they displayed banners saying "Free Palestine" and "Victory to the resistance!!" during the Scottish Premiership match against Kilmarnock in Glasgow on October 7.

France Bans Footballer For 7 Games For Gaza Post

Agencies

NICE: The French soccer league suspended Nice defender Youcef Atal for seven matches on Wednesday after he shared an antisemitic message on social media.

Nice had already suspended Atal last week until further notice and said that he apologized for his actions. After the matter was reviewed by the French soccer federation's ethics committee, the French league's disciplinary commission suspended Atal.

Atal's suspension comes after the Nice public prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation targeting Atal on charges "of defending terrorism" for sharing the message online. The prosecutor's office said Atal is also being investigated for "public incitement to hatred or violence because of a particular religion."

The 27-year-old Atal, who also plays for Algeria's national team, apologized after reportedly reposting and then deleting a video in which a Palestinian preacher made an antisemitic statement.

Writing on Instagram, Atal said he understood that his post was shocking to some people and said he condemns all forms of violence, "no matter where in the world." (AP)