

Pleasant Surprise For Tourists As Kashmir Witnesses Early Snowfall

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Early snowfall in Gulmarg and other areas in Kashmir have boosted the tourism sector as tourists made a beeline to the valley to experience the scenic views.

Several tourists who had come to witness the magic of crimson Chinar leaves falling in autumn here were in for a pleasant surprise as they could catch the white Gulmarg due to early snowfall on Thursday and Friday. "We were in Srinagar when we heard that the weather was taking a turn. So, we came



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

here and saw the scenic beauty of the valley. It's not wrong to say that if you want to have a

glimpse of heaven then it's in Kashmir, in Gulmarg...we are feeling great," Manzar Khan, a

tourist from Delhi, told PTI. Asim Kumar Raut from Odisha said, "We enjoyed

Air Quality Improves To 'Moderate' Category

Auqib Javeed

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Kashmir Valley has marginally improved following snowfall in higher reaches and rainfall in the plains over the last two days. [More on P6](#)

We were expecting snow, but not snowfall, which we saw for the first time in our lives." The

tourists who made a beeline to Gulmarg after the snowfall could be seen making snow structures. There was fun and frolic for them as they went sliding, skating and clicked pictures of the snow-clad mountains.

"I've come to Kashmir for the first time. It's called heaven on earth and today I have witnessed it myself. We went to Pahalgam and Sonmarg, and today we came to Gulmarg. It's a beautiful valley. I'm experiencing snowfall here for the first time," Suhail Ahmad from West Bengal said. Pune resident [More on P6](#)

Terrorists Escape Forces Dagnet In Pulwama

Agencies

Srinagar: After a brief exchange of fire on Saturday afternoon, the terrorists have managed to give a slip to the security forces at Parigam village of Newa Hamlet in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Saturday.

An official said that a joint team of Police, Army and CRPF had launched a Cordon and Search Operation on specific information about the presence of terrorists in the area today.

He said as the joint team of forces approached the suspected spot, the hiding terrorists fired upon them, triggering a gunfight.

He added that after the initial exchange of fire, no contact was established with the hiding terrorists.

The official said that cordon layers were tightened after the initial exchange of fire, however, the terrorists managed to give a slip to forces and operation was called off—(KNO)

Modi Stopped Infiltrators, Abrogated Art-370: Shah

Press Trust Of India

Dhar (MP): Union home minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government that has the courage to stop infiltrators in the country and it is not possible for the Congress and leaders of the opposition bloc INDIA to do so.

"Modi ji has done the job of stopping infiltrators in the country and it is not possible for Congress and INDIA bloc leaders to do so. Whether infiltrators should be stopped or not," he asked while addressing a public meeting at Manawar in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh ahead of the November 17 assembly elections.

It was the Modi government that abrogated Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir despite



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claiming that it would lead to a bloodbath but nothing happened, Shah said.

The home minister hit out

at the Congress for what he called destroying the culture of the country and said it was the Modi government which nurtured and prevented it.

6 MODI JI HAS DONE THE JOB OF STOPPING INFILTRATORS in the country and it is not possible for Congress and INDIA bloc leaders to do so. Whether infiltrators should be stopped or not."

Shah also blamed the Congress in the state for stopping several welfare schemes, including 'Teerth Darshan Yojna', when it was in power for 15 months after the 2018 elections.

Urging people to vote for the BJP, he said that this time people will celebrate three Diwalis - first, on Sunday; second on December 3, when results of the assembly polls will be announced; and [More on P6](#)

JERC Issues Regulations For Power Load Forecasts

To Be Applicable To JKPC, Distribution Licensees; 5-Year Procurement Plans To Be Prepared

Agencies

Srinagar: The Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission for J&K and Ladakh Union Territories has come up with guidelines for load forecasts, resources plans, and power procurement process.

In a notification, the JERC announced that these Regulations shall apply to Jammu and Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd (JKPC) and all the distribution licensees in the territory of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and the UT of Ladakh.

These guidelines would all inter/intra state purchases of power from conventional and renewable sources made or proposed to be made by JKPC or by any distribution licensees. As per guidelines, the

distribution licensee along with JKPC shall prepare the power procurement plan for a period of five years with due regard to the requirement of electricity in its area of supply.

"The plan may include long-term, medium term, and short-term sources of power purchase, as per demand-supply position, in accordance with these Regulations," reads the notification.

The JERC announced that the power procurement plan presents a framework for long-term forecasting of power demand, energy requirement, and supply positions and the need for the development of Long/ medium/ short term power purchase agreements/arrangements with state-owned [More on P6](#)

SIU Carries Out Search In Shopian

Srinagar: The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) on Saturday carried out a search in Rawalpura village of Shopian in connection with a case related to the terror attack on non-local labourers in the district.

The search was carried out in non-residential house of active terrorist Hanzal Yaqoob Shah of LeT for his involvement in case FIR No. 126/2023 under section 307 IPC, 7/27 IAA, 16, 18, 20, 23, 38, 39 UAP Act of P/S Shopian, an official spokesperson said.

On July 13, he said, terrorists equipped with [More on P6](#)

Mufti Sayeed's Mausoleum Locked On Azad's Visit



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: DPAP leader Ghulam Nabi Azad could not visit the grave of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and PDP founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in Anantnag on Saturday as the entrance to the mausoleum was locked.

Azad and other leaders of his

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) had to offer the fateha (special prayer for the deceased) from outside the fencing of Sayeed's mausoleum at Bijbehara in Anantnag. "We had come to offer fateha for Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. He was a tall leader. The door is locked, we don't know who did it, but we [More on P6](#)

3 Bangladeshi Tourists Killed In Dal Lake Blaze

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Three tourists from Bangladesh were charred to death in a major blaze in a houseboat on the famous Dal Lake on Saturday, officials here said.

The tourists' bodies were retrieved from the debris of the gutted houseboats near ghat nine on the lake, a popular attraction for people visiting Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital, the officials said.

A police spokesman said the three tourists who lost their lives are Anindaya Kowshal, Mohammad Moinud and a third person identified as one Das Gupta -- all from Bangladesh. They were staying on the houseboat Safeena, which was gutted in the blaze.

Jammu and Kashmir Lt



Governor Manoj Sinha condoled the deaths.

Eight people were rescued through collaborative efforts of the Srinagar Police, State Disaster Response Force, Tourist

Police, Fire and Emergency Services, and locals, the police spokesman said.

Police said an investigation into the incident has been initiated and a [More on P6](#)

DGP To Hear Public Grievances Twice Every Month

Observer News Service

Jammu: The newly appointed Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain will hold two-hour public grievance meetings twice every month, a police spokesperson said Saturday.

"DGP J&K has decided that on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, two hours would be reserved (1400 - 1600 hrs) for meeting persons who have grievances pertaining to police administration," he said.

The decision, the spokesperson said, has been taken after Swain came to know that people have been approaching and coming to the Police Headquarters in



Jammu without a prior appointment as grievance redressal seekers, and also that many raised concern over lack of clarity about the procedure to meet the DGP.

Swain, he said, has requested that it would be helpful if the complainant or person seeking redressal of grievance comes [More on P6](#)

Mehbooba's Cousin Sarwar Mufti Joins DPAP

In a major blow to People's Democratic Party (PDP), Sarwar Mufti, cousin of PDP President Mehbooba Mufti joined Ghulam Nabi Azad led Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) in Bijbehara town of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Sarwar joined Azad's party in presence of other senior leaders during a DPAP function held in Bijbehara town on Saturday. Sarwar has prematurely [More on P6](#)

SHORT TAKES

LG Greets People On Deepawali

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday greeted the people on the auspicious occasion of Deepawali.

In a message, the LG said: "On the joyous occasion of Deepawali, I convey my warm greetings and good wishes to all the citizens".

"Deepawali, the festival of lights, is an occasion to share joy and festivity across all faiths and cultures. The Diyas of Deepawali signify the end of ignorance, triumph of good over evil, hope over despair, and inspire us to fight the darkness in all [More on P6](#)

Army Vehicle Crushes Biker To Death

A 29-year-old man was killed and his friend injured when the motorcycle they were riding was allegedly hit by an army truck in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Saturday, police said.

The accident took place at Haneja Morh, four kms from Thathri, at around 8.15 am when Mohd Aslam Deedar along with his friend Mohd Sharief was on his way to Sarthang area of Bhaberwah where they both were working as labourers, an officer said.

Both were rushed to Government Medical College Hospital in Doda where Deedar, who [More on P6](#)

BEYOND THE HEADLINES

Dr Sameer Kaul
Senior Surgical Oncologist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smLAZqDjptU&t=3s>

Muslims In Srinagar Assist Hindus In Diwali Preparations

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a heartwarming display of communal harmony, Muslims showcased the spirit of brotherhood by actively assisting their Hindu neighbors in Diwali preparations here.

In the heart of Srinagar, Muslims not only shared the joy of Diwali with their Hindu friends but actively participated in the festivities. They expressed belief in the importance of unity, saying that celebrating each other's festivals strengthens the bonds of their community.

"It is a testament to the rich tapestry of cultures that make Kashmir vibrant," they said.

The Hindus expressed gratitude for the warm gesture and acknowledged the Muslims in

their Diwali celebrations.

Arun, a worker at Srinagar's Durganath restaurant in Dalgate said the support from Muslim neighbors is "truly heartening". "This transcends religious lines and reflects the true essence of brotherhood," he said.

Sameer Khan, a resident from Rainawari, shared his thoughts on Diwali celebrations. "This heartwarming gesture in the spirit of Diwali exemplifies the ethos of Kashmir. It is crucial to showcase these instances as they challenge divisive narratives and promote unity."

As the Diwali preparations came to an end, families gathered to light lamps, exchange sweets, and share laughter, creating an atmosphere in the neighborhood that radiated joy and unity



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra

DC Srinagar Holds Brainstorming Session To Finalize Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the proceedings under forthcoming "Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra", a brainstorming session cum meeting was held under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Athar Amir Khan was present on the occasion.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner held a detailed discussion with the all District / Sectoral Officers present in the meeting and illustrated the various aspects of the Yatra,

which mainly aims at ensuring the effective execution of the Central Government welfare schemes in the District. The Yatra will commence from 20th November 2023 in all Panchayats and Rural areas of the District.

The DC highlighted the fundamental objectives of the Viksit Bharat Yatra, encompassing critical aspects such as reaching out to the vulnerable sections eligible under various welfare schemes not yet covered, disseminating information, and fostering awareness about the schemes. The initiative further seeks to establish direct interaction with beneficiaries, sharing personal stories and experiences, while also enrolling potential beneficiaries based on information ascertained during the Yatra.

Srinagar Admin Provides Immediate Relief To Fire Victims In Dal Lake

DC Srinagar Visits Spot To Review Post Blaze Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad this morning visited Dal Lake following a devastating fire incident that broke out at Abikarpura area in Dal Lake opposite Ghat No. 09, gutting five houseboats and a few residential structures nearby.

The Deputy Commissioner accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Syed Ahmad Kataria, Tehsildar Khanyar, Aaliya Tabasum and other senior Officers of District Administration visited the site and took spot review of the post fire incident situation.

On the occasion, the DC took first hand appraisal and assessment of the

damages caused by the devastating fire incident and lauded the efforts of the SDRF, Fire Services, Police and the locals whose prompt action in dousing off the flames, prevented further damage.

Four adjoining houseboats were relocated by the fire fighting team to contain the spread of fire flames and further damage.

Interacting with the fire affected, the DC expressed support and sympathy with them on behalf of the District Administration Srinagar. He also assured that every kind of possible support shall be provided from the District Administration for their immediate rehabilitation.

The DC also directed the concerned authorities to assess the losses

and make a comprehensive report in this direction.

Moreover, the District Administration Srinagar provided immediate assistance to the eight affected families in the form of 80 blankets, 40 mattresses, 40-bed sheets and 8 kitchen sets, besides Rs 160000 to all 8 affected families each and Rs 19000 as an interim relief to each family.

Meanwhile, the District Administration has appealed to the general public to follow all precautionary measures while handling electric/electronic gadgets, LPG cylinders and other appliances being used for heating and cooking purposes to avoid such incidents particularly during the ensuing winter season.

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


AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Rabi-ul-Sani
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 36
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 51
Magrib	5:31
ISHA	7: 53

This Day In History

- 1918 - Russia cancels Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 1921 - US, France, Japan & British Empire sign a Pacific Treaty
- 1956 - US Supreme Court rules race separation on buses in Alabama unconstitutional
- 1979 - Ronald Reagan in New York announces his candidacy for US President
- 1980 - US spacecraft Voyager 1 sends back 1st close-up pictures of Saturn
- 1982 - Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened in Washington D.C., featuring the names of over 58,000 US soldiers who were killed or missing in the Vietnam War
- 1986 - NASA launches space vehicle S-199

From KO Archives

Bulldozers Demolish Structures Inside Last Monarchical Resort

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Was it message that Farooq Abdullah wanted to send across to his cabinet colleagues that nothing can deter him from taking a stern action against any one of them or did it speak of the growing schisms in the Abdullah cabinet when speeding bulldozers demolished a newly constructed building in Karan Mahal here today.

Ajat Shatru son of former Sadri-Riyast, Dr. Karan Singh and a cabinet colleague of Dr. Farooq Abdullah tearing apart the ban imposed on the construction of any structures in the green belt area had constructed a building inside the Taleh Manzil estate the last legacy of the Dogra rule in Kashmir. Giving credence to the belief that Abdullah government writ does not run even in the cabinet, the Information Minister had refused to take cognizance of the notifications served on him by the Lake and Water Ways Development organization.

Adding to the belief that New Delhi has asked Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah to tighten noose around his cabinet members after action against the business concerns of the Urban Development Minister, Molvi Iftikhar Ansari, and the Minister for information is second. Rumours are rife that Abdullah is looking for alibi's to throw out some of his cabinet colleagues who in future dispensation may not suit his political requirements.

The operation to demolish the 'illegal' structure inside the minister's estate was conducted jointly by the three departments of Housing and Urban Development Ministry, Srinagar Municipality, Lakes and Water Ways Development Authority (LWWD) and Srinagar Development Authority here today.

The entire single-storey structure was bulldozed by the employees of the three departments, which are under the total control of Iftikhar Hussain Ansari. Following resistance by the employees and the guards posted at Ajat Shatru's estate yesterday a posse of police men accompanied the demolishing squad.

Iftikhar, it is learnt, was in constant touch with the three officers of three departments, who were supervising the demolition today. He was also reportedly in touch with IG Police, Kashmir range to prevent any possible clash between the police and the guards posted at the estate.

The Vice Chairman of LAWDA when contacted claimed that the Sports Minister had violated SR0-109 of J&K Government. The area of construction, the Vice Chairman said, falls under green belt and violated the norms for the preservation of the lake Dal. Secondly the single storey house was constructed without any permission from the Srinagar Municipal Committee. Thirdly the area also falls under Srinagar's master plan.

(Kashmir Observer, November 12, 1998)

Email address: exenmcdsmcsg@gmail.com Contact No. 0194 4069671

**Office Of The Executive Engineer
Mech. City Drainage Division Srinagar.**

Corrigendum No.(01) TO N.I.T NO:CDM_E_10_OF_2023-24
D A T E D : - 03-11-2023

Subject:- Rate contract for supply of commercial gas refilling-19 Kg cylinders for office use during the winter season 2023-24.

Due to poor response, the critical dates in respect of above mentioned N.I.T are hereby extended as under:-

Bid submission end date	15-11-2023 upto 3.00 P.M
Date & time of opening of Technical bids	15-11-2023 at 3.15 P.M

All other details, terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the N.I.T.

NO.CDM/C/2899-2901
DIPK-12040/23
Dated:- 11-11-2023

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECH. CITY DRAINAGE DIVISION SGR.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railways, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India Invites Tenders (Two Packet System) for Development of GCT at Vijaypur Jammu, Railway Station, details as under:

SN	Station	Code	EMD required (in Rs.)	Tender form Cost (in Rs.)	Period of contract	Pre-Bid Meeting/Conference
1	Vijaypur Jammu	VJPJ	2,53,23,000/-	11800/-	35 years	11.12.2023

Bids will be received only on IREPS on 26.12.2023 upto 15:00 Hrs. For further details please visit on Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in
No. 2-AC/Goods-GCT-VJPJ-FZR/23 Date: 09.11.2023

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3525/23

Government of Jammu & Kashmir,
Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir
Tel: 0194-2315378, Fax 0194-2479548, e-mail: ddtreg123@gmail.com

Sub: - Application for transfer of registration certificate of Guest House under name and style "Shuja" situated at Babapora Babademb Road, Srinagar

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Shuja Hussain Munshi S/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi 2. Shamshada W/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi R/o Babapora Habba kadal 3. Samina Nazir D/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi (W/o Suhail Nazir Wani)R/o Sazgari Pora Hawal Srinagar 4. Tabasum Nazir D/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi (W/o Mirza Muzaffar) R/o Lalbazar Srinagar have vide an application requested for transfer of registration certificate of Guest House "Shuja" situated at, Babapora Babademb Road, Srinagar in their names;

Whereas, the Guest House has been registered with this Department in 1998 vide No. Reg/331/DGT/3/L-5 dated 14.08.1998 in the name of Mr. Nazir Ahmad Munshi S/o Late Munshi Ghulam Mustafa R/o Babapora Babademb Road, Srinagar and the same stands renewed upto 30.09.2018 who has expired as per the death certificate submitted by the applicants;

Whereas, the applicants have submitted the documents i.e, Character Certificates, Passport copy of Tabasum Nazir, Death certificate, Legal Heir Certificate, NOC from Bank, ID proof of all the applicants, State Subject Certificates copies of all, Character Certificates of all, Non connection affidavit, Photographs of the applicants;

Whereas, transfer of registration certificate for the guest house is purely for the purpose of running operation management of the said guest house and does not confer any right of ownership of the guest house upon the transferee;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred on me under section 39 of J&K Registration Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12 before considering transfer of Registration certificate in the names of Mr. Shuja Hussain Munshi S/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi 2. Shamshada W/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi R/o Babapora Habba kadal 3. Samina Nazir D/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi (W/o Suhail Nazir Wani)R/o Sazgari Pora Hawal Srinagar 4. Tabasum Nazir D/o Nazir Ahmad Munshi (W/o Mirza Muzaffar) R/o Lalbazar Srinagar, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public /Financial Institutions / Banks / Development Authorities/ PHE Department/Electric Department that in case of any objections, the same should reach this office of undersigned within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice. No objections beyond period of 07 days will be entertained and the request of the applicant will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite document.

Sd/-
Assistant Director Tourism,
Registration

No. Reg/H/213/DTK/625
DIPK-12035/23
Dated: 11.11.2023

سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن

اطلاع عام بلسلسہ بولی نیلام

offers بزرگیہ سر بہر مورخہ

ہر خاص و عام کو بزرگیہ اشتہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن کے بھانگ واقع ٹینگ پورہ، بڈ مالو بائی پاس میں مورخہ 20-10-2023 سے چند گھنٹوں کے اندر کسی دعویٰ کے بند پڑے (مضبوط شدہ) ہیں۔ ان مضبوط شدہ گھنٹوں کے مالکان کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ مورخہ 17-11-2023 تک پھانگ ہذا میں اپنے گھنٹوں سے متعلق شناخت ظاہر کرنے کے بعد جرمانہ و دیگر اخراجات ادا کر کے اپنے گھنٹوں کو واپس لے جائیں۔ بصورت دیگر ان مضبوط شدہ گھنٹوں کو بزرگیہ سر بہر مورخہ offers حاصل کرنے کے تحت فروخت کیا جائیگا۔ اس سلسلے میں ڈیر نیلام جانور کی تقصیلات و بیٹرنی آفیسر کے دفتر واقع ٹینگ پورہ، پانی پاس سے دفتری اوقات کے دوران حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔

لغذا خواہشمند اصحاب اپنی مہر بند آفر (offer) مورخہ 10-11-2023 دن کے 2:00 PM بجے تک و بیٹرنی آفیسر کے پاس پیش کر سکتے ہیں۔

بجکم

DIPK-NB-4186/23
dated: 11-11-2023

سرینگر میونسپل کارپوریشن

The other day, a teenage girl surprised me with her strange yet surprising longing, "I wish someone would bomb and destroy this school."

The class, oblivious of her agitated mind, burst into a loud laughter, and I, trying to conceal my astonishment, also joined in. As things settled down, she added, "I dislike the school atmosphere, and that includes certain teachers as well."

It is not uncommon for teenagers to express strong emotions and opinions, and sometimes they do so in shocking or provocative ways. In most of the case, the pressure is usually built at home, and the vent expressed somewhere else.

While her expressed wish for the school to be "bombed to obliteration" may not be meant literally, it does indicate an underlying build-up of frustration in her life, particularly at this vulnerable age when her future success is significantly influenced by these crucial formative years.

Young girls, especially in their teen years are susceptible to various risks, including manipulative behaviour and exploitation. The rush of hormones during this period can be pretty tumultuous, affecting their thoughts and emotions. Their sudden rush into the bloodstream can disorient and push them into uncharted territories, directing their minds towards experiences they may not fully understand.

Young boys and adult men, often of different ages, may attempt to take advantage of this vulnerability. These individuals, who can be anyone from cousins, friends, school and tuition mates, teachers, to even uncles in the family, may try to lure and manipulate teenage girls into situations they have no idea about.

The essential question persists: do our schools possess adequate resources, both in terms of infrastructure and personnel, to compensate for the setbacks experienced by children in their homes? A significant portion of students in government schools, particularly up to grade 10, hail from families where either one or both parents are either completely illiterate or have limited literacy. Consequently, these children face challenges in addressing various issues and depend heavily on the school environment to find solace and joy in their lives.

In the absence of adequate guidance and counselling at home, many teenage girls encounter a pivotal juncture where decisions about their life direction become critical. This tumultuous stage significantly influences their future trajectory, and without proper support, they risk falling into unfavourable circumstances. The lack of guidance during this crucial period can leave these young individuals grappling with uncertainties, unsure of the path they should take. Invariably, without proper direction, there is a heightened vulnerability to negative influences and potential pitfalls.

A few months ago, a teenage girl student faced a distressing situation when the principal of her higher secondary school was ignominiously arrested, allegedly for molesting and harassing her. This unfortunate incident was part of a series of disheartening events that teenagers like her often encounter. The accusations encompassed various transgressions, including inappropriate phone calls and troubling leaks of conversations, high-

"Someone Please Bomb this School"

Understanding a Teenager's Cry for Help

Farooq Shah



In the absence of adequate guidance and counselling at home, many teenage girls encounter a pivotal juncture where decisions about their life direction become critical. This tumultuous stage significantly influences their future trajectory, and without proper support, they risk falling into unfavourable circumstances

lighting the hardships faced by a teenager in need of guidance from mentors to successfully navigate the challenges of adolescence.

With a three-decade experience in education, I can assert authoritatively that there has been little evolution in terms of school infrastructure and the quality of trained personnel, thereby complicating the issue further. A notable percentage of government schools persist in operating from premises

that do not align with the fundamental essence of effective teaching in the first place.

Many schools, particularly in rural areas, lack fundamental infrastructure such as restrooms, toilets, water access, and electricity, not to mention modern amenities like smart classrooms, internet connectivity, or audio-visual facilities. Furthermore, the crucial provision of sports facilities, essential for students to release their pent-up emo-

tions, is notably absent.

Hands-on experiments in science subjects, once a cornerstone for cultivating a scientific mind-set among students, have been either partially or entirely excluded from the curriculum. Previously, students would keep a practical notebook, documenting their observations after conducting experiments related to scientific concepts. This form of education instilled confidence in students, enabling them to discern the difference between fiction and reality through their first-hand observations.

In absence of practical work, a student's mind becomes ensnared in uncertainty, eroding the foundation of trust in the information gleaned solely from textbooks. It severs the tangible link between concepts and real-world application. The absence of hands-on experiences leaves a void, hindering the student's ability to internalize and validate the knowledge acquired through traditional study methods.

The lack of trust deepens when science teachers instruct students to record a few experiments in their practical notebooks. The teacher then signs the title page, asserting that "All the experiments listed in this notebook have been performed by the student in my presence." Adding to the deception, the head of the institution (HOI) countersigns this affirmation.

For a student, dealing with the persistent deception adopted by teachers and the head of the institution is a formidable challenge. This not only deepens the mistrust between students and teachers but also creates a profound void in students' lives, leaving them with a perplexing question: who deserves their trust and who does not.

A congenial school atmosphere is important for the holistic upbringing of a teenage girl, offering a sanctuary that protects both her academic and personal growth. Retaining her from morning to evening ensures a continuum of educational experiences, allowing for a comprehensive curriculum, extracurricular activities, and a supportive community. A well-structured school day offers opportunities for skill development, experimentation, creativity, and exposure to diverse perspectives.

Schools should prioritize crucial elements to ensure a positive and secure atmosphere, cultivating an environment where students feel respected, valued, and safe. This proactive approach is essential to effectively deter any notions that might lead them to wish harm upon the school.

Otherwise, the lack of guidance, both at home and at school, delivers a double whammy, squandering a valuable life and producing a generation lacking moral and ethical principles. This scenario suggests that we may be nurturing individuals who navigate life without a solid ethical and moral foundation to steer them. Amidst this perplexity, both the home and school environments play equally destructive roles in eroding the moral and ethical fabric of our generations.

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

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The Magical Potential Of AI

The ongoing development of AI could be best described as akin to the uncontrolled staggering forward movement of a one-year old child.

Jamal Mecklai

The ongoing development of AI could be best described as akin to the uncontrolled staggering forward movement of a one-year old child (thank you Priyanka). Her older sister and parents worry that she may fall and hurt herself but there is little that they can do other than follow her around and try to ensure that she doesn't really take a tumble.

Fast forward by 10, 20 or 30 years and that staggering child is now a grown human. Whether she will be a beautiful person—like, say, Nelson Mandela or JRD Tata or Roger Federer or just the lovely you—or, in the words of Marina Abramovich, the celebrated performance artist, an "[expletive] human being"—like Trump, Putin, most of the conceited tech and business "stars" or the horrible you—really depends on the inputs she gets from her family and growing environment and, of course, providence, which has the loudest say.

So, too, with AI. Many of the leading lights at the cutting edge of AI research and practice believe that we are close to a point where AI models begin to control themselves—in other words, a world where all meaningful decisions are taken by machines. Fearing that these super-intelligent machines will take their cue from the (expletive) human beings who currently run most governments, business, and technology, many voices—from both within and outside the industry—have been calling for a complete halt of certain types of AI development, or, at least, more stringent regulation.

Governments are heeding this concern and have been working at speed to develop regulations that would enable the best and control the worst of this new magic. However, looking to past efforts by governments—let's say with regulating social media—it is more than likely that the results of their efforts will be effectively zero. (It is worth noting that China is the only government that has had the awareness and ability to put effective constraints on social media companies.) Thus, the odds are in favor of a new reality in a few years where there will be super-intelligent machines at various nodal points of life.

But is this something to be concerned about? What if the one-year old girl grows up to be a combination of Mandela, JRD and Roger? There is no prima facie reason to believe that super-intelligent machines will be venal and focused only on profit and power. Granted, they will have been trained on information and data from our existing world, but if they are, indeed, genuinely super-intelligent, it seems obvious that they would evolve a new paradigm of life, where, perhaps, the value of nursing a sick person back to health will be seen (and rewarded) as economically more valuable than, say, running a \$50 billion hedge fund.

Geoffrey Hinton, considered by many to be the godfather of AI, pointed out that "...it's quite conceivable that humanity is [just] a passing phase in the evolution of intelligence."

And this is the exciting part. Imagine a world run by super-intelligent and well-meaning forces—the proverbial benevolent (electronic) dictatorship. To calm the reactionaries in the world, we would have all the freedom we

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wanted unless we breached a line where our personal gain was more than the damage done to, say, other people, the environment, or society at large. Ideally, these lines should not be drawn; rules would not be laid down. We would have to discover them ourselves through trial and error—if we transgressed, our hands (and other parts) would be automatically tied. Our consciences would get stronger and stronger. And our lives happier and happier.

To be sure, some of the concerns come from thoughtful well-meaning people. As I wrote in

an earlier article "Stuart Russell, a professor of computer science at the University of California, Berkeley, constructed an example of the UN asking an AGI (artificial general intelligence) to help de-acidify the oceans, specifying that any by-products be non-toxic and not harm fish. In response, the AI system comes up with a self-multiplying catalyst that achieves all stated aims, but the ensuing chemical reaction uses a quarter of all the oxygen in the atmosphere. 'We all die slowly and painfully,' Russell concluded. 'If we put the wrong objective into a super-intelligent machine, we create a conflict that we are bound to lose.'"

To me, the fallacy in his argument is the assumption that we can know what the super-intelligent machine will come up with. To me, super-intelligent means something we could not possibly comprehend, which means it would not come up with such a solution, unless it was the only one that worked, in which case, perhaps our time on Earth would be over.

Fighting technological development because of that fear sounds foolish to me. After all, since we don't know the future, why must we assume the worst. Remember the one-year old girl stumbling forever forward—there is every chance that providence will make her a great leader and providence will make the new AI-driven world beyond wonderful.

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

'I'm Not Your Advertisement' Kashmir's Makeup Industry's Unfair Bargain

Farheen Fayaz

Services industry, as opposed to a goods industry, provides a deliverable, sometimes intangible but valuable to the customer. Noteworthy point about a service is that it should meet the benchmark for even being deemed a service from a customer's perspective.

Kashmir has recently stepped up its game in the services industry, a thriving industry right now. All praises to the service providers, who took an extra mile to offer distinctive services to the people of Kashmir. One such service and a personal favourite of mine is the one associated with makeup. Makeup products were always accessible but no one would provide a professional makeup service until recently. This industry undoubtedly performed quite well within a closed community of people who had never had this luxury before. Well, the good news here is, it is not a luxury anymore. However, with the services came exploitation. Yes, that's right, Exploitation!

How can a service probably manipulate its customers, you might think? Financial exploitation? Probably, something even worse. Let's spool back a bit. It started off with a few artists launching their service on the market. How did they launch it? Social Media, probably? That is right, multiple platforms over social media were used to introduce a campaign or advertise the services provided by makeup professionals. This motivated other such professionals to go along and take the lead. Then came the growth in this industry, with plentiful options available at distinct price ranges and an assortment of fantastic styles of work by numerous makeup professionals.

Let us get back to the point where they promoted their work on social media. Makeup is a service that needs not a mannequin but a person, a human being to work on. Where did the professionals get these persons from? Did they hire someone, did they ask a friend for help? Certainly yes, how else would they do it, you might think? Let me tell you this, it is costly to hire someone or at least it is for start-up businesses. They work quite hard for marginal returns to start off with. As a result, many went for the easy solution, the brides them-

selves! Yes, hundreds of girls, if not more, get married every year. It is a treat to the eyes to see them on every social media platform. It is their red-carpet moment, isn't it?

Why do I care or why should you care? Well, the brides love it, to be on a public platform, open to millions and billions of people. Oh yeah, and they certainly look

remarkable, so why not? Sounds about right. What doesn't sound right is when the makeup artists won't deliver a service if a certain bride disagrees to be photographed



and put on their social media page. What doesn't sound right is, what used to be paid service, becomes a free modelling run for a service provider. If anything, the bride pays a hefty amount to get ready and then act as a prototype for which she isn't paid. You see the irony there, don't you?

During a personal encounter with one such Kashmiri makeup artist, mind you, a very talented one, I enquired about the makeup services and packages. However, the first and an extremely important personal restriction (customer perspective) I mentioned was, "NO PICTURES OF ME". To my surprise, she replied, and I quote, "How else can we show our work, hopefully you will understand." No miss, I do not understand. I do not understand the fact that you are using my personal pictures and violating my right to privacy for the sake of promoting your business. I also do not happen to understand if I paid for a service and I got the service, why not just stop there? I certainly fail to understand that I am a customer asking for a service just like we buy a product from a goods store, I am not your model used to promote your business. I am not the one you can use for advertisement. That is a service you need to avail for yourself. That is a service you need to pay for. Your services are not supposed to boom from the exploitation of your customers.

There are certain people who are happy to be on your social media and create content for you. That is totally a personal decision for them, but what everyone needs to understand is that it is customer's decision, not the service providers (makeup artists). A service provider cannot exploit a basic right of a customer when they are entirely hostile to it. Any artist has a right to their work and what they do with it, but not the service availed by a customer for a price.

So, the real question here is; Is the makeup industry really a service industry or is it just another glorified business exploiting the customers, mentally and monetarily?

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

The author is a Researcher



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"I Don't Have Time to Grieve"

Wendy Lustbader

Right now, sorrows are hitting us from all directions—the degradation of nature and the death of innocents among them. Plus, our personal losses live within us and are both boundless and timeless. A familiar aroma, an evocative song, or even a glimpse of sunlight moving through leaves at a certain angle can summon these memories and bring us back to a loss when it was fresh.

Grief grabs us in the car on the way home from work or in the shower or while walking the dog, just from having a solitary interlude when feelings rise up, vivid and insuppressible. Telling someone else about such an outburst of mourning must come next if grief is to continue to heal.

The only sure way to move through sorrow is to sit with it and express it, to make it communal. Unfortunately, we often try to avoid this necessary process through distractions, substances, or nonstop activity. The call to be cheerful is relentless. There are so many pressures to put on a happy face that many of us withdraw socially rather than force a pretense that we are "fine." Who wants to be a downer, an energy drain, the one who puts a damper on the evening? We don't want to be the one who burdens others with heavy feelings. But if we conceal our sadness instead of grieving openly, we each end up isolated within the sorrows



we hide. One time I was finally unburdening myself to a friend

on the phone when I heard the quiet clicking of a keyboard in the background. I didn't blame

her; I just retreated. We are so pressured that we need to optimize every moment. Sneak-

ing in a quick Google search while someone else is talking—what's the harm in that?

Ah, but then I had no further desire to talk, and the tears that were finally rising to the

surface slipped quickly back down to a place out of reach of comfort.

We have a stark shortage of listeners in a culture of hurry. When it comes to letting someone get things off their chest, really hearing them out, there are no shortcuts. We have to take the time to receive what they have to say, in the way they need to say it, when they are ready to release it. Grieving can be inconvenient. When we do let it happen, we tend to find a surprising depth of relief, a sense of renewal, and the confidence to get through the rest of it. But we need the listeners, the grief receivers, to attain all of this.

Here's a link to a public talk I gave about grief at the University of Washington in November 2022. Within this exploration are tips for those who wish to get better at taking in another person's grief as well as ways to resist our own urge to withdraw into suffering in silence.

We have become too busy to grieve; this is the plight most of us are in. Yet trying to put on a front and retreat is not an answer, nor is it a sign of strength. Over time, we find out that forcing sorrow back down only stores it whole, undiminished. Sorrow insists on solace and will keep arising until it is comforted. We have to make room for grieving, both those in sorrow and those willing to open their hearts.

The article was originally Psychology Today

Govt Dismisses 'Exclusion' Claims In Budgam's B2V Program

Observer News Service SRINAGAR: The government on Saturday refuted allegations that the residents of Kralpora A in B.K. Pora Block in Budgam district, were excluded from the invitation to participate in the Back to Village program (B2V).

the union territory from November 7 and will be completed on November 16. The programme is the flagship public outreach, participation, and feedback initiative of the J&K Government. On Friday, individuals from Kralpora A in Budgam district informed Kashmir Observer that they had not received invitations from officials to participate in the program.

Kishtwar To Soon Emerge As North India's Power Hub: Jitendra Singh

Press Trust Of India JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar is all set to emerge as north India's "major power hub" with the generation of around 6,000 MW of electricity after the completion of the ongoing power projects, Union minister Jitendra Singh said on Saturday. Singh, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's office, was on an extensive tour of the remote areas of the hill district of Kishtwar, part of his Udhampur parliamentary constituency.

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NORTH CIRCLE SOPORE)

THE AUCTION CALENDAR The General Public & timber traders are hereby informed that Forest Development Corporation is going to conduct the table auction of un-sold timber stocks of Deodar/Kail/Fir Species on "as it is where it is basis and in whatsoever from it is" basis lying in different CTSD's of Baramulla, Zangli & Ganderbal Division of North Circle Sopore as per below given schedule:-

Table with columns: S.No, Name of Division, Volume put to auction (in cfts), Date, Day, Venue, Remarks. Includes entries for Baramulla, Zangli, and Ganderbal.

- Note:- The Auction will start at 11.00 AM Sharp. 1. To be eligible for participation in the auction every bidder/purchaser start bidding shall. 2. The terms & conditions and rules governing the timber trade and its transportation issued by the Forest Department from time to time shall be binding on all the intending bidders/purchasers.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway, in association with other zonal railway, has planned to run the following Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS ORIGINATING/TERMINATING IN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Large table listing festival special trains with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency/Day, and Period. Includes train numbers like 03255, 03256, 02391, etc.

Table listing festival special trains passing through the Northern Railway network with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency/Day, and Period. Includes train numbers like 02260, 02259, 04490, etc.

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Table listing festival special trains passing through the Northern Railway network with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency/Day, and Period. Includes train numbers like 09075, 09076, 07651, etc.

Position as on 11.11.2023 For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App. SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

India Play Netherlands As Kohli Eyes Historic Ton

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: The marauding Indians have not put a foot wrong in their authoritative run in the World Cup. It won't be a surprise if they go about plundering Netherlands in their final league game, where Virat Kohli would have a perfect opportunity to scale 'Mount 50' at his spiritual home.

India have already qualified for the semifinals while the eliminated Netherlands are on their way home, and this situation casts a perception of insignificance on their fixture.

But in reality, there are no academic-natured matches in a World Cup, where teams constantly try to better their best in the quest for ultimate glory.

India are no different as they look to maintain the momentum while ticking off a few team goals against the Netherlands, hence a large-scale change to the hosts playing 11 looks unlikely at this stage.

Since cricket is often a game of outcome and numbers, an approaching historic personal milestone gives this game an exciting undertone as well, which also carries importance from the



team's perspective.

Kohli had equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 ODI hundreds against South Africa at Kolkata, and the wait now is on for his 50th ton.

Kohli may like to insulate

himself from the outside noise and focus on the job at his hand – continue churning out runs but expectations have only grown that he gets the milestone hundred at his IPL home.

So far, he has amassed 543

runs, leading India's batting chart. This is also the first time Kohli is going past the 500-run mark in the 50-over World Cup.

He had made 282 runs in 2011, 305 in 2015, and 443 in 2019, while Tendulkar, Shikhar Dhawan, and Rohit Sharma played the lead roles with the bat in those editions.

Hence, Kohli will not want any slip up in India's last league game, using it as preparation ground to return to his sharp self ahead of the semifinals after a week-long gap following the match against the Proteas.

India's bowling, on the other hand, remained largely trouble-free with the three pacers and the two spinners delivering frequently.

Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, and Mohammed Siraj have made run-making a hazardous option for opposition batters, but a bit more consistency in line and length from Siraj could be welcomed by the management.

But overall, this ultra-efficient five-man unit will be looking for one final rehearsal ahead of the last four match, potentially against New Zealand at Mumbai. Match starts at 2 PM.

Marsh Sinks Bangladesh As Australia Keep Winning



Agencies

PUNE: Mitchell Marsh smashed his way to an unbeaten 177 off 132 balls as Australia warmed up nicely for their semi-final against South Africa with an easy eight-wicket victory over Bangladesh in their final World Cup league game on Saturday.

Australia thus finished their league engagements with seven wins on the trot. They ended third due to inferior net run-rate compared to South Africa despite having same number of points (14) with the Proteas.

Put in to bat, Bangladesh made 306 for 8

in 50 overs.

In reply, Marsh hit 17 fours and nine sixes to end the match in 44.4 overs. He added 120 for the second wicket with David Warner (53) and 175 for the unbroken third wicket stand with Steve Smith (63 not out).

Brief Scores:

Bangladesh: 306 for 8 in 50 overs (Towhid Hridoy 74, Najmul Hossain Shanto 45; Adam Zampa 2/32, Sean Abbott 2/61).

Australia: 307 for 2 in 44.4 overs (Mitchell Marsh 177 not out, David Warner 53, Steve Smith 63 not out).

J&K Throwball Association Holds Felicitation Ceremony



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Throwball Association held a felicitation ceremony on Saturday to acknowledge and recognize the performance of J&K players at the 43rd Senior National Throwball Championship 2023 held at Bijoor Uttar Pradesh last month. The association organised the felicitation/award ceremony at The Legends School

of Education in Kanitar, Sadarbal here.

The felicitation program was presided over by the Chairman Legends School Imran Shah and President J&K Throwball Association Riyaz Wani, who awarded appreciation certificates and mementos to the national team participants.

Addressing the felicitation function, the Legends Chairman congratulated

all the participants and said hard work and dedication towards one's profession is key to achieve success and a unique place in the society.

At the end, the president of the association presented a vote of thanks and gave details of the Sub-Junior National Throwball Championship 2023 scheduled to be held in Kerala from 22 to 25 December 2023.

The officer also felicitated the National Volleyball bronze medalist Aaqib Gulzar of BHSS

Namdhari Edge Real Kashmir, Bag First I-League Win



Agencies

PUNJAB: Namdhari FC clinched a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Real Kashmir in the 2023-24 I-League at the Namdhari Stadium in Sri Bhaini Sahib on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

Winger Harmanpreet Singh opened the scoring for Namdhari in the 36th minute to give Francisc Bonet's side the lead. Real Kashmir displayed effort in their quest for an equaliser before the conclusion of the first half, yet despite their determined attempts, they were unable to break the Namdhari defence.

It was a similar situation to Namdhari's last match against Inter Kashi where Harmanpreet's goal had put

them in the lead at half-time before they let in four goals in the second half to come out empty-handed. However, the story would not repeat on Saturday afternoon as the hosts, rallied by a decent home support, held on to their narrow lead to win their first-ever I-League match.

Following this result, Namdhari ascended to the eighth position with four points from three matches. On the other hand, Real Kashmir, succumbing to their second successive loss, dropped to fourth place with six points in four games.

Namdhari will be on the road for the first time to face NEROCA FC on November 18, while Real Kashmir's next match will also be against the Orange Brigade on November 23. (ANI)

Angelo Mathews' Time Out Dismissal Correct, Rules MCC



Press Trust of India

LONDON: The umpires had correctly ruled Angelo Mathews 'timed out' but the Sri Lankan batter could have avoided getting dismissed in that fashion by consulting the officials before asking for a new helmet, Marylebone Cricket Club, the custodian of the rules governing the game, said on Saturday.

Mathews had become the first batter to be dismissed 'timed out' in international cricket when he failed to take strike within the stipulated time of two minutes following the dismissal of Sadeera Samarawickrama in their World Cup match against Bangladesh on Monday, triggering a huge controversy.

Mathews realised that the strap of his helmet was broken and asked for a new helmet. The delay prompted Bangladesh to appeal and the umpires upheld it despite Mathews' repeated pleas.

"When the helmet broke, it appears that Mathews did not consult with the umpires, which

a player would be expected to do when seeking new equipment. Rather, he just signalled to the dressing room for a replacement," the MCC said in a statement.

"Had he explained to the umpires what had happened and asked for time to get it sorted out, they might have allowed him to change the helmet, perhaps calling Time and thus removing any possibility of being Timed out."

Given that Time had not been called, and that at the time of the appeal more than two minutes had elapsed, the umpires correctly gave Mathews out. In fact, there was no other action for the umpires to take within the Laws of Cricket," the statement added.

South Africa's Marais Erasmus and England's Richard Illingworth were the two on-field umpires in that game.

A peeved Mathews had called Bangladesh's decision to dismiss him via 'time out' "disgraceful". The two teams didn't shake hands after the match on November 7.

YSS Ganderbal Conducts Sports Events In 40 Panchayats

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YS&S) Ganderbal celebrated B2V-5 program in around 40 panchayats of the district dur-

ing which various cultural and sports events were conducted.

The events witnessed the participation of around 768 students of the said panchayats. DYSSO Ganderbal, Sheikh Shafiqat Iqbal, visited the

Panchayat Kurhama where he felicitated the outstanding sports persons of the panchayat.

The officer also felicitated the National Volleyball bronze medalist Aaqib Gulzar of BHSS

Kurhama, who recently got a bronze medal in the 67th National Games of Volleyball Under-17 category.

The officer congratulated the player and especially to the school management for

nurturing this talent from the grassroots level. He also motivated the other students of the institution to continuously take part in games and sports and also insisted on making sports a full time profession.

Teammates Have Advised Babar Not To Step Down: PCB Sources

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Skipper Babar Azam has been advised against putting in his papers by his national teammates even as he has rested case with the Pakistan Cricket Board headed by Zaka Ashraf to take a call on his future. Pakistan finished fifth in 10 team table and missed out on semi-final qualification, leading to a lot of criticism from former players, who has sought a change in leadership.

"Babar has already spoken to his teammates, and majority of them advised him not to step down himself. He will come out with a clear line of action once he returns home with the team after failing to make the semi-finals of the World Cup in India. But, he will not step down himself," a PCB source told PTI.

Babar has a strong following in the team and likes of Imam ul Haq, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf are players considered to be close to the Pakistan skipper.

In fact, last year when there were



talks about removing Babar from Test captaincy had gained traction on social media, some of the players had then taken to social media to show their solidarity with a hashtag "Sochna Bhi Mana Hai" (Don't even harbour such thoughts).

With Pakistan facing two challenging tours - to Australia and New Zealand - shortly after the World Cup, Babar is wants to continue as the national skipper across formats.

"He will most probably leave the decision of whether he should remain captain or not up to the Pakistan Cricket Board headed by Zaka Ashraf," a well-informed source close to the skipper said.

Babar was first named the white-ball captain for the 'Green Shirts' in late 2019 after the World Cup in England (where they failed to make it to the semi-finals), replacing Sarfaraz Ahmed.

Besides, he was also appointed Test captain in 2021, taking over the reins from Azhar Ali.

But, while Babar has enjoyed success in T20 Internationals, leading his team to the finals of the Asia Cup T20 and the T20 World Cup last year, his record in Tests and ODIs has been far from impressive.

Also, after Pakistan's 2016 T20 World Cup campaign in India (where it failed to make it beyond the Super 10 stage), skipper Shahid Afridi and head coach Waqar Younis were shown the door by the PCB.

PCB head Zaka has insisted that he will only take decisions on the captaincy and team management after consulting some of the former players, notably Misbah ul Haq (who was appointed as the head coach and chief selector when Babar was assigned the leadership duties), Muhammad Hafeez and some others.

Zaka has already met with some of the former players, like Mohammad Yousuf and Aaqib Javed and sought their advice on future decisions around the team.