

Possible Outbreak Of Mumps Virus Worries Doctors In Kashmir

Health Experts Say Symptoms Of Covid-19, Mumps Alike; Urge Masses To Stay Alert

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Mumps, a highly contagious and painful viral infection caused by Mumps Virus (MuV) is quite common in Kashmir these days, with the majority of patients unaware of what they are actually suffering from.

According to healthcare practitioners, the paramyxovirus, a frequent source of infection conveyed by airborne droplets from the upper

respiratory tract, is the root cause of contagion. Fever, headache, muscular pains, fatigue, and appetite loss, they said, usually appear a few days after the condition begins.

The disease, the doctors said, is serious and can take the symptoms including parotid or salivary gland discomfort, trouble chewing, neck ache, testicular pain and

tenderness, fever, headache, muscular pains, and fatigue two to three weeks to manifest after contracting the virus.

"Mumps may spread easily

when an infected person sneezes, coughs, speaks, or laughs. The virus spreads by microscopic droplets of fluid.

It can also spread through contact with items people use, such as straws, drinking glasses, and soiled tissues," Dr. Nisar-ul-Hassan, renowned influenza expert told Kashmir Observer.

"Mumps is contagious. If people don't wash their hands, whatever they touch might potentially

6 THESE SYMPTOMS ARE FOLLOWED BY PAINFUL SWELLING OF THE PAROTID GLANDS, called parotitis, which are the most common symptoms of the Mumps. Symptoms typically occur after two weeks of exposure to the virus and resolve within two weeks."

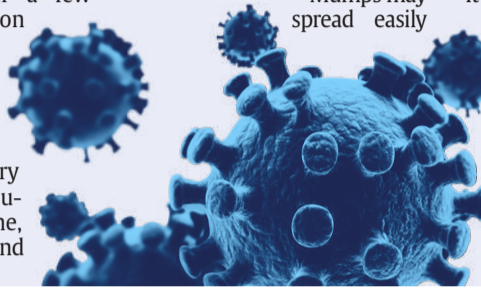
transfer the virus to others," he added.

Mumps, Dr Nisar said is the virus that spreads by direct contact with saliva or respiratory droplets of an infected individual and replicates in the

upper respiratory tract.

He went on to say that the likelihood of someone getting the mumps increases with the length and proximity of their interaction with an infected individual.

"There is a [More on P10](#)



SIA Raids Multiple Spots In J&K, Delhi

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) on Wednesday raided multiple locations in the union territory and Delhi in connection with a terror funding case, the agency said.

"Continuing with its endeavour to dismantle terror support systems in J&K, the SIA Kashmir conducted searches at houses and offices at 22 locations in J&K and Delhi," the investigating agency said.

These locations include 18 in Srinagar, one each in Anantnag and Pulwama, and two in Delhi.

"The pre-dawn searches were carried out simultaneously by special teams of the SIA. During the search operation, incriminating material in the shape of bank documents, cash books, credit cards, debit cards, cheque books, invoices, mobile phones, SIM cards and passports etc., was seized, which will be analysed for further investigation," the SIA said.

The case pertains to illegal raising, layering and laundering of proceeds of crime by the accused persons. These proceeds of crime might subsequently have been used [More on P10](#)

Myanmar National Detained During Raids

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday detained a Rohingya Muslim from Myanmar during its raids at multiple locations in Jammu and Kashmir's Jammu and Samba districts, an official said.

The raids were restricted to slums housing Myanmar immigrants and were conducted in connection with a case related to violation of the Passports Act and human [More on P10](#)

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED Gets 7-Day Custody Of Lal Singh



6 I WAS PRESENT IN THE EMERGENCY WARD OF THE HOSPITAL but was denied proper medical treatment and even my admit file was not prepared and several tests not done. They have compelled the doctors to say that it is me who refused to take a CT scan."

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A court here on Wednesday remanded former Jammu and Kashmir minister Lal Singh in seven-day custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), a day after the agency arrested him in a money laundering case.

Singh, the chairman of the Dogra Swabhimani Sangathan Party (DSSP), was arrested from a house in Chawadi area of Sainik Colony here on Tuesday evening within hours after a special court dismissed his anticipatory bail application.

Singh was under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra. Special public prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria said the arrested accused was produced before the special court which granted the ED his seven-day remand instead of 14 days sought by the agency.

The special judge took note of the complaint of physical discomfort made by the accused and asked for his proper medical checkup. Khajuria told PTI, quoting the order.

Officials said Singh was shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in the early hours of the day after he complained of uneasiness.

He was discharged from the hospital around 3 pm and straightway taken to the court.

However, Singh alleged that though he was taken to the hospital but was not given proper medical aid.

"I was present in the emergency ward of the hospital but was denied proper medical treatment and even my admit file was not prepared and several tests not done. They have compelled the doctors to say that it is me who refused to take a CT scan," he told reporters while being escorted to the court.

Scores of his supporters had assembled outside the hospital and chanted slogans against the BJP, claiming that their leader was being framed in a baseless case ahead of the Lok Sabha elections next year.

Singh, a two-time MP and three-time MLA, switched from the Congress to the BJP in 2014 and was also a minister in the previous PDP-BJP government which collapsed in June 2018 after the national party pulled out of the alliance.

Several months before the fall of the government, Singh resigned from the BJP and floated the DSSP, following an uproar over his participation in a rally in support of the accused in the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua in January 2018.

However, he defended his participation in the rally stating that he was there to "defuse the situation".

Last month, the Enforcement Directorate had conducted searches in Jammu and its adjoining areas as part of the money laundering probe against the educational trust of Andotra and a former government official in connection [More on P10](#)

Committed To Create Vibrant Start-Up Ecosystem In J&K: LG

"Ready To Provide Access To Capital And Other Resources, Fostering Innovation And Entrepreneurship, And Networking Opportunities With Other Start-Ups And Investors"

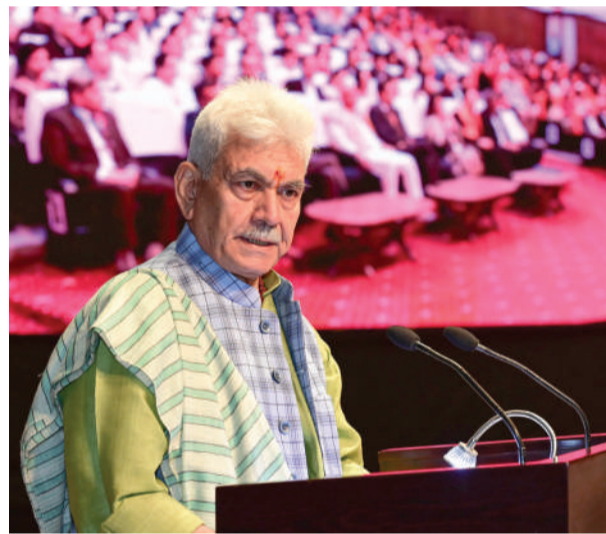
Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reiterated that the administration is committed to creating a start-up ecosystem and ready to provide access to capital and other resources to start-ups and investors.

LG inaugurated 'Igniter' start-up festival of J&K organised by Jammu University in collaboration with J&K start-up association, Tourism department, J&K Bank and J&K Rural Livelihood Mission.

The mega event has brought together various stakeholders and investors on one platform.

"I strongly believe start-ups reflect the force shaping the economy in the networked age. University and college campuses are known as a liquid platform of ideas and the best we can do is to create an environment so



that great ideas can be realized", Sinha said while addressing the function here.

LG said that the administration is committed to creating a start-up ecosystem and is ready to provide access to capital and other

resources, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, and networking opportunities with other start-ups and investors.

"For an ideal entrepreneurial climate, it is important to provide facilities like

cross-campus collaboration, dedicated work space, mentorship programs, industry collaboration & vehicles for innovation", he said.

He said that such an enabling environment and challenges will ignite new innovations and solutions.

"A great idea will always survive in the long run, if the entrepreneur takes into account the changes happening in the world in terms of market, customer preference, technology and timely execution of business plan", he said adding that competition for ideas and execution must start from the campus.

LG said that by unleashing the creativity of the students and budding entrepreneurs, we will be able to ensure high growth rate and direct benefits for Jammu Kashmir and the nation in terms of knowledge products and Intellectual property.

DGP Calls For More Efforts To Uproot Terrorism From J&K

Chairs Joint Security Meeting With Army, CRPF In Shopian And Pulwama



Observer News Service

Jammu: Maintaining that peaceful atmosphere in the Jammu & Kashmir has been achieved after a lot of hard work and sacrifices by police and security forces, the newly

appointed Director General of Police, R R Swain on Tuesday called for more efforts to totally uproot terrorism from the Union Territory.

Swain, who assumed charge as DGP last week, made these remarks [More on P10](#)

6 WORK WITH PROFESSIONALISM, sincerity and in a dedicated manner for the safety & security of all the people"

Bribe Case Linked To Tulip Garden HC Dismisses SHO's Plea Seeking Quashing Of FIR

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has rejected a plea by a former Station House Officer of police, seeking quashing of an FIR registered against him last year in connection with allegations of taking bribe from a ticketing contractor at Tulip Garden here.

The contractor, according to the government, had filed a complaint with senior police officer on 26 March last year, alleging therein that the then SHO Inspector Raies Hassan Wani and another official were compelling him to pay illegal gratification to the tune of Rs. 4 to 5 Lacs and also Rs.5000 on daily basis, otherwise threatening him that they would divert the traffic to cause loss to his business. The SHO has been attached to DPL. Considering the urgency and sensitivity of the matter,

the government said, immediate action and cognizance was taken. Subsequently, it said, a memo of cash, which the complainant was going to give to the police officer was prepared and the serial numbers of currency notes were noted down in presence of two witnesses. Accordingly, it said, a complainant was advised to proceed

to the spot where the accused had called him to meet near Tulip Garden. The "another police official" after receiving alleged illegal gratification from the complainant, threw it into police vehicle which was parked near place of occurrence.

Accordingly the FIR (no.15/2022) came to be registered and investigation was set into motion. The government said that during course of investigation, Rs.50,000 was seized.

Wani's counsel contended that the FIR was based on false and frivolous [More on P10](#)



SHORT TALKS

Misfire Injures Man In Kathua

A 40-year-old man was injured after his country-made gun "accidentally" went off in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, a police official said on Wednesday. The man identified as Gori Shanker suffered bullet injury from his own licensed gun inside his house in Sitti-Bani village on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, he added. The official said Shanker, who suffered an injury to his chest, was taken to a hospital and later referred to the [More on P10](#)

DG BSF Reviews LoC Situation

Director General Border Security Forces Nitin Agrawal on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness of the force deployed at the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, officials said. "Nitin Agrawal visited forward areas of Bandipore and reviewed the operational preparedness of units deployed at LoC," the BSF said in a post on X. The DG interacted with the troops and lauded their [More on P10](#)

Police Attach Terrorist's Shop

Police on Wednesday attached a shop belonging to a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant, who is presently in custody for his alleged involvement in the killing of a circus worker, in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said. The shop named 'The Game Modification Point' was used for terror activities by the accused, Umar Amin Thoker, a resident of Bijbehara's Waghama area, the police said. [More on P10](#)

32 Booked For Rs 15,000 Cr Fraud

The Mumbai police have registered an FIR against 32 people, including the "promoter" of the Mahadev betting app, for allegedly committing a fraud of nearly Rs 15,000 crore, an official said on Wednesday. According to the Matunga police official, the first information report (FIR) was registered on Tuesday against "app promoter Saurabh Chandrakar", and key accused Ravi Uppal and Shubham Soni and others for [More on P10](#)

3 Men Charge Sheeted In Gangrape Case

Police on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against three men accused of kidnapping and raping a girl in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. The charge sheet was filed before the sessions court in Samba against Suresh Kumar alias Babu, Karandeep Singh alias Bunty and another accused, they said. The three allegedly kidnapped the girl and raped her in the Ramgarh area of the district on September 7. Babu and Bunty [More on P10](#)

Woman Drug Peddler Held In Baramulla

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested a notorious drug peddler in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested a notorious & wanted lady drug peddler in Baramulla and recovered contraband substances from her possession", reads a statement issued by police on Wednesday. "Police Station Baniyar received reliable information [More on P10](#)



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Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District Judge At Srinagar. Caveat Petition No.,2023. 1. Manzoor Ahmad Shah S/o Gh. Nabi Shah...

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. جاجلاس: اروندشرا. J&K Bank B/U Punjab And Sind Bannk...

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. جاجلاس: اروندشرا. J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr...

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از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. جاجلاس: اروندشرا. J&K Bank B/U Khayam...

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. جاجلاس: اروندشرا. J&K Bank B/U Botashah Mohalla Lalbazar Sgr...

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر. جاجلاس: اروندشرا. J&K Bank B/U Soura Sgr...

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Zonal Education Officer Mattan

Subject: Engagement/Hiring of Helpers/AAyAs under ECCE in various schools for the year 2023-24.

ADVERTISMENT NOTIFICATION. Applications on the prescribed format are invited from eligible female candidates for participation in the selection process for engagement/hiring of Helpers/AAyAs under Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for the year 2023-24 purely on terminus basis...

Table with 5 columns: S. No., School where AAYAs/Helper Sanctioned, No. of AAYAs/Helpers Sanctioned, S. No., School where AAYAs/Helper Sanctioned, No. of AAYAs/Helpers Sanctioned.

The detailed guidelines/terms and conditions issued by Directorate of Samagra Shiksha J&K vide order No.: 07-OF-CHIRAG - 2023 Dated: 09-01-2023 read with Order No.: 150-CHIRAG OF 2023 Dated: 21-09-2023 with regard to eligibility, educational qualification, domicile, age honorarium etc. are as under:

- 1. SELECTION PROCESS: The Selection of Helper/AAyA shall be restricted to Village/Ward in respect of Rural/Urban area, where approved school is located. 2. NATURE OF DEPLOYMENT: The deployment of a Helper/AAyA shall be purely terminus and shall start from the date, they are engaged/hired and shall conclude with the end of academic session...

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of Death Certificate of my husband who passed away on 08-08-1988 at home as the death of husband has not been registered by the concerned Register of Deaths and Birth...

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate as my DOB has not been registered by the concerned Register of Deaths and Birth so far. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice...

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I am applying for up gradation of my Contractor card from "B" Class to "A" class in this regard. If anybody having any kind of objection may file the same in the office of the Chief Engineer (Civil) Investigation & Design Wing, JKPCDC Bema, Srinagar within the period of seven days from the date of Publication of this notice...

Zaid Bin Jameel S/O Jameel Ahmad Anim R/O Hyderpora Shah Anwar Colony, Srinagar, 190014

Notice

I want to change my name in my Passport bearing Passport no R7683159 from Aman Rafiq to Amaan Rafiq. In future I will be known as Amaan Rafiq. If anybody is having any objection He/She may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Notice

I have changed my name from Arwaa to Arwaa Asif. In future I will be known as Arwaa Asif. If anybody is having any objection He/She may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days after that no objection will be accepted.

From the Office of the advocate Shabir Ahmad Bhat

In the case of :- Farooq Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Ahmad Dar R/o Royal Nagin Lake Hazratbal Srinagar (Caveator) Vs Public At Large (Non-Caveator) In the matter of Caveat Petition in terms of Section 148-A of CPC The Caveator has reasons to believe/apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Appeal, suit or any other type of proceedings before this Hon'ble Court...

Food Safety Department Seals 3 Confectionery Units in Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On a specific tip-off, a team of Food Safety wing of Drugs & Food Control Organization, Kashmir comprising Intelligent Cum Legal Cell and Food Safety Wing Srinagar today conducted surprise inspections of Bemina, Qamarwari and Dalgate area.

During the inspection, the team found two sweets and bakery manufacturing units operational in contravention of provisions of FSSA 2006, as the bakery and sweets items were being manufactured under unsanitary/unhygienic conditions, both units were sealed. 1.5 quintals of sweets were seized and samples were forwarded to the Food testing laboratory for testing of quality and safety parameters.

It was announced that the raids will continue in the coming days in view of the festive season to ensure quality sweets and other food items are available to the consumers.

Meanwhile, Food Safety authorities have warned all the Food Business operators particularly those dealing with the manufacture of Sweets, Bakery item and milk & milk products to strictly adhere to the guidelines and provisions of Food Safety & Standards Act, any kind of deviation/violation shall call strict penal action warranted under law.

To address the concern of consumers, and other stakeholders, complainants/grievances with regard to quality of Food items can be registered through a dedicated helpline (Toll Free No. 104)

Officer Trainees Of ICLS concluded Bharat Darshan At Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Officer Trainees of Indian Corporate Law Service, recruited through UPSC All India Civil Services Examination 2020, concluded their last leg of Bharat Darshan yesterday on 7th November in Srinagar.

10 trainee officers comprising 03 female officers

arrived in Srinagar on 3rd November evening and stayed for each day, in Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam before flying back to Delhi on 7th November.

The officers during the study tour to Srinagar called-on top Central Government functionaries posted in Kashmir valley besides visiting the places like Gulmarg and Pahalgam.



An elderly man strolls along the newly refurbished Jhelum River Front side in Srinagar on a foggy Wednesday morning. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Stray Dogs At Srinagar's Press Enclave Scares Media Men

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The huge presence of stray dogs has become a cause of concern for media men at Srinagar's Press Enclave, with the authorities maintaining a silence over the issue that scribes claimed to have brought into the notice of the concerned department several times.

Scores of dogs can be seen roaming in Srinagar's Press Enclave during late night hours. Scribes who leave their offices

during late night hours have appealed to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to take measures to check the stray dog menace at Press Colony.

One of the senior journalists told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that he sustained injuries while saving himself from the dogs at the Press Colony.

"After leaving the office I approached my private vehicle that I had parked in the Press Colony. A pack of dogs chased me and in order to save myself, I injured my

left foot," he said.

Another journalist said that he feels scared in the Press Colony during late night hours. He added that there is no proper mechanism to check dog menace on the ground, which is making life miserable for journalists working late night hours.

When contacted a senior official from SMC said that manpower will be pressed into service to catch the dogs present in the Press Colony. (KNT)

Back to Village Phase-V Com Secy Visits Fakir Gujri, Inspects Developmental Works

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today visited Fakir Gujri Panchayat in Harwan block of Srinagar district and presided over 5th phase of ambitious "Back to Village" public outreach program.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad and other senior officers.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary interacted with the public and undertook review of progress achieved on the developmental front with special focus on improving socio-economic

conditions of local population and improvement made in public services delivery mechanisms.

Vikramjit Singh took stock of ongoing developmental works taken up in their areas under different schemes, inspected Primary Health Centre, Primary School Fakir Gujri, Anganwari Centre and other public welfare establishments and took stock of their functioning. He also inspected Shilaphalakam installed at a Fakir Gujri School and took part in Graha Parvesh of beneficiaries in PMAY-G houses on the occasion.

While inspecting the ongoing construction works on infrastructure upgradation of PHC, Fakir Gujri, the Commissioner

Secretary was apprised that various steps have been taken to upgrade the healthcare facilities in the area to ensure all basic health facilities are provided to the local people at their doorstep.

On the occasion, Vikramjit Singh interacted with the doctors and other staff members in the PHC and stressed them to attend to patients compassionately.

The Commissioner Secretary also visited Primary School Fakir Gujri and inspected the ongoing class work. He also interacted with the students and teaching faculty of the school.

Vikramjit Singh handed over the sports kit to the local youth club.

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


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- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
24 Rabi-ul-Sani
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 32
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 54
Magrib	5:34
ISHA	7: 56

This Day In History

- 1282- Pope Martinus IV excommunicates king Pedro III of Aragon
- 1313- Louis the Bavarian defeats his cousin Frederick I of Austria at the Battle of Gammelsdorf
- 1330- Battle of Posada, Wallachian voievode Basarab I defeats the Hungarian army in an ambush
- 1580- Spanish troops land in Ireland
- 1673- English King Charles II dismisses the Earl of Shaftesbury from his post as Lord Chancellor
- 1681- Hungarian parliament promises protestants freedom of religion
- 1720- Rabbi Yehuda Hasid synagogue set afire
- 1729- Spain, France & Britain sign Treaty of Seville
- 1794 - Russian troops occupy Warsaw
- 1799 - Napoleon Bonaparte pulls off a coup and becomes the dictator of France under the title of First Consul
- 1821 1st US pharmacy college holds 1st classes, Philadelphia
- 1842 - The first U.S. design patent for typefaces and borders was issued to George Bruce of New York City
- 1900 - China has resumed nominal control of Manchuria, but in a secret agreement the Chinese governor of Manchuria grants Russia such rights as keeping troops along the railroad lines and controlling civil administration
- 1904 - 1st airplane flight to last more than 5 minutes
- 1906 - Theodore Roosevelt is 1st US President to visit another country (Puerto Rico and Panama)
- 1922 - Frederick Soddy wins the 1921 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (announced in 1922 due to a technicality)
- 1923 - Beer Hall Putsch, Munich; Nazis fail to overthrow government, 16 die, Hitler flees
- 1930 - 1st nonstop airplane flight from NY to Panama
- 1936 - Albanian government of Frasherli falls
- 1939 - Nobel for physics awarded to Ernest O Lawrence (cyclotron)
- 1941 - Hitler threatens Clemens August, Graf von Galen, Bishop of Munster
- 1955 - UN disapproves of South Africa's apartheid politics
- 1962 - US performs nuclear test at Nevada Test Site
- 1964 "Comedy in Music-Opus 2" opens at John Golden NYC for 192 performances
- 1964 - Eisaku Sato becomes premier of Japan
- 1967 - 1st unmanned Saturn V flight to test Apollo 4 reentry module
- 1967 - Surveyor 6 soft lands on Moon
- 1967 - The unmanned Saturn V rocket is launched on its first successful test flight into Earth orbit
- 1968 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1976 - UN General Assembly condemns apartheid in South Africa
- 1978 - NASL realigns its 24 teams into 6 divisions
- 1980 - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein declares holy war against Iran
- 1983 - Discovery flies from Vandenberg AFB to Kennedy Space Center
- 1998 - Capital punishment in the United Kingdom, already abolished for murder, is completely abolished for all remaining capital offences.
- 1999 - TAESA Flight 725, crashes a few minutes after leaving the Uruapan airport en-route to Mexico City. 18 people were killed in the accident.
- 2003 - A suicide-terrorist attack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, kills 17 people.
- 2005 - The Venus Express mission of the European Space Agency is launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- 2012 - 25 people are killed and 62 injured after a train carrying liquid fuel bursts into flames in Burma
- 2012 - An Algerian C-295 military transport plane crashes near Avignon, France, killing 6 people
- 2014 - United States lead air strikes in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul against Islamic State (IS)
- 2014 - Celebrations held in Germany to mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall; white balloons marking a stretch of the wall symbolize its disappearance

Subject:-Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S" Home stay THE PLATINUM" Situated at ARABAL SHALIMAR SRINAGAR

Whereas, I Mr/Ms/Mrs HAMIDA LIAQAT S/O D/O W/O LIAQAT Ali Khan R/O Arabal Shalimar Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for the Registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style "M/S Kashmir Peaks & Trails Situated at Kalla Mohalla Lal Bazar Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure tour operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id-ddtreg/123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Medialine

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Possession Notice
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Bayroo, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 02-08-2023 there by calling upon the Borrower namely M/s International Trading corporation Rajbagh, Srinagar Through its Proprietor namely Mr Sajad Muzaffar Bhat S/o Mr Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o H.No 83 Raj Bagh Srinagar, to repay an amount of Rs.1,81,41,524.01/ (Rupees One Crore Eighty One Lacs Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Four and Paise one Only)being the balance outstanding as on 02-08-2023in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon. The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 4th day of November of the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.1,87,09,855.01/ (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lacs Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Five and Paise one Only) together with future interest thereon from 04-11-2023 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/ latest particulars including any accreditations)

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable Property comprising a three storied Residential House alongwith land measuring 19 Marlas and 81 Sqfts falling under Khasra No. 1891/271 min of Khata No.361 and Khawat No.73 situated at Kursoo Raj Bagh, Srinagar

Authorized Officer

Dated:04.11.2023
Place :Srinagar
Abbas Advt

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001
Tel: (0194) 2481930-35 Fax: (0194) 2481928
Visit us at: www.jkbank.com
CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048

Possession Notice
Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas Mr. Syed Aadil Bashir, as the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 21.11.2022 thereby calling upon the Borrower namely 1. Mr. Uzair Ahmad Naima (Borrower) S/o Late Abdul Rehman Naima R/o Gani At Manz, Mahraj Gunj, Sgr. 2. Mrs. Shahzada (Guarantor/ Mortgage) S/o Late Abdul Rehman Naima R/o Gani At Manz, Mahraj Gunj, Sgr. and 3. Mr. Wasim Naqib (Guarantor) S/o Mohammad Ashraf Naqeeb R/o BulBulLankar, Nawakadal, Sgr 4. Mr Zuhaib Ahmad Naqib S/o Mohammad Ashraf Naqeeb R/o BulBulLankar, Nawakadal, Sgr to repay an amount of Rs.34,02,950/- (Rupees Thirty Four lacs Two Thousand and Nine Hundred Fifty Rupees Only)being the balance outstanding as on 31.10.2022in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned Ms. Asmat Ara being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken symbolic possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this 3rd day of November of the year 2023.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs. 37,85,339/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lacs Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine Rupees Only) together with future interest thereon from 1.11.2023and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrowers attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the Immovable Property
(As per the schedule provided in mortgage deed/latest particulars including any accreditations)

Mortgage of Two storied residential building and land underneath measuring 05 Marlas and 50sq.ft falling under Khasra No 842:843 musha of khata no 2123&khawat No 824 standing in the name of Mrs. Shahzada W/o Late Abdul Rehman Naima situated at Aii Jan Road, Zoonimar Tehsil & District Srinagar.

Authorized Officer

Dated:03.11.2023
Place :Srinagar
Abbas Advt



At Least 30 Syrian Soldiers Killed in Fresh ISIS Attack

Agencies

ISLIB: Islamic State group attacks killed at least 30 pro-government forces and soldiers in the Syrian desert, a war monitor said Wednesday, in one of the deadliest such assaults this year. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there had been "30 dead, four of them soldiers and 26 from the National Defence Forces, in simultaneous attacks carried out by the Islamic State group on Wednesday morning on checkpoints and military positions" in the Syrian desert. The attacks took place in locations between Raqa, Homs and Deir Ezzor, added the Observatory, which has a vast network of sources on the ground. Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman warned the count could rise, citing an unspecified number of wounded, some in serious condition. The war monitor said Russian warplanes launched strikes on IS positions in the desert, reporting casualties among the jihadists. ISIS or Daesh proclaimed a "caliphate" in June 2014 across swathes of Syria and Iraq and launched a reign of terror. It was defeated territorially in Syria in 2019 but its remnants continue to carry out deadly hit-and-run attacks and ambushes, particularly from desert hideouts, targeting both pro-government forces and soldiers.

ISIS was blamed for a string of deadly attacks on government loyalists earlier this year. In August, 33 Syrian soldiers were killed when ISIS ambushed their bus in the desert near Mayadeen, in Deir Ezzor province, the Observatory said at the time. Days earlier, 10 loyalists were killed in an ISIS attack in Raqa province, the jihadists' former stronghold in Syria, the Observatory reported. Also in August, the rebels attacked a convoy of oil tanker trucks guarded by the army in the Syrian desert, killing seven people including two civilians. The same month, ISIS announced the death of its leader and named his replacement -- the group's fifth chief -- as Abu Hafis al-Hashimi al-Qurashi. The fresh rebel attacks have intensified as Israel launched a major onslaught on the neighbouring Gaza strip killing more than 10,000 Palestinians this month. Syrian government with backing of Iran and Hezbollah has been battling ISIS and other jihadist rebel groups since 2011.

US State Department Approves \$320 Million Sale To Israel Of Equipment For Kits That Are More Advanced



Agencies

The US state department has approved a \$320 million sale to Israel of equipment for kits that turn unguided bombs into more precise, GPS-guided munitions, according to a letter sent by the department to Congress that was obtained by The New York Times. The order comes on top of an earlier one for the same equipment that was valued at almost \$403 million. Israel has been using the kits during its bombing campaign in Gaza. According to the Gaza health ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government in the enclave, the Israeli strikes have resulted in the

deaths of about 10,000 Palestinians, 40 per cent of whom are young children and teens. Israel has ordered more munitions from the US alongside the equipment for guided bomb kits. Modern militaries generally add guidance systems onto bombs with the goal of minimizing civilian casualties, although the damage can still be devastating, especially in urban areas. Israel's arsenal of air munitions is made up largely of 453- 907-kg bombs, among the largest used by any military force. Israel dropped at least two 907-kg bombs in an airstrike on October 31 on the dense Jabalia neighborhood of Gaza. That strike killed dozens of people and injured many more, according to Gaza authorities. Israel says it had successfully targeted a senior Hamas commander who helped plan the October 7 attacks launched from Gaza, in which Hamas fighters and other armed assailants killed what Israel says was more than 1,400 people, most of them Israeli civilians, and abducted more than 240 others. Hamas denies that any of its commanders were in the Jabalia area at the time of the October 31 strike. The state department happened to send its letter on the new sale of bomb equipment to congressional offices on the day of that strike on Jabalia.



India, US To Review Bilateral Ties, Key Global Issues At '2+2' Dialogue

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India and the US will carry out a comprehensive review of their fast-expanding strategic ties at the next edition of the '2+2' foreign and defence ministerial dialogue here on Friday. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin are visiting India for the dialogue. The Indian delegation will be led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. "Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar will welcome US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd J Austin III for the fifth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue in New Delhi on November 10," the External Affairs Ministry (MEA) said on Wednesday. It said the '2+2' dialogue will enable a high-level review of

progress being made in cross-cutting aspects of defence and security cooperation, technology value chain collaborations and people-to-people ties. "The ministers will take the opportunity to progress the futuristic roadmap for the India-US partnership as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joseph Biden, in their discussions in June and September this year," the MEA said in a statement. It said both sides will also take stock of contemporary regional issues and exchange views about shared priorities for augmenting cooperation in multi-lateral platforms, and through frameworks such as Quad. Singh and Jaishankar are also scheduled to have bilateral meetings with their American counterparts, which will "mark a continuity of Ministerial Dialogue and reaffirm the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic partnership", the MEA said.

HC Seeks Centre, Delhi Govt View On PIL To Distinguish Religion From Dharma

Agencies

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the stand of the Centre and city government on a public interest litigation seeking a direction to the authorities to use the proper meaning of the term religion and not use it as a synonym of dharma in official documents. A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma granted time to the governments to respond to the petition by lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay. The petition also sought a direction to include a chapter on "dharma and religion" in syllabus of primary and secondary schools in order to educate the masses and control the religion-based hatred and hate speeches. There is a colonial mindset which is being continued, said the petitioner before the bench, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela. In his petition, the petitioner asserted that dharma is not religion as the former is non-divisive, non-exclusive and transcends narrow boundaries of religion. If we try to define religion

then we can say that religion is a tradition, not dharma. Religion is a cult or a spiritual lineage that is called a 'sampradaya' (community). So, religion means community, the plea said as it prayed that dharma should not be used as synonym of religion in documents like birth certificate, aadhaar card, school certificate, ration card, driving licence, domicile certificate, death certificate and bank account etc. In daily life, we say this person follows 'Vaishnav dharma' or Jain dharma, or someone follows Buddhism or Islam or Christianity that's not right. Instead, we should say that a person follows 'Vaishnav sampradaya' or this person follows 'Shiv sampradaya' or follows 'Buddha sampradaya'. This person follows Islam or Christian sampradaya, the petition submitted. There have been many wars and war-like situations for religion. Religion works on a mass of people. In religion, people follow someone or someone's path. On another side, dharma is a work of wisdom, it explained. The petitioner further said religion has been one of the most potent divisive forces in all history while dharma is different because it unites.

'Pakistan Witnessed 500% Rise In Suicide Bombings After Taliban Takeover In Afghanistan'

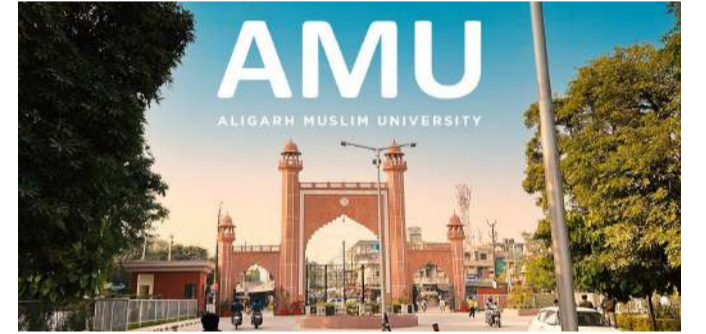


Press Trust of India

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar said on Wednesday that terror attacks in Pakistan rose 60 per cent and suicide bombings by 500 per cent after the Taliban came to power in neighbouring Afghanistan. "After the establishment of the interim Afghan government in August 2021, we had a strong hope that there would be long-term peace in Afghanistan. Strict action would be taken against Pakistan-opposing groups, especially the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and they would absolutely not be allowed to use Afghan soil against Pakistan," Kakar said at a press

conference in Islamabad. "But unfortunately, after the establishment of the interim Afghan govt, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terror incidents and a 500 per cent rise in suicide attacks in Pakistan," he said. He said that 2,267 Pakistani citizens were killed in the past two years due to the attacks by the TTP using Afghan soil. "During this time, 15 Afghan citizens were also among the people involved in suicide attacks. Other than this, till now, 64 Afghan citizens were killed while fighting Pakistan's law enforcement agencies during the counterterrorism campaign," he said. Kakar asserted that the details of the attacks were in the knowledge of the Afghan interim authorities, but no action was taken against the TTP despite assurance by the Taliban. His terse remarks come after a spate of attacks in the past week, including on Miawadi Training Air Base in the Punjab province, which was claimed by the Tehreek-e-Jihad Pakistan and the killing of soldiers in an ambush in Gwadar, claimed by the Balochistan Liberation Front. The hardline Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 bringing to an end the government in Kabul when the army, trained and equipped by the US and allies, melted away with a speed that surprised even the rebels.

Proposal To Change The Name Of Aligarh To Harigarh Passed



Agencies

After Allahabad became Prayagraj, it is now time for Aligarh to become Harigarh in Uttar Pradesh. The Aligarh Municipal Corporation has unanimously passed a proposal to change the name of Aligarh to Harigarh. The proposal was presented by Mayor Prashant Singhal in a meeting on Monday and was supported by all councillors. If the Uttar Pradesh government approves the proposal to rename Aligarh, it will add to the growing tally of places renamed in the BJP-ruled state. Aligarh mayor Prashant Singhal said, "In the meeting, a proposal was presented to change the name of Aligarh to Harigarh. All councillors unanimously supported this. Now, this proposal will be sent to the administration. I hope that the administration will take cognizance of this and fulfil our demand to change the name of Aligarh to Harigarh. This demand has been pending since long." It may be recalled that a proposal to rename Aligarh to Harigarh was cleared by a zila panchayat meeting in 2021 and sent to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

In 2019, Chief Minister Adityanath had indicated that his government will keep up with its spree of renaming places across the state. "We did what we felt was good. We renamed Mughal Sarai as Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar, Allahabad as Prayagraj and Faizabad district as Ayodhya district. Where there is a need, the government will take the steps required," Yogi Adityanath had said then. Members of the ruling BJP have, over the years, demanded that other cities be renamed as well. An Agra lawmaker had proposed that Agra be renamed Agrawal or Agarwal, while another suggested that Muzaffarnagar be renamed Laxmi Nagar and Mainpuri as Mayan Nagar. A state government can change the name of any city or area within the state. After a municipal body unanimously approves a proposed name change resolution, it will write to the state government. The resolution will then be sent by the state government to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval. If the ministry and other relevant agencies approve the resolution, the state government can officially change the name.

All About Zolgensma, The Rs 17 Crore Injection For Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A staggering Rs 17 crore for a single jab! That's the cost of one Zolgensma injection used for children under two suffering from spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), the disease and its treatment once again in the headlines over a 15-month-old boy in Karnataka staring at an uncertain tomorrow. The gene therapy, one of the world's most expensive drugs, offers promising results but experts caution that it is not a definitive solution for the rare nerve condition that leads to muscle wasting and weakness. It can't cure but limits the progress of the disease. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking help for the treatment of a 15-month-old child from the state diagnosed with SMA. Though it is yet to be approved in India, insiders estimate that about 90 children have received Zolgensma in



the last few years. Given that the single shot infusion is out of reach for everybody except the super-rich, most of this is through humanitarian programmes or crowd funding. The drug can be imported following a doctor's recommendation and government approval. Worldwide, the incidence of SMA is one in 10,000 live-born babies and is the leading cause of death in the infantile age group. "In the West, the carrier frequency - number of people carrying the gene - of the SMA is 1 in 50. In a recent Indian study, however, the SMA carrier

frequency was identified as 1 in 38. Another study from north India found it to be 1 in 30," said Sheffali Gulati, child neurologist, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. "The survival of children with SMA type 1 has increased recently with the availability of supportive care such as physiotherapy, nasogastric feeding (through a tube) and invasive or non-invasive respiratory care," Gulati told PTL. As concern mounts over the incidence of the disease and the astronomical cost of the single injection, experts decode what it exactly is: WHAT IS ZOLGENSMA? Zolgensma, developed by Swiss pharmaceutical company Novartis, is designed to treat SMA, a rare genetic disease affecting motor neurons - complex circuits throughout the body that allow for movements of glands and muscles. SMA is caused by mutations in the SMN gene, leading to muscle weakness and, in severe cases, paralysis and even death.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF LIBRARIES & RESEARCH J&K,
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

Subject: Updation/Revision of the Jammu & Kashmir Libraries (Non-Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules - Inviting Objections thereof.

CIRCULAR NO. 59 DL OF 2023
DATED:- 07-11-2023.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Libraries (Non-gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules were last notified vide SRO-275 of 24th July, 1989; And whereas, the updated Strength 393 posts of the Jammu and Kashmir Libraries (Non-gazetted) Service was notified at the reorganization of the erstwhile State of J&K into two UTs vide SRO-744 of 25.10.2019. However, one post of Junior Assistant has got reduced upon retirement of a Junior Assistant (Migrant) on 31-03-2020. The revised number of Junior Assistants is 18. Therefore, the total cadre strength of the Jammu & Kashmir (Non-Gazetted) Service for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir will be 392 posts. These include 107 Ministerial posts, 278 Technical posts and 7 posts in Research Wing of the Department;

Now therefore, prior to placing the Draft of Jammu and Kashmir Libraries (Non-gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules (revised rules) before the competent authority for consideration and approval, the Draft Notification of the revised Jammu and Kashmir Libraries (Non-gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules, 2023 with proposed Schedule-I and II are hereby notified for information of all concerned for inviting objections, if any, from the stakeholders within a period of 15 days from the date of issuance of this circular. The objection(s) shall be submitted through following official email IDs of the Deputy Director Libraries, Jammu/Kashmir.

i. dydirlib@gmail.com
ii. librarieskmr123@gmail.com

The objection(s) received after the stipulated time limit shall not be entertained.

No. DL/Adm-RR/(44)/2023/1194-98
Dated: 07.11.2023

DIPK-11873-23
DT: 08/11/2023

Director,
Libraries & Research J&K

BJP's Ravinder Raina Fires Fresh Salvo At Oppn Parties

'Says Political Existence Of Opposition Parties On Verge Of Extinction'

Press Trust Of India
JAMMU: The political existence of opposition parties in Jammu and Kashmir is on the verge of extinction, BJP leader Ravinder Raina said on Wednesday and asserted that the saffron party in the Union Territory will sweep next year's Lok Sabha elections.



Raina, the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir unit chief, made the statement during the party's Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan at Kot village in the Raipur Domana mandal here.

"Fearing defeat in the elections, the opposition parties are making false statements and targeting the BJP on one pretext or the other. But the fact is their political existence is on the verge of extinction," he said.

The public's response to the Booth Jan Samvad Abhiyaan has been overwhelming and shocked the opposition parties,

Raina claimed. "The general elections in 2024 will write a new chapter in the political history of the nation as people will be voting in favour of the BJP to see (Narendra) Modi as the prime minister for a third consecutive term. The voters of Jammu and Kashmir will contribute to ensure that the BJP sweeps the Lok Sabha elections here as well," he said.

BJP General Secretary (Organisation) Ashok Koul said a wave of change is being seen throughout the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir and the people want the BJP to be in the chair to serve them.

"The people have had very bitter experience of the governments of the Congress and the National Conference in the past and have made up their minds to teach these parties a lesson for making false promises and betraying them," he said.

Ex-Minister In ED Net: Political Parties Target BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress, CPI (M) and National Panthers Party (NPP) on Wednesday attacked the BJP over the arrest of former Jammu and Kashmir minister Lal Singh by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case.

"Law should (take) its own course, not in case of Lal Singh only but every such matter, which requires investigation. Selective approach, politics of vendetta and misuse of agencies have become order of the day," senior vice president of Pradesh Congress Committee and former legislator Ravinder Sharma posted on X.

Reacting to the arrest of Singh, senior CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami alleged that curbing dissent by using agencies like the ED has become a standard practice of the BJP-led central government.

"One wonders how ED instantly becomes active as soon as one starts criticising or expressing disagreement with

the government. Curbing dissent by using agencies like ED has become a standard practice of this government," Tarigami wrote on X.

NPP president and former minister Harsh Dev Singh said the country is witnessing how the Opposition is being allegedly hammered and threatened by the BJP government through iron fists of the federal agencies.

"An atmosphere of dictatorship is prevalent in the country which is not only condemnable but worth mourning. The days of BJP are numbered and all its leaders will end up in jail for their misdeeds," the NPP leader told reporters here.

He demanded proper treatment of the arrested leader as he is a victim of "politics of terror" allegedly unleashed by the ruling party.

Earlier in a post on X, he said "you can be absolved of all your crimes and purged of sins if you join BJP and face gallows if you oppose BJP. Where has the country reached today?"



A MAN WALKS THROUGH Jhelum riverfront on Srinagar on a cold foggy morning on Wednesday.
KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

CS Launches Application On Assessment Of Quality Of eservices

Indigenously Developed App A Revolutionary Step In The Quality Assessment Of E-Service: Dr Mehta

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In the direction of qualitative public service delivery of e-services in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta launched the e-Services Quality Assessment Application (AQs) here on Wednesday at the Civil Secretariat.

On the occasion, Chief Secretary emphasized that the e-Services Quality Assessment Application (AQs) represents a substantial advancement in the government's efforts to enhance the quality and effectiveness of e-services offered to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Mehta highlighted that AQs's real-time feedback mechanisms and its ability to provide a comprehensive assessment of all 1075 e-services underscore the government's unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality digital services to its constituents. This initiative serves as a testament to the government's dedication to improving the citi-



zen experience and ensuring transparency in governance. Commissioner Secretary IT, Prerna Puri, informed that the AQs project is an indigenous initiative that empowers users to provide instant feedback through a mobile app dashboard, enabling them to contribute to the ongoing assessment and improvement of e-services. It aims to provide real-time feedback and quality assurance for all 1075 e-services offered by the government of UT of J&K, a significant expansion over the 470 services available through the RAS. Additionally, the mobile app reflects citizens' feedback, offering valuable

insights into the quality of e-services. It provides a holistic overview of the performance of various government departments involved in e-governance, added Commissioner/Secretary IT. This innovative platform, developed by a team led by Taransh Sudan, Mir Suhail Ahmed and others under the supervision of the Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), was declared as winner of e-services quality assessment software development challenge. During the event, a jingle was also launched to promote disseminating information about the Janbhagedari portal among citizens.

People Should Be Told Reasons Behind Mobile Internet Suspension: Omar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: After mobile internet was shut in some areas of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that the authorities should tell people the reasons for such actions.

Talking to reporters in Bandipora, Abdullah, a former chief minister, said he was not aware of the reason for the mobile internet shutdown.

"It would be good to let the people in those areas know the reasons behind it. People are not fools...they would not protest on such a thing, but they want to understand the reason behind stopping the services," he said.

Telecom service providers were directed to suspend mobile data within three km radius of Wampora and Hunipora areas of Pulwama from 7 pm on November 5 to 7 pm on November 8, officials said.

The suspension order mentioned the possibility of mobile data services being misused by anti-national elements, which may cause deterioration in public order.

To a question on youngsters currently in detention in various jails, Abdullah said those who do not face serious allegations should be released soon. "We have raised this before



as well, in Parliament and at the all-party meeting with the prime minister on Kashmir (in June 2021)...that whoever has been arrested, especially after 2019, should be released. Those who do not face serious allegations, they should be released," he said.

Earlier, addressing a party workers' convention, Abdullah said only the NC will protect the rights of people and the unique identity of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The other parties only talk about development. Any government is bound to work on a developmental front. We also talk about development, but at the same time we also talk about protecting our unique identity."

"We have repeatedly said that there is no trade-off between development and our rights. Both have to go hand in hand. Our right to live with dignity is as important as our right to have basic facilities. It is only us who are working on multiple fronts," he said.

J&K's Ex-Dy CM Muzaffar Baig Visits Mehbooba's residence

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's former deputy chief minister Muzaffar Baig on Wednesday visited the residence of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, setting off speculations that he might be seeking a return to the party he cofounded.

However, the PDP president's daughter Iltija Mufti was quick to nix the speculations, saying that Muzaffar Baig and his wife Safina Baig had come to enquire about the health of her grandmother.

Safina Baig is the chairperson of the Baramulla District Development Council.

Muzaffar Baig Baig, who was a deputy chief minister of the

erstwhile state, had co-founded the PDP along with Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. However, after Mufti Mohammad Sayeed died in 2016, differences grew between Baig and Mehbooba Mufti and he left the party in 2020.

He was conferred the Padma Bhushan -- the country's third-highest civilian award -- the same year.

"Muzaffar Baig sahab and @SafinaMbaig ji were kind enough to call on my grandmother who recently underwent knee surgery. Mischievous statements that I never made were attributed to me... Glad it has been withdrawn." Iltija Mufti, who is also the media advisor to the PDP president, said in a post on X.

Jammu And Kashmir's Remarkable Journey: From ODF To ODF Plus And Beyond With 'Back To Village' Initiative

Firdos Ali

INTRODUCTION:

In a historic feat of dedication and persistent effort, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has achieved the status of an Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Model, marking a significant milestone in the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. This achievement, announced on August 14, 2023, is a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (J&K) towards holistic sanitation.

THE JOURNEY TO ODF PLUS:

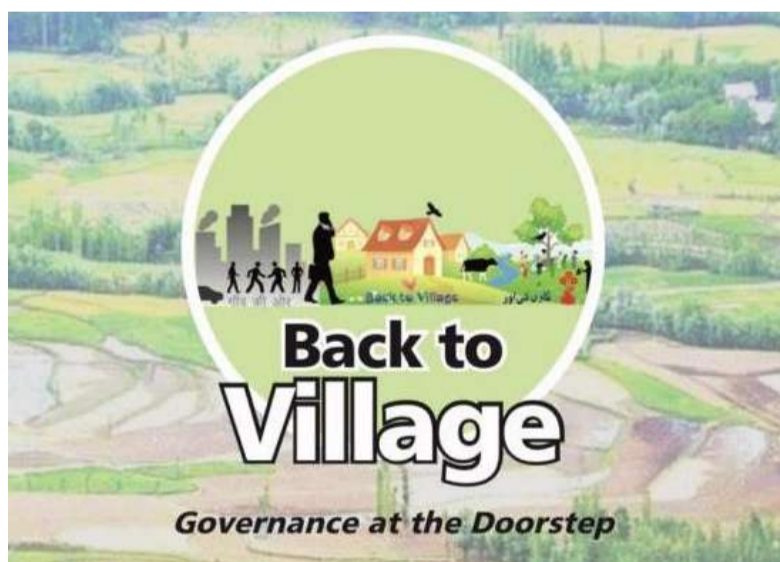
The journey towards this milestone has been marked by innovative initiatives and a comprehensive approach towards sanitation. The ODF Plus Model designation is not merely about the absence of open defecation but encompasses a village's ability to effectively manage both solid and liquid waste, ensuring visual cleanliness with minimal litter and wastewater stagnation, and eliminating plastic waste dumps in public spaces. Moreover, these villages actively promote Information, Education & Communication (IEC) messages pertaining to ODF Plus practices.

Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II:

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin's Phase II, J&K introduced a range of campaigns and projects aimed at transforming sanitation practices. From the 'Swachhata Karwaan' to the 'Pink Toilets' initiative targeting improved school attendance, the state demonstrated its commitment to a cleaner, healthier environment. The 'Give Polythene Get Gold' campaign and the establishment of 'pink societies' further exemplify the innovative strategies employed.

INFRASTRUCTURE BACKBONE:

The infrastructural backbone of this achievement is evident in the staggering numbers: 1850 waste



collection and segregation sheds, 23,393 community soak pits, 11,667 community compost pits, 3 plastic waste management units, 5486 community sanitary complexes, and 20 GOBARDhan plants. These assets have played a pivotal role in ensuring effective waste management across the villages.

Transition from ODF to ODF Plus:

The transition from ODF to ODF Plus in Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II showcases the state's commitment to sustaining sanitation improvements. Major components of Phase II, including Solid Waste Management, Plastic Waste Management, Liquid Waste Management, and Information Education and Communication/Behavior Change Communication, have been diligently implemented.

'BACK TO VILLAGE' INITIATIVE:

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is fervently engaged in the Swachhata Pakhwada Campaign, launched on September 15th and concluding on October 2nd. However, the state's commitment to holistic development goes beyond sanitation. The 'Back to

Village' initiative, presently its fifth edition is a testament to the government's dedication to reaching every citizen in the region.

Under this initiative, officers from various departments visit villages to gather feedback and ensure the saturation of schemes, ensuring that the benefits reach every individual, leaving no one behind. This proactive approach towards governance not only addresses immediate needs but also fosters a sense of pride and ownership among the residents.

CONCLUSION:

Jammu and Kashmir's journey from ODF to ODF Plus, coupled with the 'Back to Village' initiative, stands as a beacon of progress, not only in sanitation but also in comprehensive rural development. It is a testament to the collective effort of the people, elected representatives, and the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. This achievement not only enhances the immediate surroundings but also fosters a sense of pride in the region's heritage, setting an example for others to follow.

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
website: <http://www.jkbopee.gov.in>, email: helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- Admission to BUMS/BAMS courses 2023 in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K: conduct of Mop Up Round thereof.

Reference: Notification No. 108-BOPEE of 2023 dated 01.11.2023.

**NOTIFICATION NO: 114 -BOPEE OF 2023
DATED: 08.11.2023**

Pursuant to Notification No. 108-BOPEE of 2023 dated 01.11.2023, the Board conducted 2nd round of counselling for admission to BUMS/BAMS courses- 2023 in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K. The Board has received shortfall from the concerned Colleges/Institutions of UT of J&K against the said Notification. In order to fill up the shortfall seats, including the seats which have remained unfilled during the 2nd Round of counselling held on 30th and 31st of October 2023, it is hereby notified that the Board shall conduct Mop Up Round of Upgradation /Allotment Counseling (Physical) on 11.11.2023 simultaneously at BOPEE office Jammu / Srinagar as per following schedule:-

S. No	Day/Date	Time for registration/ attendance at the J&K BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar	Remarks
1.	Saturday (11.11.2023)	11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.	All Reserved Category candidates only with UT Rank from 01 to 4115
2.	Saturday (11.11.2023)	12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	All OM candidates from UT Rank 01 to 4115

Note:

- It is enjoined upon all the eligible candidates that they shall attend the counselling only after checking the Seat Matrix which shall remain available on website of the Board viz. www.jkbopee.gov.in
- The candidate(s) who have been allotted seat/college during 2nd round of counselling but have failed to join against the said seat/college or upgraded during 2nd round of counselling, he/she shall not be eligible to participate in the Mop Up Round of counselling under any circumstances.
- Those candidates who have remained absent or got CNA/SNA during 1st and 2nd rounds of Counselling are also eligible to participate in this round of Counselling.
- Those candidate(s) who have been allotted seat(s) during the 2nd Round of Counseling and have joined against the said seat/College, if interested for upgradation are also eligible to participate in the Mop Up Round of Physical Counseling with the condition that they shall have to produce their fee deposition receipt of the concerned allotted College at the time of their admission in that College.
- The candidates who are participating for the first time in the Counseling process are advised to deposit an amount of Rs.1000/- as a counseling fee on the day of Counseling through POS Machines available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar through Debit/Credit card. Further, all such candidates are advised to bring along all Certificates/Documents in original for check and verification at the time of counselling.
- The Board reserves the right to notify such changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reasons beyond its control.
- Those candidates who got seat during 1st round of Counselling but failed to join the allotted College/institution due to one reason or other are also eligible to participate in this round of Counselling.
- This notification is issued without any prejudice and subject to final outcome of the writ petition if any, pending before any competent court of law.

The other terms & conditions shall, however, remain the same as notified by the Board in various Notifications/Notices issued from time to time in this regard.

E & O E

No. BOPEE-EXAM-29(7313777) Sd/-
Dated: 08-11-2023 DIPK-NB-4126-23
DT: 08/11/2023
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Thursday | 09-11-2023

Erratic Power Supply

The power situation in Kashmir remains bleak, despite the effort by the Power Development Department (PDD) to mitigate this issue by purchasing 500 megawatts of electricity from Uttar Pradesh. Erratic power supply has drawn outrage from various quarters, including trade associations, businessmen, industrialists, and regional political parties. The crisis is particularly severe during the morning and evening hours, when electricity is in high demand, affecting not only households but also students.

For the student community, the erratic power supply has been nothing short of a nightmare. With a slew of competitive exams on the horizon, thousands of aspirants are preparing in their homes and coaching centres. However, incessant power cuts have forced them to study by candlelight, as not all of them have inverters.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) recently held a press conference to vent their frustration and criticized both the government and the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) for their inability to meet the electricity demands of the businesses in the Valley. However, KPDCL has attributed the power shortage to a gaping demand-supply gap. The Valley's electricity demand stands at 1600 megawatts, while the department can only produce 1100 megawatts. This shortfall is exacerbated by factors such as rainfall deficit and the consequent low discharge in river Jhelum, both of which impact electricity generation.

To address this situation, the department has implemented a curtailment schedule, with metered areas facing 4.5 hours of power cuts, and non-metered areas experiencing six hours of outages. In some parts of the Valley, power cuts extend even beyond these schedules based on electricity availability. These power cuts have disrupted daily life, inconveniencing residents and affecting economic activities.

The power crisis in the Kashmir Valley is a grim reminder of the challenges faced by the region's residents during the winter season. As temperatures drop and the demand for electricity soars, the government and the power department must collaborate to find sustainable solutions to this persistent issue.

The situation is straightforward: our region exports electricity while buying it at a high price for our own needs. It's imperative for the government to devise a strategic plan and take action to secure a regular supply of electricity, especially during the winter season. Kashmir confronts various obstacles, ranging from nature's unpredictability to infrastructure shortcomings, but these challenges are not insurmountable. With a focused and coordinated effort from the government, the region can overcome these hurdles and ensure a reliable power supply in the long run.

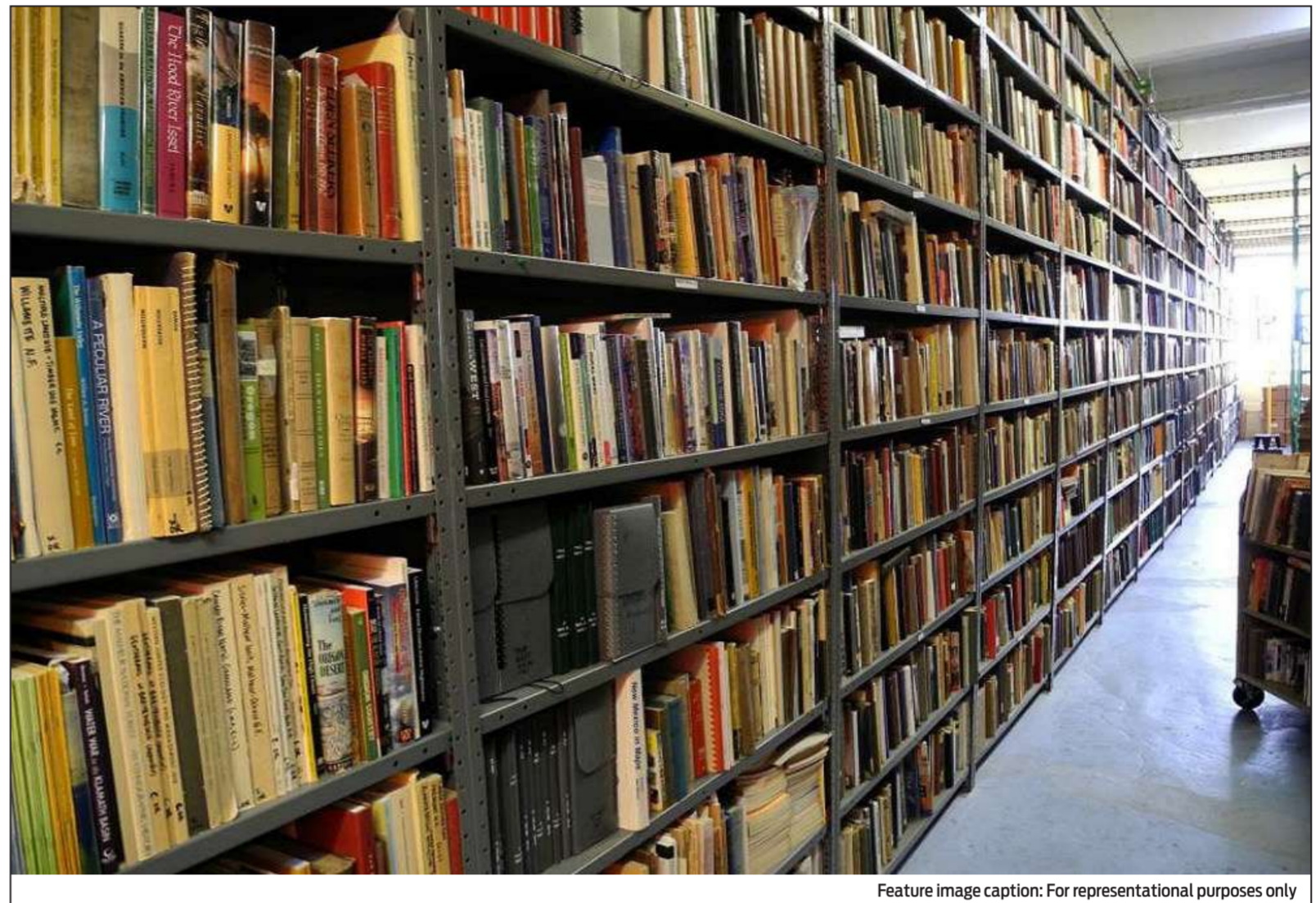
OTHER OPINION

The Deepfake Challenge

A video of actor Rashmika Mandanna has recently gone viral on social media. The problem: It's not she who is in the video. The woman on whose body her face has been morphed has also been violated. This video is not a one-off. Of late, there have been quite a few such fake videos. Deepfakes, as they are known, employ artificial intelligence tools to create fake images, audio and videos. The dramatic spread of Artificial Intelligence platforms has made it easier to create such persuasive deepfakes. There is a deepfake video of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy asking his soldiers to put down their weapons. The relative ease with which such deepfakes can be created and quickly disseminated and consumed, made possible by the wide reach of social media platforms, has become a matter of global concern. More so in times of polarised politics.

Such concerns were acknowledged at Bletchley Park in the UK last week during the first AI safety summit. The Bletchley Declaration, signed by 28 countries including the US, UK, France, China, Japan and India, noted the risks "stemming from the capability to manipulate content or generate deceptive content", and called for global action to address the potential risks stemming from AI. Across the world, countries have opted for different approaches when it comes to regulating AI. While some are in favour of strict oversight and regulation, others are veering towards a lighter touch. For instance, last week, US President Joe Biden issued an executive order to establish "new standards for AI safety and security". The order requires that companies share the results of their safety tests with the US government. It also involves the setting up of standards for "extensive" testing in order to ensure that they are safe before they are publicly released. In India, TRAI had in July outlined the broad contours a regulatory framework could take. It proposed a risk matrix (high or low risk) to classify AI use cases and also called for setting up a statutory authority and a multi-stakeholder body to advise it.

The Indian Express



Feature image caption: For representational purposes only

Why Public Libraries are Important for Kashmir

Sahil Manzoor

“Traditionally, education was restricted to those who could afford it. Therefore, only privileged people could acquire education and avail opportunities that came with it. However, with time, more and more people were able to gain education as it was opened up to all social groups through various government schemes especially in

It is well known that there is no alternative to education. Infact, education is one of the most potent ways for the underprivileged to progress in life as it allows for them to have a better chance at a stable life. It is not and must not be the prerogative of a select few. Education is pivotal in the progress of a nation or a community. This is why it must be prioritised over and above everything. Focus must be placed on making education accessible and democratic for all.

Traditionally, education was restricted to those who could afford it. Therefore, only privileged people could acquire education and avail opportunities that came with it. However, with time, more and more people were able to gain education as it was opened up to all social groups through various government schemes especially in India. Yet, we still have a long way to go. For education to be truly accessible, one must not only provide people an opportunity to access it but excel in it as well. This would only be possible when all students, irrespective of their social position, economic condition or geographical location, have access to equal educational resources. This can be made possible through public libraries.

In Kashmir Valley, the education sector plays a pivotal role in bringing together talented students from all age groups and allows them a chance to share their valuable thoughts with their counterparts on different social, economic, educational, environmental, moral, ethical, health, and technological topics and get a chance to interact with each other. For over three decades, the whole valley has been going through very hard and tough circumstances. As a result, the education sector has never had ample chances to experience the taste of education freely.

It is important for education to be quite accessible to allow for an equal chance for everyone to grow and compete. In the ten districts and tehsils of the valley, there must be a full-fledged public library which functions 24 hours a day. Such libraries should have resources that are beneficial for all kinds of readers. Whether it is books meant for leisure reading, or for research scholars, or for aspirants who are preparing for various competitive examinations, such libraries must have enough resources for all. Additionally, as Kashmir has harsh winters, such public libraries should also

have heating arrangements as well. These libraries must also be equipped with computers, printers and xerox machines.

A lot of students from Kashmir shift to Delhi when they are preparing for state or national level competitive examinations. This means that such students have to spend a lot on the cost of living in such big cities as well. Many students cannot even afford to relocate to such cities and as a result lose out due to the lack of infrastructure in their home state.

The government should provide adequate facilities in Kashmir so that the aspirants can acquire knowledge wherever they want. Education should not be accessible to a select few who can afford it. It must be made accessible to all as everyone deserves an opportunity to progress in life. Such initiatives must be seen as investments done as their returns are admirable. They translate into the overall growth of a community, society and a nation.

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



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

JKPSC's Rare Faux Pas

Recently, the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) released the result of the Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) 2023 preliminary exam which was riddled with errors. JKPSC has earned the trust of aspirants over the years due to its efficient working. Therefore, when aspirants, such as I, found glaring errors in the final key, it came as a huge surprise to us. Over 10-12 questions in the new key have been revised incorrectly according to many serious aspirants. The errors are so obvious that they can be easily identified by sources as basic as the NCERTs. How experts have overlooked such evident errors is baffling.

Two answer keys were issued by

JKPSC for the CCE prelims examination. In the key considered final, many answers have been unexpectedly revised and are incorrect. This has played against aspirants who have found themselves out of the final selection list even after performing well in the examination.

What's important to note is that aspirants are judicious and careful in the number of questions they attempt. Therefore, 10-12 questions are decisive in their selection. Even one oversight can jeopardise their chances in an exam where each incorrect answer earns candidates negative marks. With questions being deleted and revised willy-nilly, many aspirants lose the opportunity to compete fairly.

As per media reports and aspi-

rants who have filed representations challenging the final key, JKPSC is insisting on entertaining revisions to two questions only. The passion with which the final key is being defended by JKPSC is confusing as the aspirants' challenges to the revised key agree with the first key issued by JKPSC itself. How is it that the first key was approved by experts and subsequently altered to such an extent? What qualifies the second set of experts (who have evaluated the final key) over the first set of experts (who had evaluated the first key)?

While it is normal for a few revisions to happen, how is it that such extensive revisions have been made with so many aspirants vouching for the first key with proofs?

An institution trusted by the

young in a place where opportunities don't come easy, must prioritise aspirants' concerns instead of being unnecessarily protective about its image or the fear of some extra administrative work.

It is admirable that JKPSC has been democratic and welcoming towards aggrieved aspirants. One can only hope that they remain committed to the interests of aspirants and ensure that it meets the standards it has set for itself.

An Aggrieved Aspirant

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

CHASING SUCCESS?

Cease Giving In To The Failures

Shreeprakash Sharma

We speak about successes and what spontaneously crops up in our mind is the milieu of great happiness and rejuvenation achieved after perseverance, hard labour, indomitable courage, persistent practice. We succeed in our efforts to achieve something which we dote on and dream about and this accomplishment brings much-expected joy and sincerely gladdens our heart. But the roadmap of the stories of successes is not as simple as we perceive to be. The success passes through a labyrinth of travails and agonies. Success passes through a series of failures. More of the fiascos means more of the victories, more of the applauses. No failure means no learning, no lesson and ultimately no triumph.

There is no denying the fact that everyone wants to succeed in this world. In fact, there is nothing weird about this aspiration. It is natural and one of the most inherent traits of the Homo sapiens. But achieving success or getting what we want in life happens to be a tough nut to crack. It is never the matter of sheer wishes and fantasies. In fact, success in any domain of life has its own conspicuous and rigid regimen which the aspirants need to follow religiously and strictly. It is also the matter of how intensely we chase for it and how earnestly we long for it.

Success also depends upon how patiently and persistently we keep on trying to reach out to the most-cherished goal of our life. So one thing is pretty clear: success calls for hard labour, indomitable patience and undying efforts. More than anything else, the realization of one's most beautiful dreams also requires us not to give in to a series of failures which may befall us onto the path of trying for it.

But the greatest tragedy of human life is that the earnestness with which dreams are pursued in the beginning unfortunately goes on dwindling later on with the passage of time. This turns out to be what we may call the Achilles' heel of all successes and laurels in life. Have



you ever seriously thought why the pace of making efforts to succeed goes on dissipating with each passing day? After all what ails the sustenance mechanism and paradigm of endeavours that restricts our steps from moving consistently onto the path of success? We need to make an honest soul-searching about this fatal mental block which makes us inert, inactive and consequently we fall into the permanent sloth of not making further efforts to achieve the goal of our life.

In fact, when we fail to accomplish something worthwhile for which we plan so meticulously and prepare so painstakingly, then we instantaneously get frustrated and depressed. This further results in shattering all hopes and optimism.

Again, we get hamstrung by a slew of negative, pessimistic, self-doubting and demotivating thoughts. We start underestimating ourselves. Our psycho-mental strength and physical capabilities seem to have fallen to the nadir. Our self-esteem goes on continuously plummeting down to a newer low. We start assuming ourselves to be the most undeserving person on the earth. Such self-demoralizing, self-doubting and self-effacing pseudo-perceptions prove to have lethal repercussions on our mental poise.

At this crossroads, we need to be more cautious and conscientious. What is to be kept in mind is the fact that failures are the inevitable part of all phenomena which keep on occurring at regular intervals

in life. No one can escape this inevitable phase of journey of what we call successes in life. Failures show us our follies, our inherent weaknesses and a lot of other obstacles which restrain us from making efforts to succeed. Thomas Alva Edison, the world known US inventor's quote "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work" reflects a very precious lesson that defeats do not mean decimation. Failures do not mean the end of the world. We fail and it helps learn a lot of vital lessons to ultimately become successful. But for this perception we need to possess a very hard bent of mind. So it is essential to keep on learning from failures and consistently strengthening and striving hard to finally succeed in life.

The famous US social rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." Rejections and failures are natural procedures to finally appear as a successful person in all walks of life. Ceasing to struggle due to disappointment brought forth from the very first failure means killing all the possibilities of successes in their embryo itself. The great Chinese philosopher Confucius had once said, "Our greatest glory is in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." Failing in one's effort to succeed does only signify that the efforts were not made with flawless planning and sincere perseverance. This does not mean lack of intelligence, talent or otherwise. Failures lay out the renewed opportunities for chalking out the road maps for the more flawless and sincere efforts for final success.

Denis E. Waitley, the famous American motivational speaker, very nicely explains the importance of failures in human life when he says, "Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing." We fail because we fail to learn the valuable lessons from the failure. We fail because we fail to assess our strengths and analyze our weaknesses. We fail because we so easily give in to the disappointment and depression without fighting and struggling with it.

We must admit that life is an odyssey of a series of sagas of ups and downs, successes and failures. Hoping for success without undergoing the inevitable pangs of failures is tantamount to living in a fool's paradise. Failures notwithstanding, we must never quit, we must never succumb to pessimism and self-doubt. This is what makes the time-tested secrets of success - never quit, never surrender and, at most, never stop trying to succeed despite failures and frustrations galore.

The author is Principal PM Shri School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya

One List for All

Jo Adetunji

Species lists are one of the unseen pillars of science and society. Lists of species underpin our understanding of the natural world, threatened species management, quarantine, disease control and much else besides.

The people who describe new species and create lists of them are taxonomists. A few years ago, a headline in the journal Nature accused the taxonomic community of anarchy for not coordinating a common view of species, leading to confusion about our knowledge of life on earth.

Many in the taxonomic community took umbrage at this. Taxonomists were concerned that the ideas proposed would limit their freedom of expression and they would be tied to a bureaucracy before they could publish new species descriptions.

Taxonomists certainly argue - dispute is essential to the practice of taxonomy, as it is to science in general. Ultimately, however, a taxonomist's life is spent trying to discern order in the extraordinarily diverse tree of life.



The results of a new survey published today in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, show just how much taxonomists really do like order.

Hardly a group of anarchists

The argument was about how to solve

disagreements between taxonomists. Eventually, the two sides came together to produce principles on the creation of a single authoritative list of species.

This group then went to the taxonomic community to survey their views on whether a global species list is needed and how it should be run.

The newly published results show that a large majority (77%) of respondents - which included over 1,100 taxonomists and users of taxonomy across 74 countries - have expressed support for having a single list of all life on Earth.

They also agreed there should be a governance system that supports the list's creation and maintenance. Just what that governance system would entail is not yet specified. Deciding that will be the next step in the process.

Taxonomists propose hypotheses, not facts

Why is this important? Many may not realise that when a taxonomist names a new species description, they are proposing a scientific hypothesis, not presenting an objective scientific fact.

Other taxonomists then look at the evidence provided in the description and decide whether they agree. If people making species lists judge that there is agreement

about a hypothesis, the new species goes on their list.

Only after a species is listed can it be protected, studied, eradicated, ignored or whatever else governments decide is appropriate. Scientists and conservation advocates also need species to be listed before they can include them in their work. Until listed, the species remains, for all practical purposes, invisible.

However, not all lists are equally trusted. Very rarely taxonomists do go rogue. One notorious taxonomist has been black-listed for "taxonomic vandalism". He published all sorts of new names - some even commemorated his dog - with little justification. If accepted, his field (herpetology) would have been thrown into chaos.

The work of rogue taxonomists wastes everyone's time and money. In one instance, poor taxonomy has even killed people - an antivenom labelled with the wrong name for a snake was distributed in Africa and Papua New Guinea with disastrous results.

Even without rogue taxonomists, there is an enormous problem with so-called synonyms - different people giving different names for the same species. Some species have tens of scientific names, not

to mention misspellings.

This leaves users uncertain what name to use. Sometimes they use different names but mean the same species; sometimes the same names but mean different species. The only way to clarify this confusion is by having a working master list of species names linked to the scientific literature.

Now what?

The newly released survey shows taxonomists and users of taxonomy have achieved an agreement that good lists need good governance. Species lists need to reflect the best science, independent of outside influence. They need dispute resolution processes. And they need involvement and agreement from the taxonomic community on their contents.

Governance of science does not work unless a large majority of scientists agree with the rules, because participation is voluntary. There's no such thing as science police.

Agreement and compliance is best achieved if scientists themselves are involved in the creation of the rules. This helps to increase buy-in among the community of peers to make sure rules are kept. Based on the survey results, the Catalogue of Life - the group that has the most comprehensive global species list to date, and the one we're involved in - is piloting ways of measuring the quality of the lists that make up their catalogue.

These are being trialled first with the creators of lists, everything from viruses to mammals. Then, they will be tested with the taxonomic community at large for further feedback.

Good taxonomy is far more valuable than people realise. One recent study in Australia found that, for every dollar spent on taxonomy, the economy gained A\$35. The value of taxonomy globally is likely to be colossal.

But the value will be higher still if everyone the world over is able to use the same list of species.

By arrangements with The Conversation



Indian-Origin Researcher Uses AI To Develop Vaccine For Gonorrhoea

SIANS

A team of researchers, led by one of Indian-origin, used artificial intelligence (AI) to identify key ingredients of a vaccine for antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea—a sexually transmitted bacterial infection that affects more than 80 million people worldwide every year.

Gonorrhoea has become resistant to almost all known antibiotics. That makes it notoriously difficult to treat, but if left untreated, the infection could lead to serious or even fatal complications. It also increases a person's risk of contracting HIV.

In the study published in mBio journal, researchers reported the

identification of two promising antigens as candidates for a gonorrhoea vaccine.

The researchers used an AI model called Efficacy Discriminative Educated Network, or EDEN, to identify the protective proteins.

They also used EDEN to generate scores that accurately predicted how well antigen combinations would reduce pathogenic bacterial populations of Neisseria gonorrhoeae, the microbe that causes gonorrhoea.

"To the best of our knowledge, this correlation has not been shown before," said infectious disease researcher Sanjay Ram, at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School.

For the study, the team applied the AI model to the proteomes of 10

clinically-relevant strains of Neisseria gonorrhoeae to predict a set of bacterial proteins that, in a vaccine, could help teach the body's immune system to recognise and fend off the bacteria.

The team tested and validated the vaccine candidates in mouse models. The group first tested combinations of two or three antigens in mice.

That analysis identified two proteins involved in cell division as promising candidates, neither of which were previously known to be exposed on the surface of the cell.

In lab experiments, blood samples taken from mice immunised with these two proteins killed bacteria from multiple strains of gonorrhoea in vitro. Those findings lined up with EDEN's predictions.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
**Office Of The Executive Engineer
Mechanical And Hospitals Division Handwara**
E-mail, id, xenmhdhandwara@gmail.com

Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-NIT No: 16 of 2023-24
Date: 08-11-2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on item rate basis from registered/reputed firms for the below mentioned works:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Position of funds	Technical Sanction
01.	Supply of Firewood for Snow Clearance Control rooms of Kupwara, Bandipora, Sumbal and Ganderbal during upcoming Snow clearance season 2023-24.	3.61	500.00	7220.00	07 days	Available	Accorded

- Downloading of Bids: The Tender document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in from -08-11-2023 (06.00PM)
- Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 09-11-2023 (10.00 AM) in two covers up to 15-11-2023 (12.00 PM).
- Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 16-11-2023 (14.00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
- The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

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

- Tender Fee Rs. 500.00 (Rupees five hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement excluding mPay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: Handwara main. IFSC Code: JAKA0HNDWAR Account No: 0131010570000099.
- EMD Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara. The Earnest money shall be released after completion of works in favour of the successful Bidder while as for unsuccessful bidders it shall be released immediately after placement of work order
- Terms & Conditions Scanned copy of the Annexure duly accepted by the bidder.
- Tax Clearance Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number.
- GST Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns.
- Performance guarantee An amount equivalent to 05% of the value of the Contract shall be submitted by the successful bidder before release of his EMD as "Performance Guarantee" in the shape of BG pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, and shall be retained by the department during the currency of contract and shall be released on completion of 60 days after successful completion of supplies, subject to the satisfactory report from the concerned AEE's

Note: - Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

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

- The complete bidding process will be online.
- The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara after evaluation of the technical bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
- Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
- The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
- The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract from the date of issue of Allotment Order.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara

No: - M&HDH/TS/570-73
DIPK-11888/23
Dated: - 08-11-2023

Office Of The Principal District And Sessions Judge Srinagar

NOTIFICATION

No: 02 of 2023/PDJ/Sgr Dated: 07-11-2023

Subject:- Filling up of the District Cadre posts of Drivers (District Srinagar)

It is for the information of all those candidates who have applied for the District Cadre posts of Drivers in District Srinagar advertised vide notification No. 01 of 2023 dated 21-05-2023 and No. 01 of 2019 dated 10-01-2019 that their written test shall be conducted on 19-11-2023 (Sunday) at 2.30 p.m. at Amar Singh College, Srinagar. The Candidates shall download their admit cards from the official website of District Court, Srinagar (<https://districts.courts.gov.in/srinagar>) from 10-11-2023 onwards.

On visiting the website, a link "Download admit card for the post of Drivers District Srinagar" will appear in the "Latest Announcements" tab. On clicking the said link, list of candidates along with their Roll No's and Parentage will appear. In the said list, the candidate shall click on "Admit Card" link against his/her name whereby his/her admit card will appear on the screen. The candidate shall take print out of his/her admit card.

The criteria for selection, general instructions regarding written test, pattern of question paper as well as the list of candidates shall be available on the official website in the "latest announcements" tab. The Candidates are advised to go through the following instructions regarding the conduct of written test, which shall also be available on the official website of District Court, Srinagar.

Instructions:

- Candidates are advised to reach the examination center on the scheduled date at least one hour before the scheduled time.
- The candidates along with their admit cards shall also carry with themselves identity proof like Adhaar card, Election Card, Driving license, Passport etc.
- For writing in the examination, only ball pointed pen preferably of blue colour will be allowed in the examination center.
- No electronic gadget like Mobile Phone, Tab, Calculator, Smart watch etc. will be allowed in the examination center. If any candidate is found with any type of electronic gadget in the examination center, same shall be treated as unfair means and such candidate shall lose his candidature.
- No TA/DA Shall be paid to the candidates.

Note: In case of any difficulty in downloading the admit card, contact Shri. Malik Tariq Mohammad, System Officer e-Court section of the District on his cell No. 9906874663.

Sd/- (Jawad Ahmad)
Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar

No: 4919-26 /PDJS/Adm/2023
DIPK-11822/23
Dated: 08-11-2023

CANCELLATION / PARTIAL CANCELLATION / RESCHEDULING AND REGULATION OF TRAINS

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Northern Railway will undertake the Power and traffic block for crossing of 132 KV transmission line over railway track at Kms 143/23-25 and 143/26-24 between Nilokheri-Amin stations and shadow block for launching of protection plates at KMs 88/ 35A-88/37A & 88/38A-36A between Panipat-Babarpur stations involving UP & DN lines both at a time on Delhi-Ambala section. To execute these works there will be blocks of different durations on 10.11.2023. During this period following trains will be effected as under :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS	
Train No. & Train Name	Date(s) from Originating Station
12460/12459 Amritsar-New Delhi-Amritsar Express	10.11.2023
04449 New Delhi-Kurukshetra EMU	10.11.2023
04452 Kurukshetra-Delhi Jn. EMU	10.11.2023

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short Originate from	Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
11841 Khajuraho-Kurukshetra Exp.	at Panipat	Panipat-Kurukshetra	09.11.2023
11842 Kurukshetra-Khajuraho Exp.	from Panipat	Kurukshetra-Panipat	10.11.2023

RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS		
Train No. 22451 Bandra (T)-Amritsar Express will be rescheduled from Bandra (T) at 15.00 hrs. (180 minutes late) on 09.11.2023		
Train No. 12046 Chandigarh-New Delhi Express will be rescheduled from Chandigarh at 14.05 hrs. (120 minutes late) on 10.11.2023		

REGULATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Train Name	Regulation period between stations	Date(s) (from originating station)
12925 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Exp.	120 minutes between Adrsh Nagar Delhi-Panipat	09.11.2023
22685 Yesvantpur-Chandigarh Exp.	70 minutes between Adrsh Nagar Delhi-Panipat	08.11.2023
12715 H.S. Nanded-Amritsar Express	20 minutes between Adrsh Nagar Delhi-Panipat	09.11.2023
12926 Amritsar-Bandra (T) Express	80 minutes between Mohri-Kurukshetra	10.11.2023
15708 Amritsar-Katihar Express	60 minutes between Mohri-Kurukshetra	10.11.2023
22430 Pathankot-Delhi Jn. Express	50 minutes between Mohri-Kurukshetra	10.11.2023
22706 Pathankot-Delhi Jn. Express	40 minutes between Mohri-Kurukshetra	10.11.2023

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in 3503/2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir,
Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

NIT No. 71-Kupwara/ 8046-54 of 2023-24 e-tendering DATED: - 07-11-2023

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other state/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1.	Iron ducking of existing drain at Sayedabad Ward No. 08	0.74	200/-	1500/-	12 days	13-11-2023	"DEE"	Normal Resources 2023-24

Position of AAA : Accorded
Position of funds : Approved

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

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	07-11-2023
02.	Period of downloading of bid-tendering documents	From 08-11-2023 to 13-11-2023 (4.00PM)
03.	Bid submission start date	08-11-2023 from (10.00A.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	13-11-2023 upto (04.00PM)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	13-11-2023 at (6:00PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer RnB Division Kupwara

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :-
The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contractor alongwith Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara .
- The Successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% additional performance security deposit of the allotted cost. The same shall be released after successful completion of the defect liability Period of the work. The EMD of 2% successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security
- Additional performance security for unbalanced bids is to be submitted by the lowest bidder before issuance of Allotment as per procedure in vogue.

S.No	%age of unbalanced Bid viz a viz advertised cost on account of Law Rate	Additional performance security to be deposited
1.	Up to and including 15% below	Nil
2.	Greater than 15% upto and including 20% below	5% of advertised cost
3.	Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below	10% of advertised cost
4.	Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below	15% of advertised cost
5.	Greater than 30% below	20% of advertised cost

- The bidders shall ensure that their bids shall be accepted only if their registrations cards are uploaded on <https://jkpwds.jk.gov.in> portal in active Tab. as per circular instructions issued by Development Commissioner works vide No.PW/DCW/DB/668-72 DT.10-06-2022.
- The GST-3B for last Quarter (Quarterly return) and Previous month for (Monthly return) Should be uploaded, irrespective of date of Tender
- 1st lowest bidder will submit the CDR/FDR within two days after process for one year in this division.
- Manual offers delivered by post/fax or in person, or offers sent by e-mail or telex shall not be accepted against electronic tenders, even if such offers are received in time. All such offers shall be considered as invalid offers and shall be rejected summarily, without any consideration
- In case the L-1 fails deposit the requisite document, the action against the L-1 as per PWD rules leading to blacklisting of contractor
- On Opening of financial bid the L1 has to produce the Original CDR/FDR pledge to the opening Authority before allotting the work along with Cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan
- Upload Valid Registration CARD /Renewal, PAN Card , GST Certificate and latest GST clearance ending previous Month.
- It is mandatory for all bidders participating to submit all documents in terms of soft copies in etendering website and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, lowest bidder will be called for submission of CDR/FDR as well as Treasury Challan and CDR/FDR of the other participating tenderers/ bidders will be released only after surrender of Treasury Challan .
- Furnishing of Hard Copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the Bidder who's declared 1st Lowest (L-1) after opening of financial bids.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- The contractor may purchase required material of quality and specifications prescribed, to be certified by Engineer in-charge
- The steel/Key construction material shall be allowed only of approved brand by the government.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.
- The tenderers are directed to submit their tender online; in case the last date of opening of tenders happens to be a holiday/hartal the same shall be opened on the next working day.

No. 8046-54
DIPK-11812/23
DT: 08-11-2023

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Kupwara.

J&K Bank Hosts Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Outreach Program



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the country-wide Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Outreach Programs, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Wednesday conducted one such programme at J&K Bank Corporate Headquarters in collaboration with J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLCB). The event witnessed an active participation of all the member banks operating in the UT of J&K besides serving as a platform for the enrolment of scores of beneficiaries under Atal Pension Yojana Scheme.

General Manager, J&K Bank (Convenor J&K UTLCB) Syed Rais Maqbool chaired the event wherein Deputy General Manager (PFRDA) Priyanka Gupta was the special-guest. The program was attended by Mission Director (PMJDY) M. Y. Itoo, Additional Mission Director (JK RLM) Riyaz Ahmad Beigh, senior officials of RBI, NABARD, regional heads of various banks operating in J&K UT, Lead District Managers, Business Correspondents (BCs) besides achievers and beneficiaries under the scheme.

Dwelling upon the purpose and benefits of the APY scheme in detail during her keynote address, DGM (PFRDA) Priyanka Gupta said, "The purpose of coming up with APY in 2015 was to ensure regular source of income for the workers in

unorganised sector that constitutes 88% of country's working population."

"Besides ensuring recurring monthly income after attaining age of 60 years, the scheme also provides for the continuation of eligible pension to spouse in case of subscriber's demise. Thereafter also, in case of spouse's death, the entire pension corpus along with its returns is given to the nominee mentioned in the account", She said while adding, "With such attractive features, it is our collective responsibility to take the APY scheme to the grassroots." She also talked about the strategies that need to be adopted to improve the coverage of the scheme.

Earlier, General Manager (JK UTLCB) Syed Rais Maqbool highlighted the importance of APY saying, "The initiative of the Union Government to provide social security cover to the less-privileged and the most vulnerable sections of the society is unarguably the largest programme of its kind in the world."

"By involving banks in this initiative, the Government has not only ensured that the benefits of the social schemes reach the last person in the remotest geographies, it has also added a soft dimension to the banks functioning and allowed the banks to participate in an empowerment wave sweeping across all the geographies of the country", he added.

Stock Markets Edge Higher In Volatile Trade Amid Weak Global Cues

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty edged higher on Wednesday after a volatile trade amid weak cues from Asian and European markets along with unabated foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced by 33.21 points or 0.05 per cent to settle at 64,975.61. During the day, it hit a high of 65,124 and a low of 64,851.06.

The broader Nifty went up by 36.80 points or 0.19 per cent to close at 19,443.50 with 29 of its components closing in green and the rest 21 in red.

Among the Sensex firms, Asian Paints, Titan, Larsen & Toubro, JSW Steel, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Maruti and Reliance Industries were the major gainers. ICICI Bank, NTPC, Infosys, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards.

"The domestic market traded rangebound with a positive

bias. And further confidence may be derived from the global market cues post the FED chair speech. Oil prices continued to fall, which will provide respite to the domestic economy and navigate a downward trajectory to inflation & fiscal," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

"Markets remained rangebound and ended marginally in the green. After the flat start, Nifty oscillated in a narrow range till the end and finally settled at 19,443.50 levels," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.78 per cent and smallcap index gained 0.60 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.40 per cent, services climbed 1.07 per cent, oil & gas (0.96 per cent), capital goods (0.86 per cent), consumer discretionary (0.84 per cent), auto (0.80 per cent) and energy (0.77 per cent).

Will Take India Among Top 3 Economies Of World In My Third Tenure: PM Modi

Press Trust of India

DAMOH- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said in his third tenure as PM, he will take the country among the top three economies in the world.

Addressing a public meeting in Madhya Pradesh's Damoh town ahead of the November 17 state assembly polls, Modi also said he will continue to fight against corruption.

People gave power to the Congress in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, but their chief ministers were found involved in "satta" (betting) and generating black money, he said.

Modi said that after 2014, the country's economy climbed to 5th position from 10th, which leaved the UK, which ruled the country for over 200 years.

"In 2014, when we came to power, the country's economy was at the 10th position. Gradually it moved to 9th, 8th, 7th and 6th but nobody was talking about it. When it reached the 5th position and left behind the UK, which ruled the



nation for 200 years, everybody was surprised and started looking at India," he said.

Modi said during his third tenure as PM, he will take the country's economy among the top three in the world.

The Lok Sabha elections are due next year.

The PM said if the Congress comes back to power, the "85 per cent commission system" will work in the states as once stated by a prime minister of that party.

Notably, former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi had said only 15 paise of every Re 1 re-

leased by the Centre reached the targeted beneficiary.

Modi also said that Congress leaders are saying they will complain to the Election Commission about his promise to extend for five years the free ration scheme for the poor people.

"Let them do this sin, I will continue to do good work for the people," he said.

The prime minister also said he will continue to fight against corruption and asked people whether he should do so or not, to which they replied in the affirmative.

Sebi Streamlines Process For Investors To Access Unclaimed Funds In REITs, InvITs, Debt Securities



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Capital markets regulator Sebi, on Wednesday, came out with detailed procedures for dealing with unclaimed funds of investors

lying with entities having listed non-convertible securities, REITs and InvITs.

The regulator has also put in place a manner of claiming such unclaimed amounts by investors.

The new framework will come into effect from March 1, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in three separate circulars.

The move is aimed at pre-

scribing a uniform process of claim for such unclaimed funds in a streamlined manner for the ease and convenience of investors.

This came after the board of Sebi in September approved amendments to rules about the IPEF (Investor Protection and Education Fund) disclosure, real estate investment trusts (REITs), and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).

Going by circulars, Sebi has defined the manner of handling the unclaimed amounts lying with REITs, InvITs, and in the escrow accounts of the listed entities (which are not companies), transfer of such

amounts to IPEF and claim thereof by the investors.

Additionally, the regulator has standardised the process to be followed by a listed entity, REITs and InvITs for the transfer of such amounts to escrow accounts and by the investors for making claims thereof.

Investors may approach the debt-listed entity/ REIT/InvIT to claim their unclaimed amounts, thereby ensuring minimal disruptions in the claim process for investors.

Under the rule, any amount transferred to the escrow account remaining unclaimed for a period of seven years shall be transferred to IEPF.



JKTPO's Showcases J&K's Rich Heritage At CII Chandigarh Fair 2023

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) marked a significant presence at the CII Chandigarh Fair 2023, held at Parade Ground, Chandigarh. The event served as a platform to showcase region's rich cultural heritage and exceptional craftsmanship of local artisans, leaving an indelible impression on attendees.

CII Chandigarh Fair 2023 witnessed a substantial footfall as visitors from all walks of life flocked to explore the vibrant and diverse array of products on display at the JKTPO stall. With a wide range of hand-crafted items and traditional specialties, the organization's representation at the fair was nothing short of spectacular.

JKTPO had allocated 20 stalls in this fair for local exhibitors and artisans to exhibit their products including luxurious pashmina shawls and stoles, exquisite handwoven carpets, world-famous Kashmiri saffron, stunning Papier-mâché products and hand-embroi-

dered garments with intricate Kashmiri patterns.

Visitors to the JKTPO stalls had the opportunity to not only witness these exquisite products but also to engage with the artisans themselves. The stories behind each creation and the dedication of craftspeople were shared with enthusiasm, creating a unique and immersive experience for attendees.

The JKTPO team expressed gratitude for the enthusiastic response they received. The fair provided a platform to bridge cultures and connect local artisans with a broader audience, contributing towards the economic growth and empowerment of the region's skilled workforce.

JKTPO's participation in the CII Chandigarh Fair 2023 was a resounding success, and the organization remains committed towards promoting and preserving the rich heritage and cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir. Their continuous efforts to support and uplift local artisans and businesses stand as a testament to their unwavering dedication.

Constantly Actively Pursuing Tax Evasion Cases: Principal Commissioner Income Tax



Observer News Service

KUPWARA- An income tax awareness programme for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and local business men was Wednesday organised by the Income Tax Department in collaboration with District Administration Kupwara at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Kupwara.

The programme was presided over by the Principal Commissioner, of Income Tax Srinagar, MP Singh and Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Commissioner Income Tax said that the awareness programme at Kupwara was held to sensitize the DDOs, employees, people and businessmen about the importance of tax paying.

Regarding the event, the Principal Commissioner said

that the aim of such awareness programmes is reaching out to taxpayers, business fraternity, DDOs, government employees, etc., to sensitize them and make them aware of their responsibilities and the importance of income tax in the overall scheme of things.

"The main idea behind this outreach program was to create awareness so that people understand the importance of tax-paying and can file their returns properly," he said.

Singh enlightened the participants regarding various provisions of the Income Tax Act and Rules and emphasised the role of taxpayers in nation-building by paying taxes voluntarily/honestly. He also cautioned officers and business fraternity to not fall prey to tax evasion as the IT department is constantly gathering data and information about tax evasion, and the department is actively pursuing it.

Director Employment, J&K Inaugurates Job Fair-2023 In Shopian



Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Shopian Wednesday organised a Career Expo cum Job Fair, wherein apart from allied Govt. Departments promoting self-employment, reputed private employers from different sectors also participated.

Director Employment, J&K presided over the programme. Addressing the youth, he impressed upon all the stakeholders to utilise this opportunity to the maximum. He urged them to avail the benefits of various self-employment schemes and try to be job providers rather

than job seekers.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director Employment, Hafsa Qayoom emphasized upon the unemployed youth to register themselves on employment portal (jakemp.nic.in) to get latest updates and notifications related to vacancies put up by private and public sector employers.

15 Employers from different sectors including companies like Peace Traders & Co, Gulshan Agri India, Nakashi Sons, Ikhwan Agencies, Royal International, Ashoka Leyland, PitMan Institute, Fairdeal Motors, MY Car Automobiles, Bajaj Allianz etc. witnessed an overwhelming

response from job seekers. Hundreds of unemployed youth/jobseekers from district Shopian participated in the event.

Different departments also put up their stalls and sensitized youth regarding various self-employment schemes available with their respective departments.

Also Director Employment, J&K visited the ITI Shopian for inspection of the ongoing Training Course 'Junior Software Developer'. During the inspection, Director Employment, J&K held a detailed interaction with the students and emphasized them to utilise these opportunities to the maximum.

SKUAST-K Extends Outreach To Jammu, Organises 7 Skill Trainings

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Under the entrepreneurship and skill development programme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt of India, SKUAST-K has been entrusted with skill development of youth and promotion of entrepreneurial ecosystem in J&K and Ladakh UTs.

For the year 2023-24, the agricultural university has been awarded more than 550 skill trainings to be conducted across the regions of J&K and Ladakh. In this endeavor, SKUAST-K's Directorate of Planning & Monitoring, organised seven entrepreneurship awareness camps on 'Branding and Marketing of Honey' in Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts for the entrepreneurs and rural youth.

Four programmes were conducted at Panchayat Level in Gagian in District Jammu, Panchayat Roun and Darsoo in District Udhampur, Panchayat-Utterbehni in District-Samba, whereas one programme was conducted at Village Rattian in Jammu district in collaboration with Department of Agriculture and Family Welfare, Jammu. Two

programme were conducted in two Govt Degree colleges of District Kathua (Hiranagar and Marheen). All the Programmes were conducted with the overall supervision of Prof Haroon R. Naik, Nodal Officer (MSME)/Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir. During the said programme, Dr Sushil Kumar, Associate Professor, SKUAST-K and Course Coordinator of the programmes highlighted the importance of branding and marketing of honey and the strategies involved like brand, identification, packaging design, targeted marketing, quality assurance, promotion and royalty programmes, regional and national event etc. He also said that the market for honey and honey-based products in India is still at a nascent stage and offers a huge potential for growth. Dr Yogesh Kumar, STA, SKUAST-Kashmir also highlighted the various Govt schemes for the promotion and marketing of honey and their products. The main aim of these programmes was to create awareness among the rural youths and farmers regarding the branding and marketing of the honey and to generate employment opportunities.

Growth In October GST Mop-Up Due To Economic Activity: CBIC Chief

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: CBIC Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal on Wednesday said the growth in October GST collections, which is the second highest ever, is on account of economic activity and not due to show cause notices to online gaming companies.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in October grew 13.4 per cent to Rs 1.72 lakh crore.

GST collection in October is the second highest ever since roll-out on July 1, 2017. In April, the mop-up was highest at Rs 1.87 lakh crore.

"The growth in October GST collections was riding on economic activity and not because of notices that was sent (to online gaming companies). Growth has come purely on the economic activity which has taken place in the country," Agarwal told reporters on the sidelines of the DPIIT-CII National Conference on Ease of Doing Business.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has been issuing notices to companies for short payment of taxes in 2017-18 fiscal. The last date for sending notices for that fiscal was September 30, 2023.

Agarwal said October GST collection was not only because of domestic GST supplies, but also due to IGST on imports also.

"The imports were healthier as compared to previous months," Agarwal said, adding the imports were healthier as compared to previous months maybe because companies were replenishing their stocks or inventories or due to the upcoming festive season.

The CBIC in September had issued notices totalling about Rs 1 lakh crore to online gaming and casinos operators in September for alleged tax evasion.

17 years after killing beggar to fake his death for Rs 80 lakh insurance, UP man held in Gujarat

Ahmedabad: A 39-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh has been arrested from Ahmedabad, where he had been residing by assuming a new identity for the last 17 years after allegedly killing a beggar with the help of his family members in order to fake his own death and claim Rs 80 lakh in insurance money, said police on Wednesday.

Acting on a specific-tip off, crime branch officials nabbed the man, Anil Singh Vijaypalsingh Chaudhary, a native of Bhatta-Parsaul village in Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, from Ahmedabad city's Nikol area, said a police release.

On July 31, 2006, the Rakabganj police station in Agra had lodged an accidental death report after a car driver, then identified as Anil Singh Chaudhary by his father, died of burn injuries when his vehicle got gutted in a fire following an accident, said the release.

Recently, the Ahmedabad crime branch learnt from its sources that Anil Singh Chaudhary is still alive and living in the Nikol area under a new name, Rajkumar Chaudhary, it said.

After the arrest, Anil Singh Chaudhary admitted he and



his father had hatched a plan to usurp accident insurance money by staging his death. As per the plan, Anil Singh Chaudhary took an accidental death insurance policy in 2004 and then purchased a car, said the police. Later, Anil Singh Chaudhary, his father and brothers lured a beggar, who begged for alms in trains, with an offer of food. They took the beggar to a hotel near Agra and served him food laced with sedatives, said the release. The accused then dumped the unconscious beggar in their car and deliberately rammed the vehicle against an electricity pole to portray it like an accident. They subsequently placed the beggar on the driver's seat and set the car ablaze to show the vehicle caught fire due to the accident, said the police.

Anil Singh Chaudhary's father Vijaypalsingh identified the body as that of his son and cremated it in his native village in Gautam Buddha Nagar district. As per the plan, Vijaypalsingh Chaudhary claimed Rs 80 lakh of his son and distributed the sum among family members, said the police.

After collecting his share, Anil Singh Chaudhary came to Ahmedabad in 2006 and never went back to his native village in Uttar Pradesh, said the release.

He changed his name to Rajkumar Chaudhary and obtained a driving licence as well as an Aadhaar card by that name. He purchased an auto-rickshaw and then a car on loan to earn his livelihood, said the release.

Air quality in Delhi 'severe' again, farm fires major contributor

New Delhi: Air quality in Delhi and its suburbs dropped to the 'severe' category again on Wednesday with smoke from post-harvest paddy straw burning in neighbouring states accounting for over one-third of the air pollution in the national capital.

The city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI), recorded at 4 pm every day, stood at 426, worsening from 395 on Tuesday.

Several cities across the Indo-Gangetic plains reported hazardous air quality. Neighbouring Ghaziabad (384), Gurugram (385), Noida (405), Greater Noida (478) and Faridabad (425) also reported hazardous air quality.

According to data from the Decision Support System, a numerical model-based framework capable of identifying sources of particulate matter pollution in Delhi, stubble burning in neighbouring states, especially Punjab and Haryana, accounted for 38 per cent of the air pollution in Delhi on Wednesday. It is likely to be 27 per cent on Thursday.

In view of the worsening air pollution, the Delhi government on Wednesday rescheduled the December winter break of all schools, which will now be from November 9 to November 18.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the entry of app-based taxis into Delhi has been banned as per the Supreme



Court's order.

He also said the odd-even rationing scheme will be implemented in the national capital after the Supreme Court reviews its effectiveness and issues an order. The matter will be next heard on Friday.

On Tuesday, the apex court questioned the effectiveness of the Delhi government's car rationing scheme, aimed at curbing vehicular pollution, and referred to it as "all optics".

Anticipating further deterioration of air quality post-Diwali, Rai had on Monday announced that the flagship scheme, which permits cars to operate on alternate days based on the odd or even last digit of their registration numbers, would be enforced between November 13 and November 20. The government also issued

directions to immediately restart the Connaught Place smog tower and a study to identify the sources of pollution in the capital. The two projects were unilaterally stalled by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) Chairman Ashwani Kumar without informing the government, Rai had claimed.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi-NCR, the region is likely to experience 'severe' air quality for another five to six days.

Doctors say breathing in the polluted air of Delhi is equivalent to the harmful effects of smoking approximately 10 cigarettes a day.

Prolonged exposure to high levels of pollution can cause or exacerbate respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis and

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and dramatically raise the risk of cardiovascular disease, said Rajesh Chawla, senior consultant in pulmonology and critical care at the Indraprastha Apollo Hospital.

Stringent restrictions mandated under the final stage of the Central government's air pollution control plan for Delhi-NCR called the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), have also been implemented in the capital.

The restrictions under Stage IV of GRAP, including a ban on all kinds of construction work and the entry of polluting trucks into Delhi, took effect on Sunday after the air quality in the city dropped to 'severe plus' (AQI above 450) levels.

GRAP categorises actions into four stages: Stage I - Poor (AQI 201-300); Stage II - Very Poor (AQI 301-400); Stage III - Severe (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV - Severe Plus (AQI above 450).

Unfavourable meteorological conditions, combined with vehicular emissions, paddy straw burning, firecrackers and other local pollution sources contribute to hazardous air quality levels in Delhi-NCR during the winter every year.

According to a DPCC analysis, the capital experiences peak pollution from November 1 to November 15 when the number of stubble burning incidents in Punjab and Haryana increases.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Possible Outbreak

chance of community spread if preventive measures are not implemented promptly. The symptoms of the two contagious diseases including Covid-19 and the Mumps, are similar, however swollen glands are the hallmark of Mumps caused by MuV," said Dr Nisar, who is the President of Doctors Association of Kashmir (DAK)

He said that a patient testing positive for the virus must go for self isolation for at least three to five days to contain the spread of the highly contagious disease to other families and communities.

"Since there are many symptoms that are similar to the Covid-19 and Mumps, it is vital that people get vaccinated against both viruses. These both might become epidemics and spread throughout communities," he added.

When asked how a patient can find if he is infected with Mumps, Dr Nisar said that blood tests and buccal swabs, which involve taking a sample of cells from inside the mouth or nose painlessly, can confirm a positive result.

The DAK president said the recommended course of treatment for Mumps includes, drinking lots of fluids, avoiding sour or acidic beverages like, orange juice and lemonade, gargling with warm salt water to relieve sore throat.

"In order to relieve discomfort and reduce swelling, he said applying hot, wet substances to the afflicted organs—such as the cheeks and jaws—are strongly advised. The most effective treatment for reducing cheek and throat edema is fomentation," he said.

Dr. Nisar also cautioned patients with mumps against poultry and red meat consumption since they are hard foods that strain the jaw and cause discomfort.

"Consume soft diet that doesn't need chewing such as bananas, soups, oatmeal, and pasta. It is recommended to stay away from citrus fruits and spicy foods as they might exacerbate pain by inducing the glands to produce more saliva. Steer clear of fatty and difficult-to-digest items, such as red meat and processed foods," he suggested.

He advised the patient to stay away from work or school for a few days following the onset of symptoms, often wash hands with soap and throw away tissues when sneezing.

Leading Pulmonologist and Head of the Department at Chest Diseases Hospital Srinagar, Dr Naveed Nazir Shah said the initial symptoms of Mumps are non specific which includes fever, headache, malaise, muscle pain and loss of appetite.

"These symptoms are followed by painful swelling of the parotid glands, called parotitis, which are the most common symptoms of the Mumps. Symptoms typically occur after two weeks of exposure to the virus and resolve within two weeks," Dr Naveed told Kashmir Observer, adding about 1/3rd of patients with Mumps are asymptomatic.

He said the Mumps virus complications are rare, but if ignored, they can result in deafness and a variety of inflammatory disorders, the most prevalent of which are inflammation of the testicles, breasts, ovaries, pancreas, meningitis, and brain.

"Mumps is transmitted by exposure to someone having already contracted the virus. It is primarily transmitted by respiratory secretions, such as droplets and direct contact with an infected person. Mumps is highly contagious and spreads easily in densely populated settings. The transmission can occur from one week before the onset of symptoms to eight days after contracting the virus," he added.

SIA Raids Multiple

in unlawful activities, including secessionism and terrorism, according to the agency.

The case was registered at SIA Kashmir police station on the basis of an inquiry.

During the inquiry, it was found that funds to the tune of Rs 85 crore were raised and laundered in less than two years, the SIA said.

The transactions were mostly cash-based to evade detection by law enforcement agencies. Based on the findings of the inquiry, case FIR No 08 of 2023 was registered under relevant sections of law, it said.

The raids were conducted on the strength of a search warrant issued by a special designated NIA court to collect evidence relevant to the ongoing investigation in the case, it said.

The SIA said it is committed to dismantling the terror ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir by choking terror financing channels, be it hawala, human cash couriers or banking channels.

Myanmar National

trafficking, the official said. Zaffar Alam was arrested from his temporary residence in the Bathindi area of Jammu around 2 am, the official said.

ED Gets 7-Day

with alleged irregularities in land purchase to set up the trust.

The federal agency had raided about eight premises in Jammu, Kathua and Punjab's Pathankot on October 17 in the case against RB Educational Trust, its chairperson and Ravinder S, a former revenue official.

The money laundering case stems from an October 2021 charge sheet filed by the CBI in this case which alleged criminal connivance in the issuance of land between January 4 and January 7, 2011, without mentioning details in respect of violation of the ceiling limit of 100 standard kanals imposed under Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976, thereby giving undue pecuniary advantage to trust.

Based on this, the trust acquired multiple pieces of land of about 329 kanals vide three gift deeds executed on January 5 and January 7, 2011, the CBI charge sheet claimed.

DGP Calls For

while chairing meetings with the senior officers of Army, CRPF and police in the twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama in South Kashmir, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. The DGP also took a first hand review of the current security scenario of these districts.

In these meetings, he said, discussions were held regarding enhancing coordination between the forces besides the intelligence agencies. He said people friendly policing and security of the vulnerable population, plans for zero terror and area domination also remained on the agenda of these meetings. Besides, he said, the working of police stations and their requirements was also discussed.

Addressing these meetings, the spokesperson said, DGP lauded the good work and efforts of forces and of intelligence agencies in fighting the terrorism in South Kashmir.

"To uproot the terrorism totally more joint efforts of all are needed," Swain told the officers, adding that synergy among the forces has to be enhanced to the next level.

The DGP also emphasised for coordination among ranks at different levels in planning and executing actions for zero terror plans and also directed for working on plans for area domination on a routine basis.

Stressing upon officers to be vigilant as the enemies of peace are looking for the chances to disrupt the peace, the DGP, as per the spokesperson said that the peaceful atmosphere in the Jammu & Kashmir has been achieved after a lot of hard work and sacrifices by police and security forces.

While impressing for the safety and security of the people, Swain, he said, stressed for generating more human intelligence, adding that

people's welfare is our prime concern.

He impressed upon the officers to work with professionalism, sincerity and in a dedicated manner for the safety & security of all the people. He said that JKP along with other sister agencies have succeeded in creating a conducive atmosphere in the UT and to maintain it is a big challenge.

During these meetings, the official spokesperson said, the DGP also took stock of the working of the police stations and their requirements. He directed the officers to take care of jawans immediate needs, so that they can discharge their duties without any difficulty.

The DGP was accompanied by the ADGP Law & Order J&K, Vijay Kumar and IGP Vidhi Kumar Birdi. He was received at these districts by the district SSp Shopian & Pulwama. Ceremonial Guards of honour were presented to the DGP, on his arrival in these districts.

The meeting at Shopian was attended by ADG CRPF Nalin Prabhat, GoC Victor Force Major General Balbir Singh, IG Kashmir Ops CRPF Gyanendra Kumar Verma, DIG SKR Rayees Mohammad Bhat and other security officials.

At Pulwama besides ADGP L&O, ADGP CRPF, IGP Kashmir, IGP CRPF, DJSR SKR & CRPF the meeting was attended by 5 Sector Commander, SSP Pulwama Mohd Yusuf, Army Commandants of 50 RR, 53 RR & 55 RR, Commandants of CRPF 183 Bn. & 182 Bn.

Vijay Kumar Takes

Kumar who had held the post from December 2019 after his premature repatriation from central deputation, officials said.

His posting in Kashmir came shortly after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in August 2019.

As the head of the Kashmir Police, Kumar is credited with bringing massive transformation in the overall security situation in the Valley by putting an end to separatist-sponsored street violence and strike culture which had become the order of the day in the militancy-hit region over the past three decades, the officials said.

Having a vast experience in anti-insurgency operations, Kumar had earlier served as Sub-Divisional Police Officer of Ganderbal, Superintendent of Police (SP), Special Operations Group Pulwama, SP Awantipora, SP Kulgam, SP Kupwara and Deputy Inspector General of Police (South Kashmir), they said.

On central deputation, he has served in the CRPF as DIG-Delhi Range, IG-CoBRA, IG-Operations and IG-Chhattisgarh sector.

The works done under his command include a new funeral and burial arrangement for slain terrorists, incident-free conduct of the first ever District Development Council (DDC) election in November-December 2020 and effective COVID-19 lockdown management, the officials said.

The handling of the situation post the death of headline separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani in September 2021, zero-killing of civilians by law enforcement agencies during law and order situations, minimum collateral damage during encounters and dramatic reduction in recruitment of youth into terrorism - from 210 in 2018 to 10 in 2023 - are some other highlights of his tenure as the Inspector General of Police, they said.

Kumar is also credited with successful conduct of the third G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting in May, Amarnath Yatra in 2022 and 2023, and allowing Muharram procession in Srinagar city after 34 years besides facilitating an incident-free Bharat Jodo Yatra' of the Congress in January, the officials said.

On the investigation front, 1,395 cases of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act were disposed with a disposal percentage going up to 87. The conviction in UAPA cases also started from 2021. Hundreds of terrorists and terror

associates were also arrested in the past four years, they said.

Kumar also aptly handled the situation in the aftermath of an encounter in Hyderpora locality of Srinagar in November 2021 and another at Amshipura village in Shopian district of south Kashmir in July 2020, the officials said.

Four persons were killed in the encounter in Hyderpora with families of the deceased claiming that they were civilians and not linked to any terror group, prompting police to set up a Special Investigation Team which later indicated that there was no wrongdoing on part of the security forces.

However, the killing of three men dubbed as terrorists in Amshipura proved to be a "fake encounter" with an army court recommending life imprisonment for a captain.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police had also constituted a Special Investigation Team which filed a charge sheet against three people, including the accused captain, for "staging a fake encounter".

HC Dismisses

grounds and that the officials were required to first conduct the enquiry into the matter under Rule 349 of the Police Rules and that it was not open for them to register the FIR against the SHO without the permission of the District Magistrate.

The counsel further stated that the basic ingredients of Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act have not been satisfied because the SHO is not alleged to have obtained any illegal gratification from the contractor.

On the other hand, senior Additional Advocate General stated that the case stands registered under the "exigent circumstances" and the cognizance in the case has been taken under the special law which has been augured by the circumstances and the facts.

The police, he said, besides having purport of prevention and detection of crime, was protector of life and property of the masses and any allegation to the extent of extortion of bribe from members of public by police officials have to be put to through scrutiny.

He said that the investigation of the matter is at its "threshold and the culpability of petitioner (SHO) is yet to be worked out, but the act of impeding the furtherance of investigation by the petitioner lends a colour of guilty conscious to him and guilty conscious does not need any excuse."

"The High Court, while forming an opinion whether a criminal proceeding or complaint or FIR should be quashed in exercise of its jurisdiction under Section 482 Cr. P.C., must evaluate whether the ends of justice would justify the exercise of the inherent power... it has to be exercised to secure the ends of justice or to prevent an abuse of the process of any court," a bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul said, adding, "Perusal of the instant petition and the contents contained therein require and demand full dress trial and examination of facts by this Court as if this Court is in appeal and acting as an appellate court and to draw its own conclusion vis-à-vis impugned FIR, complaint and proceedings emanating therefrom."

This is not the aim and objective of the provisions of Section 482 Cr. P.C., particularly when the petition on hand does not unveil any ground muchless cogent or material one, to indicate that the inherent powers are to be exercised to prevent abuse of process of law and to secure the ends of justice, the Bench said. "...the impugned FIR does not call for any interference and consequently, the instant petition is liable to be dismissed.

Misfire Injures

Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Jammu for specialised treatment on Wednesday morning.

The police have begun an investigation into the incident, he added.

DG BSF Reviews

steadfast tenacity and dedication in challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions, the force said.

Police Arrest

Located in Zirpora on the Bijbehara-Pahalgam road, the shop has been attached under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), according to the officials.

Police said in a notice that the property cannot be sold, leased, purchased, transferred, gifted, sublet, mortgaged or loaned without the competent authority's permission.

Thoker and four other JEM militants were arrested in connection with the killing of Deepak Kumar (27), a resident of south Kashmir's Udhampur district, the officials said.

Thoker, who worked at a circus in Udhampur's Janglat Mandi area, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne militants from a close range on the night of May 29 this year when he had gone to the market to buy milk, they said.

32 Booked For

committing the fraud since 2019 until now. The case was registered on the direction of the 30th Kurla court under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (cheating), 120-B (conspiracy), IT Act (for cyber terrorism) and the Gambling Act, the official said.

As per the FIR, the accused have defrauded people of nearly Rs 15,000 crore.

The Enforcement Directorate last week claimed that a forensic analysis and a statement made by a "cash courier" had led to "startling allegations" that Mahadev betting app promoters have paid about Rs 508 crore to the Chhattisgarh chief minister so far, and that "these are subject matter of investigation".

Later, the BJP released a video of Shubham Soni saying he was the owner of the app and had the "proof" of paying Rs 508 crore so far to Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel.

On November 5, the Centre issued blocking orders against 22 illegal betting platforms, including the Mahadev app and Reddyannaprestop, on ED's request, an official statement said.

The action of banning the 22 illegal betting platforms follows investigations conducted by the ED against an illegal betting app syndicate and subsequent raids in connection with the Mahadev app in Chhattisgarh.

3 Men Charge

are presently lodged in the Kathua district jail, a senior official said.

Police conducted the investigation in a time-bound manner and produced the challan in the court for judicial determination, he said.

Police are taking stern legal action against perpetrators of crimes against women in Samba. Investigations in such cases are conducted in a highly professional manner, he said.

Woman Drug

regarding the presence of contraband in a residential house at Trikanjan Baniyar. Accordingly, a police party of Police Station Baniyar headed by SHO PS Baniyar under the supervision of SDPO Uri raided the said house. During the search, 60 grams of contraband Heroin like substance was recovered from the possession of one lady, who was identified as Farhat Begum @ Fancy wife of Rayees Ahmad Khan resident of Trikanjan Baniyar," reads the statement.

"She has been arrested and shifted to PS Baniyar where she remains in custody."

"Accordingly, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at police Station Baniyar & investigations have been initiated," reads the statement.

Gill & Siraj Attain Top Spots In ODI Rankings

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Indian opener Shubman Gill and pacer Mohammed Siraj on Wednesday grabbed the top positions in the batting and bowling charts, respectively, in the International Cricket Council ranking for One Day International (ODI).

While Gill replaced Pakistan skipper Babar Azam from the top of the batter's chart, Siraj displaced South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj in the bowlers list.

Gill displaced Babar on coming back with his solid start to India's campaign at the ongoing World Cup and in the process became the fourth player from his country behind Sachin Tendulkar, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and Virat Kohli to hold the first ODI batter ranking.

The right-hander has contributed scores of 92 against Sri Lanka and 23 against South Africa over the last week, and amassed a total of 219 runs from six innings at the ongoing tournament.



ing tournament.

Babar has totaled 282 runs from eight knocks at the World Cup and dropped six rating points below Gill into second place. His reign of more than two years as the first ranked ODI batter in the world came to an end.

Among other Indian batters, Virat Kohli has risen to fourth place following his sensational run in the World Cup, while skipper Rohit Sharma is placed sixth.

Kohli is currently India's highest run-scorer, amassing 543 in eighth innings at an average of 108.60, including two centuries and four fifties.

Kohli is one rating point ahead of third-placed Quinton de Kock of South Africa. Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer also rose 17 spots to be placed 18th in the rankings.

Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman (up three spots to 11th) and Afghanistan counterpart Ibrahim Zadran (up six spots to 12th) also made good ground.

Meanwhile among bowlers, Siraj rose to the top spot with his impressive effort so far in the tournament.

Siraj has grabbed 10 wickets so far in eight matches at an economy rate of 5.23 to displace Maharaj from the top.

Among other Indian bowlers, fellow Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah has risen three spots to eighth, while Mohammed Shami jumped seven spots to be placed 10th on the chart.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav also climbed three places to be placed fourth, while fellow tweaker Ravindra Jadeja has moved up eight rungs to the 19th spot.

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan is leading the all-rounders' chart, while Jadeja is the highest-ranked Indian at the 10th spot.

Jadeja is India's third-highest wicket-taker in the competition so far, scalping 14 wickets from eight matches at a good economy rate of 3.76, including a five-for. With the bat, he has piled up 111 runs in four innings at an average of 55.50.

Rain Threat Looms As New Zealand Take On Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: New Zealand's campaign has hit a disheartening flatline after their early domination and the Kiwis will have to rediscover their bowling mojo for a World Cup reboot when they face knocked-out Sri Lanka here on Thursday.

Ahead of their last league match which is under rain threat, New Zealand are hobbling on eight points, aware of the fact that a defeat or a washout can throw them out of the tournament. They are now fourth on the table. Pakistan (+0.036) and Afghanistan (-0.338), who also have eight points apiece, can also potentially reach 10 points with a win over England and South Africa in their respective final league match.

In that context, the Kiwis (+0.398) have to win sufficiently big to take care of the Net Run Rate as well. So, it is not an all too bright scenario for New Zealand, but a victory will at least keep them in the race to the semifinals for the time



being. But it is not tough to see why New Zealand have faltered and ended up at where they are now.

Unlike backmarkers England, New Zealand's batting has not really collapsed except against South Africa but their bowling lacked sting when it was needed. The Kiwis made 400 against Pakistan at this venue but their bowlers continued the rudderless ways, leaking runs in plenty and left clueless against Fakhar Zaman's onslaught. The Kiwis bowlers failed in criti-

cal thinking when the going was getting tough for them, and it was quite surprising to see even experienced bowlers like Trent Boult and Tim Southee operating without a Plan B.

An underwhelming Sri Lanka might not have similar firepower as Pakistan but unless the New Zealand bowlers regroup quickly, the Islanders still can inflict some damage as they have efficient batters in Pathum Nissanka and Sadeera Samarawickrama.

'Tiger Of India' From Shopian Bags Gold In National Games

Agencies

SHOPIAN: Faizan Ayoub Khan of Pinjora village in Shopian has brought laurels to Jammu and Kashmir by



bagging gold medal in Sqay martial arts at the 37th National Games held in Goa.

The 19-year-old athlete is pursuing BPE in Nagpur became first from J&K to win gold in the ongoing games.

Talking to the news agency KNO, Khan said that he was happy to win the gold medal at the national level in martial arts once again as it gives him more confidence to perform at the international level as well.

He said that he has been interested in martial arts

since his childhood and started his journey when he was just 13 and has been training young boys as well.

"I am very happy to win this medal and I am trying to work hard and further excel and perform well at the mega stages. So far I have won three gold medals at international level and these tournaments were played in Nepal, Bhutan and Thailand. I have won 30 gold medals at national level and five times a grand Champion trophy winner as well," he added.

For his achievements, Khan said that authorities have named a cricket stadium Faizan Ayoub Sports Stadium at Lanthoora in his name.

For winning gold medals at national level for consecutive years, the Sqay Federation of India has given him the title "Tiger of India."

He said that to stay away from drug and anti-social activities, there is a need to get involved in sports and martial arts as engaging in sports activities is a must for mental and physical development.

Real Kashmir Suffer 3-1 Home Defeat To Churchill Brothers



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC suffered their first defeat of the 2023-24 season on Wednesday, when a bunch of defensive errors allowed Churchill Brothers FC to take a 3-1 win at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

Real Kashmir's Carlos Alberto Silva Lomba deflected the ball into his own net in the 25th minute to give Churchill Brothers the lead. Ricardo Nicolas Diciara scored two back-to-back goals in the second half to give Churchill Brothers a 3-0 lead. Ahteeb Ahmad Dar pulled one back in the 70th minute for the hosts but it only proved to be a consolation.

Real Kashmir's Gnohere Krizo was sent off in the 71st minute, while former Snow Leopard and current

Churchill Brothers goalie, Subhashish Roy Chowdhury, was also shown a red card in the 91st minute.

Real Kashmir next play Namdhari FC on Saturday, November 11, at Namdhari Stadium in Punjab.

Real Kashmir Playing XI vs. Churchill Brothers:

Muheet Khan, Mohammad Hamud (C), Carlos Lomba, Hyder Yousuf, Wayne Vaz, Mohammad Inam, Jeremy Laldinpuia, Lalramdinsanga Ralte, Mohammad Maksoud, Gnohere Krizo, Dion Menezes

Substitutes
Sowban Hilal, Ifham Tariq, Mohammad Asrar, Ahteeb Dar, Huzafah Dar, Shivam Pednekar, Kamal Issah, Hafiz ur Rehman, Adnan Ayub, Shahid Nazir
Coach: Ishfaq Ahmed

Kargil Taekwondo C'ship Ends

Agencies

KARGIL: The 13th District Kargil Taekwondo Championship concluded at Indoor Stadium, Kargil on Wednesday.

Per Ladakh News Agency, about four clubs with 132 players participated in the district championship under the overall supervision of Observer Ladakh Taekwondo Association Mohd Ali Bhagi and SAI Kargil Mohd Ali.

Councillor LAHDC Kargil for Town Haji Mohammad Abass Adulpa was the chief guest, while President Ladakh Taekwondo Association Gulzar Hussain Munshi was the Guest of Honour, and Activities Officer DYSSO Kargil, Mohd Yousuf was the



Special Guest along with Anayat Ali general secretary Ladakh Taekwondo Association, Mohd Hassan General Secretary Tangtha Association Ladakh, were the guests of honour were also present. Haji Mohammad Abass said that the sport has a great opportunity as a sec-

tor and our players can have a better and bright future if they focus on their respective games, taking the example of Shahnaz Parveen and Tashi Tundup.

The chief guest and other guests distributed medals and mementoes among the players, officials and guests.

LG Honors Para Archers Sheetal Devi, Rakesh Kumar & Coach Choudhary

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with Para Archers Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar at Raj Bhawan on Wednesday. He also honored the Para Archers and Coach Abhilasha Choudhary with Certificate of Excellence. Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG, Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB also graced the occasion.

While interacting with the prodigious Para Archers, the Lt Governor said their outstanding performance at 4th Asian Para Games held in Hangzhou, China have inspired the youth and the



entire Union Territory is proud of them for bringing glory to the nation.

The LG said the strong winner's instinct of Sheetal and Rakesh will popularise robust sports culture in J&K.

The LG also appreciated efforts of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, coaches, support staff of Academy for remarkable contribution to promotion of sports in the Union Territory.

Grand Warriors Organise 2-Days Martial Arts Championship

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Grand Warriors Academy of Martial Arts on Wednesday launched the Open Kashmir Hapkido Championship 2023 at LP School Bota Kadal here.

The tournament is being held in collaboration with LP School under the aegis of Jammu and Kashmir Hapkido Association.

The championship was inau-



gurated by SHO Lal Bazar, Khalid Aslam. On this occasion, Principal LP School Sameena, Secretary of school Abdul Rouf, Marco Polo

of Kashmir Bashir Ahmad Shalla, and President of Hapkido Association Mohammad Shoaib, were the guests of honor.

In his address, Khalid congratulated all the participants for their enthusiastic involvement in the championship. He also praised the Grand Warriors Academy for its dedicated efforts in enhancing the sports in the local area.

A large number of players from

different schools and clubs are participating in this two-day long championship.

Founder of Grand Warriors Academy, Adil Hussain Khan, stated that the main motive of this championship is to boost the local talent. "Given the startling rise in drug cases in the valley, it is our duty to organize these kinds of events to encourage young people to participate in sports," he said.

Glenn Maxwell: Amateur Golfer Who Has Always Been A Freak

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Glenn Maxwell has been one hell of a freak. Whether it's his breathtaking shots that leaves everyone in awe or the bizarre accidents he has met with -- snapping his knee at a house warming party and more recently, falling off a golf cart that forced him to miss a World Cup game.

Before one found a grimacing Maxwell on the ground against Afghanistan, he laid on the lawn of his friend's home for over an hour, last year. Many didn't know what was in store for him. He heard his left knee snap while playfully chasing a friend, who was also his ex-teacher. The moment he slipped and his entire body weight fell on his left leg, he knew that he had done some serious damage to his left leg. He simply couldn't get up in fear as other friends got a makeshift tent and covered him from the rain.

He was taken to the hospital and diagnosed with a broken

fibula which kept him out of a Test series in India earlier this year. Nearing 35, his Test career seemed over but there was something that was still left.

"I think now I can ... make sure that for the back end of my career, I'm fit, strong, healthy and hopefully in a better state for next year's World Cup and all tournaments going forward," Maxwell had said on "Unplayable" podcast.

He did recover in time to play the IPL. He had a middling season with 400 runs in 14 games, including five fifties at a strike-rate of 183 plus.

Like his reverse sweeps for six off express pace, Maxwell's injuries are also freak. Last week, he suffered from concussion while sitting on the back of a golf cart in Ahmedabad after a round on the greens. But as luck would go, he slipped and fell, leaving a bruise on his head and was left out of the England game due to concussion protocols.

However, it is Maxwell's passion for golf and tennis, which



many believe has led to a fabulous hand-eye co-ordination, that allowed him to even play without any footwork on a memorable Tuesday night.

"Maxwell has a (golf) swing of 400 metres," former Pakistan skipper Misbah ul Haq said on A Sports.

Maxwell was also a decent tennis player in his teens and hence the free swing of arms that was visible against a shell shocked Afghanistan was training of years.

Those who play golf and practice swing know that all it needs is arm extension and a swivel of hips with no feet movement when one is hitting long.

Those hours at the golf course did Maxwell a world of good when he couldn't move his leg due to cramps as he created a stable base and just with minimal hip movement and maximum arm speed (something that tennis players develop), hit those 10 towering sixes.

But even before Maxwell became an international su-

perstar and months before he made his Australia debut in 2012, he was picked by Delhi Daredevils. He played only two games that year and the world hadn't really warmed up to him.

But those who witnessed his training sessions knew what brute strength he had. There was one training session held to mark the inauguration of the Sehwal International School in Jhajjar, Haryana.

Not many of the top line players came all the way for that session at Sehwal's boarding school but Maxwell, a junior overseas player did turn up.

And some of the sixes he hit that afternoon with minimal footwork was a sight to remember. One man, who got a pasting was young off-spinner named Tejasvi Yadav, who was also a part of the DD squad.

Like hitting bowlers out of the park was Maxwell's calling, Tejasvi soon found his calling in politics and now is the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.

Cricket Stars Choke In Toxic Air As Pollution Shrouds World Cup In India

Agenceis

India's worsening smog has been called out by global cricket stars as they compete in suffocating conditions during the men's world cup, highlighting the country's noxious air ahead of its bid to host the Olympic Games.

Several large cities which are hosting World Cup matches in the past few weeks - continue to see "unhealthy" to "very unhealthy" air quality levels, according to monitoring firm IQAir. New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata are currently among the world's top 10 cities in air pollution.

Ahead of their match on Monday in New Delhi, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka canceled a training session over the weekend on the advice of doctors. Some players with asthma stayed at their hotel. The game went ahead even though the capital was ranked the world's most polluted major city last week by IQAir.

While India has suffered from deadly air quality for years, especially in New Delhi, the images of cricketers slogging it out in this year's toxic haze is being broadcast at a critical time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is gearing up to lure the Olympics for the first time to the country in 2036 to bolster the country's stature much like the Beijing games did for China in 2008.

Last week, cricket captain Rohit Sharma expressed shock at pollution levels in his home town of Mumbai while speaking at a press conference. He said it was "not ideal" before a game against Sri Lanka, while voicing

wider concern for the country's children.

The intervention by such an "influential figure" like Sharma is particularly significant and may help change Indian attitudes toward the country's deadly air, said Karthik Ganesan, a director at the New Delhi-based Council on Energy, Environment and Water research institute.

England's Ben Stokes was seen huffing from an inhaler during a training session in the southern tech hub of Bengaluru last month.

'Eating Air'

Stokes's team mate Joe Root said playing in Mumbai was like "eating air."

"It just felt like you couldn't get your breath," Root told reporters a week after his team was trounced by South Africa in the city. "It was unique."

The global and local governing bodies - the International Cricket Council and the Board of Control for Cricket in India - didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

While some people have been "kind of dismissive of it" in the past, "clearly over time there has been a change in their attitude to air pollution," Ganesan said.

Each year, the areas surrounding Delhi are swathed in dirty smog as farmers begin to burn their fields in October and November to quickly clear away rice stubble ahead of wheat planting. The region's cooler air and a lack of rain helps trap in those fresh pollutants with existing emissions.



Hottest October Globally Marks Fifth Record-Shattering Month

Agenceis

Last month was the hottest October on record globally, Europe's climate monitor said Wednesday, as months of exceptional heat likely to make 2023 the warmest year in history.

With temperatures soaring beyond previous averages by exceptional margins, scientists say the pressure on world leaders to curb planet-heating greenhouse gas pollution has never been more urgent as they prepare to meet in Dubai for the UN COP28 climate conference this month.

Drought parched parts of the United States and Mexico during October, while huge swathes of the planet saw wetter than normal conditions often linked to storms and cyclones, said the EU's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

Sea surface temperatures were the highest ever recorded for the month, a phenomenon driven by global warming that scientists say plays a key role in driving storms to be more ferocious and destructive.

"October 2023 has seen exceptional temperature anomalies, following on from four months of global temperature records being obliterated," said Samantha Burgess, C3S Deputy Director.

"We can say with near certainty that 2023 will be the warmest year on record, and is currently 1.43 degrees Celsius above the preindustrial average. The sense of urgency for ambitious climate action going into COP28 has never been higher."

The landmark Paris Agreement saw nearly 200 countries pledge to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era and preferably a safer 1.5C.

These temperature thresholds will be measured as an average over several decades, rather than a single year.

This year has also seen the beginning of a warming El Nino weather phenomenon - which warms waters in the southern



Pacific and stokes hotter weather beyond - although scientists expect the worst effects to be felt at the end of 2023 and into next year.

October was 1.7C warmer than an estimate of the October average for the preindustrial era, Copernicus said.

Global average temperatures since January have been the highest in records going back to 1940, the monitor added, registering 1.43C above the 1850-1900 preindustrial average.

Beyond these official records, scientists say proxy data for the climate going back further - like tree rings or ice cores - suggests the temperatures seen this year could be unprecedented in human history, potentially the warmest in more than 100,000 years.

"Uncharted territory"

Average sea surface temperatures for the month excluding the polar regions also reached all-time highs for October, at 20.79C. Oceans have absorbed 90 percent of the excess heat produced by human activity since the dawn of the industrial age, according to scientists.

Warmer oceans are linked to an increase in the intensity of storms and the melting of crucial ice shelves buffering the vast ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica, threatening destructive sea level rise.

A warmer atmosphere also holds more moisture, resulting in heavier rainfall.

Leaders meeting in the United Arab Emirates for the November 30 to December 12 COP28

conference will have to respond to a damning progress report on the world's Paris pledges after major scientific reports have made clear that the world is far off track.

Carbon emissions - largely from fossil fuels - continue to creep up when they need to be slashed in half this decade.

Just under 1.2 degrees Celsius of temperature rise above pre-industrial levels has triggered a range of calamitous and costly weather extremes. People across the planet have faced heatwaves and droughts this year, while severe flooding has struck in the US, China and India and beyond.

In Canada, record wildfires partly related to climate change released more carbon dioxide than the country's total 2021 greenhouse gas emissions, according to a "State of the Climate" report published by a group of prominent scientists last month.

The report warned that humanity had veered into "uncharted territory" with warming that imperils life on Earth.

Lead author William Ripple, a professor at Oregon State University said it was likely that annual average temperatures would start to be recorded above 1.5C.

"As warming continues, we face increasing danger from amplifying climate feedback loops and tipping points such as ice sheet melting and forest dieback," he said.

"Once crossed, these tipping points could change our climate in ways that may be difficult or impossible to reverse."

Record 7.5 Million Diagnosed With Tuberculosis Globally In 2022: WHO

Agenceis

New Delhi: A total of 7.5 million people were diagnosed with tuberculosis in 2022, the highest recorded since WHO began global TB monitoring in 1995, according to a report featuring data from 192 countries and areas.

The World Health Organization (WHO) 2023 Global tuberculosis (TB) report also shows that globally, an estimated 10.6 million people fell ill with TB in 2022, up from 10.3 million in 2021.

The report underscores a significant worldwide recovery in the scale-up of TB diagnosis and treatment services in 2022. It shows an encouraging trend starting to reverse the detrimental effects of COVID-19 disruptions on TB services.

The increase in diagnosis is attributed to good recovery in access to and provision of health services in many countries, WHO said.

India, Indonesia and the Philippines, which together accounted for over 60 per cent of the global reductions in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2020 and 2021, all recovered to beyond 2019 levels in 2022, it said.

"For millennia, our ancestors suffered and died with tuberculosis, without knowing what it was, what caused it, or how to stop it," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General in a statement.

"Today, we have knowledge

and tools they could only have dreamed of. We have political commitment, and we have an opportunity that no generation in the history of humanity has had: the opportunity to write the final chapter in the story of TB," Ghebreyesus said.

Geographically, in 2022, most people who developed TB were in the WHO Regions of South-East Asia (46 per cent), Africa (23 per cent) and the Western Pacific (18 per cent), with smaller proportions in the Eastern Mediterranean (8.1 per cent), the Americas (3.1 per cent) and Europe (2.2 per cent).

The total number of TB-related deaths (including those among people with HIV) was 1.3 million in 2022, down from 14 million in 2021, according to the report.

However, during the 2020-2022 period, COVID-19 disruptions resulted in nearly half a million more deaths from TB. TB continues to be the leading killer among people with HIV, it said.

The report noted that multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a public health crisis. While an estimated 410,000 (4.1 lakh) people developed multi-drug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) in 2022, only about two in five people accessed treatment.

There is some progress in the development of new TB diagnostics, drugs and vaccines. However, this is constrained by the overall level of investment in these areas, according to WHO.



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