

Kashmir Saffron Growers 12 Year Wait For Sprinkler Irrigation System Affects Yield

Parvaiz Bhat

Expressing mixed feelings about the saffron yield this year, the growers in the South Kashmir's Pampore say that even the much hyped multi-billion rupees National Mission on Saffron (NMS) being implemented since 2010 in Kashmir has not ensured a reliable irrigation system for their fields which plays a crucial role in saffron productivity.

The Rs 4.1 billion NMS, launched in 2010 to rejuvenate saffron cultivation in Kashmir by helping counter erratic

rainfall among other challenges, has yet to ensure a reliable sprinkler irrigation for saffron crop, the most basic requirement for their crop, farmers complained.

Putting in place sprinkler irrigation in saffron fields, which have traditionally depended on rain, was a key objective of NMS. The NMS was due to end in 2016, but has since been extended, though most of the works under this mission have been completed according to the officials of agriculture and irrigation departments.

Saffron farmers, who grow



the "king of spices" in fields sprawling across several thousand hectares mainly in Pampore, have complained for years that lack of rainfall at crucial times has led to a

THE SPRINKLER IRRIGATION SYSTEM WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE

should have been functional by now. But is it working? You can see for yourself what has happened to these pipes and the bore-wells. They are not serving any purpose,"

decline in production –adding that things are getting worse.

One or two spells of rain in September and October are vital for the crop to flower, farmers said. But in most years since the late 1990s, it either hasn't rained in those months or has rained too much, said

farmer Mohammad Reshi, adding that farmers still rely on how the weather behaves in the cropping season.

"The sprinkler irrigation system which the government claims has been put in place should have been functional by now. But is it **More on P10**

Atal Dulloo Tipped To Be New J&K CS



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government on Monday repatriated senior IAS officer Atal Dulloo to his Union Territories cadre, a personnel ministry order said. Dulloo, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) **More on P10**

KASHMIR'S POWER WOES

PDD To Snap Lines, Slap Cases Against Defaulters

Under No Circumstances Should J&K Engage In Overdrawal Of Power: Principal Secretary

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Facing flak for frequent and unscheduled power cuts in Kashmir Valley, the Power Development Department (PDD) on Monday announced to disconnect electricity supply and file criminal cases against all those consumers who haven't paid their power bills and have 'willfully defaulted'.

"We will take tough action against all the defaulters who have not paid their electricity bills to the department. Their lines will be disconnected and criminal cases will be filed against them," Principal Secretary of Power Development Department (PDD) H Rajesh Prasad told Kashmir Observer.

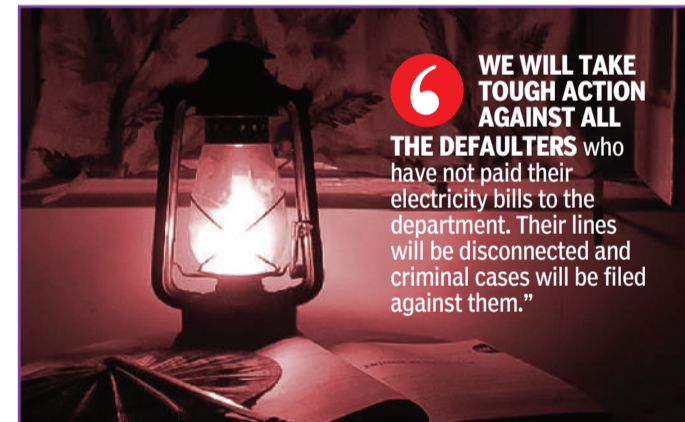
PDD, he said, wants to

purchase additional electricity from other states but the lack of funds was making it difficult.

"The revenue generation is very poor, leading to constraints on the budget," he added.

Earlier, chairing a meeting with the Managing Directors of Corporations and all Chief Engineers and senior officers of the department here to review the power supply position in J&K, particularly Kashmir valley, Prasad asked the engineers to strictly follow the schedule, emphasizing that no unscheduled power cuts shall be tolerated, an official spokesperson said.

During the review, he said, it was informed that a curtailment schedule has been prepared based on the power availability in the region. **More on P10**



A sanitation worker cleans a street near Srinagar's clock tower on a cold and foggy Monday morning. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Dense Fog Grips Kashmir, Affects Road; Air Traffic

Srinagar Records Coldest Night Of Season At Minus 0.8 Deg Celsius

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A thick layer of fog engulfed Kashmir Valley on Monday affecting smooth flow of road and air traffic, even as this capital city recorded the coldest night of the season with mercury settling at minus 0.8 degree Celsius.

Srinagar city, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the minimum temperature of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius, which

was 1.2 degrees below the normal temperature for this time of the year, an official of the Indian Meteorological Department said.

The maximum temperature has also shown a decrease with the city recording a high of 12.5 degrees Celsius on Sunday.

Shopian was the coldest recorded place in the valley as the mercury settled at minus 3.8 degrees Celsius last night followed by Pahalgam in south Kashmir at minus 2.6

degrees Celsius.

Bandipora in north Kashmir recorded a low minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded minus 1.2 degrees Celsius.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, Director Meteorological Department said that the foggy conditions in the Kashmir valley will continue for another week.

"Foggy conditions are likely to continue till November 27. However, **More on P10**

Chorus Grows For Winter Break In Primary Schools

PSAJK, JKSA; DAK Asks Govt To Take Call At Earliest

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Students enrolled at several private and government institutions, Monday urged the administration to declare winter break for all schools, asserting the poor heating arrangements amidst the bone-chilling cold makes it difficult for them to attend classes.

Parents of the students also appealed to the administration to declare winter break for all schools, given the early advent of winters in Kashmir.

Boarding buses early in the morning to get to their schools, parents claimed, makes it a herculean task for the students,

especially young ones.

Government's recent decision to modify school timings within and outside Srinagar Municipal limits has somewhat relieved the students, but the extreme cold and dense foggy conditions in the morning makes it very difficult for children to get to schools, Tariq Ahmad, whose 4-year-old child attends Burn Hall School, told Kashmir Observer.

Getting his child to wake up early in the morning in the middle of a bitter cold to board a bus, according to Tariq, is a big challenge.

"We appeal to the government to at least announce winter breaks for the elementary classes so as to protect the children from getting exposed to the most common diseases including cold, flu and other respiratory **More on P10**

Army Commander, DGP Discuss Winter Security Plan

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Indian Army's northern commander and the director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police have reviewed the security plan against terrorism and the administrative arrangements ahead of the winter months, the Army said on Monday.

This was the first interaction that RR Swain, the director general of Jammu and Kashmir Police, has had with the Indian Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi since



taking charge on October 31. "Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Army Cdr NC, interacted with RR Swain, director general of police, Jammu and Kashmir, to discuss about enhanced coordination between **More on P10**

CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS

Govt's Failure To File Status Report 'Serious Lapse': HC

Seeks Status Regarding Current Condition Of Anchar Lake

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Monday granted J&K government "final opportunity" to file a status report regarding wetlands recognized as that of international importance and declared as Ramsar Sites, observing that the failure on part of the UT administration was a "serious lapse."

"...In spite of the order passed by this Court on 09.09.2022, the Union Territory of J&K has not yet filed a status report, while the Union Territory of Ladakh has filed the same," a bench of

Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Chowdhary said while hearing a suo-moto Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the directions by the Supreme Court.

"Considering the importance attached to the issue and the desire of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to have the matter monitored by this Court, we are of the view that failure to file a status report by the Union Territory of J&K is a serious lapse," the court said.

However, the court granted a "final opportunity to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to file the status report without fail." "Failure to do so **More on P10**

SHORT TAKES

Search Ops Underway In Rajouri

Security forces on Monday launched a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district after information was received about suspected movement of terrorists, sources said. They said the movement of terrorists was reported in the Saloki forest area in Rajouri. According to the **More on P10**

4 Dead In Kathua Accidents

Four people, including two minor girls, were killed in two separate accidents in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, police said on Monday. Surjeet Kumar (40) and his daughter Sonali (11) of Shab-e-Check village of Rajbagh were killed when their motorcycle was hit by a truck at Lakhampur on the Jammu- **More on P10**

KO NEWS & UPDATES

THE OTHER SIDE

STORIES OF LOVE, LONGING & FRIENDSHIP

Catch prominent poet, writer and actor, **Bashir Dada** on 'The Other Side' Show', a popular show on Kashmir Observer TV.

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



Daraksha Andrabi Inaugurates HRJP Council Office In Srinagar

Observer News Service Srinagar: Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, today inaugurated the new office of Human Rights Judicial Protection Council at Srinagar.

Mirwaiz-Umer Farooq Bereaved

Observer News Service Srinagar: The wife of Late Molvi Ali Mohammad Jan, who was the aunt (Chachi) of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq breathed her last this morning after a brief illness.

70th All India Cooperative Week Concluding Function Organized At SKICC

Observer News Service Srinagar: The Cooperative Department on Monday organized a mega function to wrap up the week-long celebrations of 70th All India Cooperative Week at SKICC, Srinagar.



A Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) sanitation worker sweeps pedestrian walkway at the Residency Road in Srinagar amidst dense fog on a cold Monday morning. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Dal Lake Fire Survivor Tourists Return Homes Safely

Investigation Into Death Of 3 Bangladeshi Tourists On: Police

Majid Nabi Srinagar: All the seven tourists including a couple from Chennai, who miraculously escaped the tragic houseboat blaze in Dal Lake earlier this month, have 'safely' returned to their homes, officials said on Monday.

House Gutted, Fireman Injured In Soura Blaze Srinagar: A residential house was gutted while a firefighter suffered injuries in a fire incident at Soura area of Srinagar this afternoon, officials said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Corrigendum Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/F.S. 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:

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited Estates & Engineering Department Corporate Headquarters, Srinagar M. A. Road Srinagar, 190 001 J&K Online Request For Tender (e-NIT) for Tender for supply, installation, testing & Commissioning of D.G. Sets (cpcb iv +) for branches & offices of the bank

GOVERNMENT OF UT JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer PCD (PHQ) J&K Jammu/ Srinagar INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No/EE-PCD/PHQ/90/2023-24 Dated:- 20-11-2023

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

PRAYERS FAJR 5: 40 ZUHR 12:14 ASR 3: 50 Magrib 5:30 ISHA 7: 51

This Day In History 235 - St Anferus begins his reign as Catholic Pope 695 Pope Sergius names Willibrord as Archbishop of Friesland 1272 - Following Henry III of England's death on November 16, his son Prince Edward becomes King of England.

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 21-11-2023

Deepening Power Crisis

The Kashmir Valley is experiencing an extreme cold over the past week with night temperature plunging to sub-zero. Srinagar witnessed the coldest night of the season as temperatures dipped to a low of minus 0.8 degrees Celsius on Sunday, marking a drop of nearly 2 degrees from the previous night's 0.9 degrees. According to the meteorological department, this was 1.0 degree below the normal temperatures expected for this time of year in the capital city. The city has also been waking up to a thick blanket of fog that has significantly reduced visibility, causing disruptions in both pedestrian and vehicular movement during the morning hours. This foggy condition has extended across various parts of the Kashmir valley, affecting daily routines for several hours.

The drop in temperatures has brought about a familiar set of challenges, particularly with power supply issues. It's unfortunate that this recurring problem hasn't received the attention it deserves from the government, leaving the public to endure the consequences year after year. Unscheduled outages, surpassing the already announced curtailment schedules, have become an unwelcome norm, hitting households and industries hard.

The worsening power situation has also impacted the healthcare system, a lifeline for many. Hospitals, from government-run facilities to private institutions, reel under the weight of power scarcity, impeding critical medical procedures and endangering the lives of patients, especially those reliant on intensive care units and life-sustaining equipment. The vulnerability of rural healthcare facilities, grappling with erratic power supply, exacerbates the hardships faced by communities.

As for ordinary people, pushed to the edge, they are resorting to purchasing alternative power sources like inverters, bearing the brunt of additional financial strain. Yet, these makeshift solutions cannot replace the dire need for a reliable and sustainable power supply.

The demand for improvement is thus understandable, especially with Chillai Kalan approaching and the inevitability of harsher weather conditions. It's essential for the Power Development Department to step up and better prepare for the upcoming challenges, especially considering its historical struggles in promptly restoring electricity after heavy snowfall.

Addressing the unfair implementation of power curtailment across different regions is crucial for ensuring that everyone is dealt with fairly during these difficult times. Hopefully, the government will take proactive steps to minimize the impact of the power shortage, acknowledging the hardship it brings to the lives of the people. Given the severity of the situation and its recurrent nature, it's understandable for the public to hope for a more effective response from the authorities this time around. Here's hoping that the government takes steps to make some redeeming difference to the situation.

OTHER OPINION

India's drug detox

It has now followed up this move by setting up a team to develop a portal that will enable tracking of drug-making processes. Medicine manufacturers will be required to feed in details of raw materials and distributors will need to upload their invoices on this platform. The site will also contain information about spurious and poor-quality drugs unearthed by inspectors — this could help tackle the problem posed by the movement of substandard medicines across state borders. The platform will also track court cases related to the pharma industry.

Studies have shown that pharma majors outsource production to small units which often escape the regulatory radar. State regulatory bodies find it difficult to track down supply chains of firms that comprise fly-by-night operators. While adulteration gets belated attention at times, experts believe that a more intractable problem is that of substandard drugs that delay or compromise treatment. By all accounts, a large section of physicians in the country do not seem to have faith in unbranded drugs. In August, a doctors' protest forced the National Medical Commission to take back its directive on prescribing generic medicines. The use of IT-enabled procedures could make the pharma industry's processes transparent and improve coordination between the country's 36 regional regulators. But a single window for all drug regulation should be seen as only the first step towards restoring the credibility of generics.

India has among the toughest laws against spurious drugs. However, a robust regulatory mechanism also requires an effective system for monitoring manufacturing and sales units. That is still in the works. Most states haven't found a way to adopt the 20-year-old formula of the Mashelkar committee which recommended one drug inspector for 50 production units and one inspector for every 200 retail units. In several states, there is no clear demarcation between the roles of drug testing and food regulatory agencies. Field officials are often tasked with administrative work related to the cancellation and renewal of licenses. Their primary responsibility of scrutinising the safety and efficacy of medicines suffers as a result. That's why the creation of a portal for drug control should be accompanied by measures to enhance the capacity of regulatory bodies.

The Indian Express

Zia Darakshan

When we walk into a market, we are often surrounded by foreign brands. From essentials like diapers and shampoo to clothing and household products, everything seems to be dominated by international brands. This scenario prompts important questions: What have we been doing? Why don't we have more of our own brands? Even if we do have them, why do we prefer to buy global brands over homegrown ones?

This vast gap between domestic and international brand presence provides an opportunity for us to foster self-reliance. In the given global scenario, the time is ripe to develop our own brands, thereby reducing our dependence on foreign products. The covid-19 induced economic crisis has taught us how important it is to be economically self-reliant after the global economic supply chain was massively disrupted for months together.

So, it is imperative to break free from our inclination to choose foreign products over local ones and instill a sense of pride in our own brands. Creating homegrown alternatives to international brands can transform our economic environment reduce trade imbalances, and stimulate job creation within our country.

Promoting the purchase of indigenous products over foreign products in India can be achieved through a multi-faceted approach involving education, incentives, quality assurance, awareness campaigns, Local Brand Promotion, Online Marketplaces like e-commerce, Consumer Discounts, Consumer Education, Retailer Support, Sustainable Practices, Community Engagement, School Curriculum, Cultural Relevance etc.

It's important to create a shift in the mindset of consumers and emphasize the broader benefits of buying indigenous products. These strategies can help create a more significant preference for Indian-made goods in the market. We have seen numerous government initiatives in the last few years with an aim to boost local entrepreneurship, such as Make in India, Vocal for Local, Digital India, and Startup India. These initiatives aim to revive the industrial sector and assist farmers, migrant workers and others in need. In response, state governments have also announced their own measures to stimulate economic activity in their respective regions. For example 'AatmaNirbhar' represents a major shift towards 'Made by India' from the earlier 'Made in India' slogan.

As part of India's push towards self-reliance, the government has launched the 'One District, One Product' initiative under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. The initiative aims to boost local economic and socio-cultural growth, create employment opportunities,

Fuss or Fad: Being Vocal for Local?

A path to economic self-reliance amid global uncertainties



A woman artisan showcases her craft at SARAS mela in Srinagar – KO file photo by Abid Bhat

and promote the export of locally-made products. With 761 districts across the country included in the scheme, it is expected to carry export promotion of over 1000 products.

It is interesting to note that the desire for indigenous products is surging among Indian consumers, there's a notable shift away from global brands. Around 60% of respondents in a KPMG survey, spanning various age groups, express a strong inclination to replace foreign brands with customized, made-in-India products. This trend indicates a growing preference for locally crafted brands, showcasing a shift in consumer behavior and a willingness to pay an extra price for homegrown quality.

J&K's Scenario
The scenario in J&K reveals the number of startups is very less almost negligible despite the huge and bountiful resources the UT is gifted with. The primary reason behind this is that we are brought up with the job oriented mentality. All of us share the same dream, the same goal of securing a Government job with a fallback plan to transition to the private sector if the initial pursuit proves unsuccessful. This rate race of acquiring hassle free jobs may inadvertently stifle our creative potential and hinder our productivity. Nobody prefers to become an entrepreneur. The handful who finally manage to become one and launch a startup face a lot of difficulties in their initial phase.

National scenario reveals that 90% of the startup companies get closed before they even start properly. The rest 10% have to struggle with getting funds and searching for angel investors. Now one can imagine the plight of a small place like J&K where there are hardly any angel investors. However, in the last couple of years we have noticed an upward trend in local entrepreneurship where our youth are coming up with brilliant ideas and many of them are doing quite well in their own spaces.

How to help indigenous products find their way in international market

The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir holds the keys to unlocking a world of opportunities. To do so, we must first inspire and inculcate the spirit of entrepre-

“National scenario reveals that 90% of the startup companies get closed before they even start properly. The rest 10% have to struggle with getting funds and searching for angel investors. Now one can imagine the plight of a small place like J&K where there are hardly any angel investors. However, in the last couple of years we have noticed an upward trend in local entrepreneurship

neurship among our children from an early age. Rather than solely seeking government or private sector employment, we can empower our youth to create their own ventures. By nurturing and supporting homegrown entrepreneurs, we can transform our abundant resources into thriving markets.

Recently, Jammu & Kashmir's economy received a boost through the ODOP initiative, as 21 local products from 20 districts of the Union Territory have been selected for export promotion. The ODOP initiative in India builds on this idea and aims to make products locally, from scratch to finish, instead of relying on global companies operating in India. This marks a significant shift towards the 'Made by India' approach. The scheme aims to achieve this by promoting local businesses and scaling up manufacturing, with a view to identifying potential foreign customers. Ultimately, the goal is to turn each district in India into an export hub, specializing in the product for which the district is known. It is here that J&K youth has to come forward and explore and get engaged in entrepreneurship.

In the picturesque landscapes of Kashmir, opportunities to cultivate indigenous brands abound, particularly in the realm of cosmetics and beyond. This region, renowned for its rich culture,

heritage, and breathtaking natural beauty, is also blessed with an abundance of herbs and a diverse flora and fauna. Among these botanical treasures, Kashmir harbors a wealth of plants with medicinal qualities that have been cherished for their use in medical treatments, aromatherapy, and cosmetics. However, an unfortunate consequence of the high demand for these resources from countries such as Europe, China, and Japan has turned the region into a hotspot for smuggling activities.

Researchers have painstakingly documented 1,123 medicinal plants thriving in the fertile soils of Jammu and Kashmir. These plants possess untapped potential, yet it remains largely unexplored by the local population. The need of the hour is to initiate a transformation — one that harnesses our natural bounty to build a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Education and Awareness

Education is the cornerstone of this transformation. We must launch comprehensive awareness programs to acquaint our people, especially the younger generation, with the treasures that lie in their own backyard. Knowledge about the medicinal and aromatic properties of local flora, and their value in various industries, is essential. This awareness is the first step toward unlocking economic potential while safeguarding our ecological heritage.

Role of NGOs

In this endeavor, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play a pivotal role. Rather than relying solely on sporadic fundraising efforts, they can channel their resources and energy into creating meaningful awareness campaigns. These organizations can extend their reach to educate children and collaborate with entrepreneurs to build a strong and sustainable network. By doing so, they can genuinely empower our youth and foster a culture of self-reliance.

Succinctly, J&K holds the potential for creating its own brands by leveraging natural resources wisely and pursuing a path of self-sufficiency. Initiatives must begin with education, awareness, and a collective commitment to preserve our natural wealth. By fostering a strong network of entrepreneurs, we empower our youth to seize opportunities at home, contribute to regional prosperity, and transform our natural treasures into a lasting source of wealth.

Meanwhile, while the allure of global demand is enticing, it's essential that we strike a balance. We can no longer afford to let our precious resources be sold for meager sums. Instead, we must recognize the need to preserve them wisely, ensuring their sustainability for generations to come.

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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Winners Nonetheless

Sports, at times can be extremely cruel and can be devastating to a team and its players more than the fury of nature. This painful fact will haunt the Men in Blue forever, who were absolutely dominant until the finals of the World Cup 2023, but eventually lost to Men in Yellow in the summit clash.

Just over a month ago, the Aussies found themselves languishing at the very bottom of the points table, looking like a jaded unit, which seemed cooked and short of answers. But in an amazing turnaround, they managed to win nine games on a trot to become world champions. And it was a sort of poetic justice for Australia,

as after losing to India and South Africa in the league stage, they stormed their way to the WC title, defeating the same two teams. It seems that Team India was destined to lose just one game in WC 2023, but unfortunately that game happened to be the final. Nevertheless, the Men in Blue had an outstanding WC 2023 tourna-

ment and made every Indian feel proud of their brilliant performance, and they can walk with their heads high. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi often says, there are no losers in sports, but only winners and future winners.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

On World Children's Day

Children Need Happiness

Mohammad Hanief

Childhood is a universal experience, something every adult across the world has gone through. For many, childhood is a time we are nostalgic for. It's a time of curiosity, imagination, exploration and incredible development. For many of us, a special adult helped us to learn and grow as children and led us to love learning. For some, it was a great teacher or wise neighbour. Others had parents, grandparents or other relatives who encouraged them to be curious and study hard. Even if your childhood wasn't easy, you probably had at least one inspirational adult in your life who encouraged you and was a role model.

Unfortunately, not everyone has a good childhood. Proportionately, more children live in poverty than adults. 19.5 per cent of the world's children live in extreme poverty, and even though children are only one third of the global population, they are half of the poor. Around the world, many children live without access to clean water, enough food, or decent healthcare. Others live in extremely dangerous places and some are forced to join armies to fight wars they don't understand.

Over 120 million children do not attend school and even those who do are not always learning; two out of five students leave primary school not knowing how to read, write or do basic maths. Even those who may have happy memories of childhood did not necessarily have an easy life as a kid. Children are dependent on the adults in their life for support, and not all adults treat children well.

Even though every day is, or at least should be, a day to nurture and celebrate children, Universal Children's Day is celebrated as a special day around the world on November 20. In 1989 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – a 54-item list describing the universal rights of children – was signed. This document came out of the work of a lot of experts and representatives from many nations who met to create a child-specific version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was signed in 1948. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely and quickly signed treaty in history, meaning it was quickly adopted into



the civil codes of most countries around the world.

Universal Children's Day 2023 is a global observance that celebrates and promotes the rights and well-being of children worldwide. It serves as a reminder of the importance of ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. Since its inception, Universal Children's Day has been an opportunity to advocate for children's rights and promote awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing children worldwide.

Universal Children's Day is a United Nations (UN) initiative that emphasizes the fundamental rights of children. It was established to promote and protect children's rights as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. These rights include the right to education, health, protection, and participation in decisions that affect their lives.

Celebrating Universal Children's Day involves activities and initiatives that promote the welfare and rights of children. Organize workshops, seminars, or educational events that raise awareness about children's rights and the importance of quality education.

Advocate for policies and actions that protect and support children's well-being, including access to healthcare, nutrition, and safe environments.

Contribute to organizations that work to improve the lives of children through education, healthcare, and social programs. Encourage children to express themselves through art, music, and creative activities that celebrate their talents and voices. Ensure that all children, regardless of their background, have equal opportunities and access to education and resources.

Mothers and fathers, teachers, nurses and doctors, government leaders and civil society activists, religious and community elders, corporate tycoons and media professionals, as well as young people and children themselves, can play an important part in making World Children's Day relevant for their societies, communities and nations.

Children's Day in India is also popular as 'Bal Diwas' and is celebrated every year across the country on November 14. This day honors the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, broadly known as 'Chacha Nehru'. Nehru

was a major advocate of children's education and rights. He had confidence in an inclusive education system and that a country could succeed. His vision focused on children being the future of the nation and the foundation of society. In 1955, he established the Children's Film Society India to give a platform to the issues of children.

In the year 1948, Children's Day was first marked as "Flower Day" on November 5. It was an effort by the Indian Council of Child Welfare (ICCW) to gather funds for the Unified Nations Appeal for Children (UNAC) through the offer of "flower tokens." Later, in 1954, Nehru's birthday was first celebrated as Children's Day.

The importance of Children's Day lies in its significant emphasis on recognizing the importance of a protected and healthy childhood. It fills in as a reminder that childhood isn't simply a stage but a foundational period that shapes people and, thus, the general public they contribute to.

It promotes the privileges of kids as well as highlights the requirements for their general prosperity, including education, nourishment, and a safe family environment. The festival fills in as a societal reminder to protect

the innocence and capability of children, considering them as the future leaders of our world.

Children's Day is observed by the tone of affection, gifts, and spoiling of students. Teachers in schools sort out special projects and performances for students which additionally incorporate contests, for example, debating, painting, quizzes, singing, and dancing. As a part of the celebrations, the exchange of gifts like books and cards additionally happens among students.

As universal Children's Day was created to change the way children are viewed and treated by society and to improve children's welfare. Universal Children's Day is a day to advocate for and champion the rights of children. Children's rights are not special rights or different rights. They are fundamental human rights. A child is a human being, entitled to be treated as one and should be celebrated as such.

Millions of children throughout the world live in extreme poverty. The children are often deprived of medicine, education and shelter. Many live without access to clean water. They are unprotected and oppressed, starved of affection and opportunity and trapped in a cycle of disadvantage passed from one generation to another, if they're able to survive past childhood.

Since the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted, the global mortality rate for children under five years old has been cut in half. The world community is beginning to give its best to children. It's improving the odds for every child, giving them a chance to rise above disadvantage and discrimination, to push past predators and abuse, to fight off disease, ignorance, malnutrition and shame so they may live up to their fullest potential.

There is a lot to be done to make the world a safer, more supportive place for children. The good news is, you're an adult and you have the power to influence the next generation in the most wonderful way. Start by explaining the Rights of the Child to the children in your life. Let them know that they, just like all human beings, have rights. Help a child learn to love learning, so they can become a motivated adult just like you.

The author can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com X/Twitter: @haniefmha

AI Is Now Accessible To Everyone: 3 Things Parents Should Teach Their Kids

Kathy Mills & Christian Moro

It is almost a year since ChatGPT burst onto the scene, fuelling great excitement as well as concern about what it might mean for education.

The changes keep coming. Earlier in the year, MyAI was embedded into social media platform Snapchat. This is a chatbot powered by ChatGPT, which encourages teens to ask anything - from gift suggestions for friends to questions about homework.

Meanwhile, Microsoft is rolling out "Copilot" on its systems, billed as an "everyday AI companion". This follows the introduction of "Bing Chat", an AI-enhanced assistant to accompany the Bing search tool.

All of a sudden, generative artificial intelligence - which can create new content such as text and images - has become accessible to everyone, including young people.

We are researchers with a background in digital technology and are highly enthusiastic about the potential for AI. However, there are risks as well as benefits. Here are three things parents can keep in mind as they navigate AI technology with their kids.

AI is here to stay

Artificial intelligence itself is not new - chatbots and generative AI have been around since the 1960s.

But over the past year there has been a rapid expansion in the size of AI databas-



es, huge financial investments into these technologies, more innovative code, and enhanced accessibility and usability.

Parents may be naturally hesitant about AI. Many schools have considered banning some AI uses, amid claims it would lead to cheating and undermine academic integrity.

But AI is not going to go away, and will only become more widely used in our lives. The sooner young people learn to use this technology, the more informed they can be about how to use it wisely and productively.

If you are a parent, it is important to learn about and try these technologies for

yourself so you can help your child navigate a world with AI. Start by logging in to a free generative AI tool, and experiment together by asking the bot some questions and reflecting on the answers.

Be critical

Generative AI can do amazing things - like generate images or write stories - but it does not reflect on what it's writing. It will string text together in a way that makes sense but not "read between the lines".

Generative AI cannot evaluate the credibility of sources, nor can it always

find authoritative information to back up claims. The generative AI software is also trained on data from a specific time so recent events may not be included.

So children need to learn that although it looks similar to other writing, such as in a book or article, the text has been pieced together by computer code. This means every word, sentence and claim should be treated with scepticism.

You can use this as an opportunity to help your children develop critical thinking skills.

Go to a free AI art generator with your school-age child and put in some searches. Then ask your child questions such as, "What kinds of people are shown? What kinds are missing? Do you see any stereotypes? Can you see any biases?"

Watch out for chatbots

Chatbots are computer programs designed to simulate conversations as if they were another human.

For example, there were more than ten million Replika users as of 2022. Replika is a chatbot billed as a companion who cares. It acts like a friend but relationships with the chatbot can become romantic or sexual.

In many chatbot applications such as this, there may be no moderation or human checks on inappropriate content. So be aware if your child spending a long time with AI "friends".

If left unaccompanied, these types of applications could feed into a child's curiosity and potentially manipulate them

into unethical and harmful situations, like highly personal conversations with a bot.

Make it clear to your children that generative AI is machine, not a human. It does not share your ideals, beliefs, culture or religion. It presents text and language based on models and algorithms. It is not something to argue with, take lessons from, or be used to reinforce your values.

The code may also be manually edited to inhibit certain viewpoints or stances on topics.

Images, videos and audio also matter

With all the focus on text, be sure to remind your children images and video are also part of the generative AI landscape. Children may be careful about what text they enter online but careless with uploading images.

Their photos and facial image become available to AI when uploaded, which makes it harder to protect their identity. For example, ChatGPT now has image capabilities you can include in your conversations with the chatbot. Discuss privacy with your child, and be sure to mention that any data uploaded to the internet can be stored, scanned and processed by AI.

AI can be a powerful learning and engagement tool, and the developments in this field are highly exciting. With open conversations and some oversight, the possibilities of children greatly benefiting from this technology are endless.

By arrangements with
The Conversation

'91% Of Indian Gen Z Workers Prepared For AI Adoption At Workplace'

Gen Z in India is excited to use generative AI in the workplace, with 91 per cent saying they feel prepared for their employer to adopt the technology in everyday work, a report showed on Friday.

While 81 per cent of Gen Z employees have leveraged generative AI to enhance their work, 45 per cent seek training for hard skills related to their jobs, compared to 40 per cent for soft skills, according to Adobe's 'Future Workforce Study for India'.

"Gen Z workers are the most

tech-savvy generation yet, and they're eager to embrace disruptive technologies like generative AI. To capitalise on this opportunity, organisations must strike a balance between embracing these technologies and nurturing a culture that aligns with evolving requirements," said Prativa Mohapatra, Vice President and Managing Director at Adobe India.

Gen Z is eager to lend their perspectives at work, with most respondents (96 per cent) saying they are comfortable providing feedback to their peers and colleagues.

An overwhelming majority of Gen Z workers (93 per cent) in



the country are eager to grow, not only in impact but up the corporate ladder to the C-suite.

"While 87 per cent say they feel good about career growth op-

portunities at their company, 46 per cent of respondents ranked no clear path to promotion as one of the top reasons they would leave a job," the report said.

Gen Z is also eager for career guidance, with 91 per cent saying they believe a workplace mentor is crucial for their career.

However, just 76 per cent of Gen Z report having a mentor at work.

Gen Z prioritises their professional growth in a workplace, ranking no clear path for promotion as the number one reason for leaving a job (46 per cent), closely followed by less than satisfactory pay (43 per cent), the findings showed.

The J&K Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- Conduction of Special Stray Vacancy Round as an additional Round for admission to vacant AYUSH-UG seats under Govt/Govt. Aided/Central University/National Institutes in view of revised minimum percentile criteria of NEET (UG)-2023 by 5 percentile across all categories for admission to AYUSH-UG courses for the academic year 2023-24: Registration of candidates and submission of documents thereof.

Reference: i) Notification No. 082-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20.09.2023.
ii) Notification No. 114-BOPEE of 2023 dated 08.11.2023.
iii) Notification No. 117-BOPEE of 2023 dated 13.11.2023.
iv) Letter issued by National Commission for Indian System of Medicines, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, vide communication No. AIAPGET/COE/2023 dated 09.11.2023
v) Letter issued by Ayush Admissions Central Counseling Committee (AACCC) vide communication No. AA-11013/1/2023-EP- I dated 13.11.2023

Notification No: 120-BOPEE of 2023
Dated: 19-11-2023

It is hereby notified for the information of all the concerned candidates that the National Commission for Indian System of Medicines, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, vide communication No. AIAPGET/COE/2023 dated 09.11.2023 has reduced the minimum qualifying percentile criteria by five percentile criteria across all categories for admission to UG courses under Ayush for academic year 2023-24 and the Ayush Admissions Central Counseling Committee (AACCC) vide communication No. AA-11013/1/2023-EP- I dated 13.11.2023 has notified conduction of Special Stray Vacancy Round as an additional round for admission to seats in Government/Private Colleges/Institutions and the last date of admission in these courses for academic year 2023-24 is 30th November, 2023. However, the reduced qualifying percentile is given herein below:-

Category	Existing cut - off percentile for UG /PG Courses for A.Y. 2023-24	Revised cut - off percentile for UG / PG Courses for A.Y. 2023-24
UR EWS	50 th	45 th
SC/ST/RBA/ OSC/ALC/PSP	40 th	35 th
UR/EWS (PwD)	45 th	40 th
SC/ST/RBA/ OSC/ALC/PSP (PwD)	40 th	35 th

The candidates who fall within the ambit of the said revised percentile qualifying score of NEET - UG Ayush courses 2023 and are willing to participate in the Special Stray Vacancy Round of Upgradation/Allotment Counselling against the seats which have remained unfilled/ to be received as shortfall, if any, during Mop Up Round of Upgradation/Allotment counselling are advised to register themselves and submit the requisite documents as mentioned herein below physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar upto 21st of November, 2023 till 2:00 p.m. of uploading of this notification on the official website of the Board and any eligible candidate who has not registered earlier and does not figure in the annexure A of Notification No. 082-BOPEE of 2023 dated 20.09.2023 in the UT merit list of 2023, but wants to be considered against the unfilled and the seats to be received as shortfall, if any, may also submit his/ her documents physically at BOPEE office Jammu / Srinagar for registration within the prescribed time schedule indicated herein above (21st of November, 2023 till 02:00 p.m.):-

1. Domicile Certificate.
2. 12th Class Marks Card.
3. DOB Certificate/10th Class Marks Card issued by the Board.
4. Category Certificate, wherever applicable.
5. NEET-2023 score card.

The updated rank wise list shall be available on BOPEE website before the start of counselling.

It is further notified for the eligible candidates that the Board shall conduct the Stray Vacancy Round of Counselling (physical) on 24th of November, 2023 as per following schedule:

S.No.	Time of Registration/Attendance	Rank	Date/Day of Counselling	Remarks
01.	08.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m	01	24.11.2023 (Friday)	All the eligible candidates (OM/Category)

Note:

1. 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.
2. The candidate(s) who have been allotted seat/college during Mop Up Round of counselling but have failed to join against the said seat/college, he/she shall not be eligible to participate in the Stray Vacancy Round of counselling under any circumstances.
3. Those candidates who have remained absent or got CNA/SNA during Ist , 2nd and Mop Up Rounds of Counselling are also eligible to participate in this round of Counselling.
4. The candidate(s) who have been allotted seat/college during First/Second Round(s) of counselling but have failed to join against the said seat/college, he/she shall also be eligible to participate in the Stray Vacancy Round of counselling.
5. Those candidate(s) who have been allotted seat(s) during the Mop Up Round of Counselling and have joined against the said seat/College, if interested, for upgradation are also eligible to participate in the Stray Vacancy Round of Physical Counselling 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.
6. The candidates who have been allotted seats in AIQ during 2nd /Mop up/Stray rounds of counselling & have joined the allotted Institutions & also those candidates who are participating in AIQ Stray round(s) of counselling are not eligible to participate in this round of counselling.
7. 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 Counselling 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.
8. 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.
9. 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

BOPEE-EXAM/11/2023 (7313777)

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations
J&K BOPEE

DIPK-NB-4315/23
dated: 20-11-2023

Fully Injectable Continuous Glucose Monitor For Diabetics Soon

IANS

Researchers at Texas A&M University in the US are working to create a fully injectable continuous glucose monitor (CGM) so small it rivals a grain of rice and can be used with an external optical reader to measure sugar levels at any given time.

Two faculty members from the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the university have received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to fund a multidisciplinary project to develop an injectable, grain-of-rice-sized glucose biosensor and wearable device.

"Continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) are commercially available, but most of them are indwelling, meaning there is a needle in the skin connected to a patch on the arm," said co-principal investigator and Regents Professor, Dr Gerard Cote.

"There is one CGM that is totally implantable, but it is much bigger than ours and requires a doctor to surgically implant it with an incision," he added.

Cote and his lab are designing the injectable sensor's chemistry and developing the watch-type reader device.



The sensor is put under the skin and analysed using light from the watch-like device to determine the glucose concentration.

The reader sends the signal to a cell phone and the patient can share the results with their health provider.

"The chemical assay in the injectable sensor is used to determine the concentration of the glucose within the tissue, and the watch device sends in light and measures the fluorescence from the sensor to give the sugar concentration," Cote explained.

The sensor and wearable reader employ an optical sensing technology that addresses the challenges associated with biosensing for populations of darker skin tones.

"We use chemistry that has a fluorescent colour that emits in the red and infrared range rather than green light, which works better for the darker skin tones," Cote said.

"The chemical assay in the injectable sensor is used to determine the concentration of the glucose within the tissue, and the watch device sends in light and measures the fluorescence from the sensor to give the sugar concentration

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Baramulla Fax No: 01952-234426 e-mail, id, xenmhdbla@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-I

Subject: - Extension of Critical Dates of e-NITS No. 11 of 2023-24 Dated: - 28-10-2023.

Reference: - Tender IDs: - 2023_PWDJK_235080_1

Due to inadequate response in reference to above cited e-NITS, the Critical Dates are extended as under:

S.No	Description	Re- Scheduled date
1	Date of Downloading	28-10-2023 (06:15 PM) to 04-12-2023 (06:00 PM)
2	Date of uploading	28-10-2023 (06:15 PM) to 04-12-2023 (06:55 PM)
3	Due date of opening of tender	05-12-2023 (01:00 PM)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Baramulla

No: - M&HDB/TS/1352-54
DIPK-12499/23
Dated: - 20-11-2023

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board CPO Chowk, Panjtirhi, Jammu/ Zamzam Complex, Rambagh, Srinagar. www.jkssb.nic.in

ANSWER KEY NOTICE

Subject:- Written Examination for the Post of Junior Environmental Engineer, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department - Final Answer Key regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the Written Examination for the post of Junior Environmental Engineer, UT Cadre, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department, advertised vide Advertisement Notification No. 03 of 2021, under Item No. 557, on 05th November, 2023; and

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), notified Provisional Answer Key vide No. JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392) dated: 05-11-2023, in respect of the aforesaid post and the same was uploaded on the official website of JKSSB (www.jkssb.nic.in) for information of the candidates and seeking of objections/representations on the prescribed proforma, if any from the candidates; and

Whereas, in response to aforesaid notice, 25 objections were received in respect of 10 unique questions within the stipulated time; and

Whereas, in view of the above, the revised/final answer key in respect of written examination held for the post of Junior Environmental Engineer has been finalized.

Now, therefore, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of aforesaid post, for which written examination was conducted on 05-11-2023, is hereby notified as under in respect of question(s) which have been challenged.

Post Name	Text Booklet Series Question ID				Change in Answer Key	
	A	B	C	D	Previous correct option ID	New correct option ID
Junior Environmental Engineer	Q5	Q95	Q65	Q35	A	DISCARDED
	Q61	Q31	Q1	Q91	B	D
	Q74	Q44	Q14	Q104	B	A
	Q97	Q67	Q37	Q7	B	A & B
	Q102	Q72	Q42	Q12	A	B
	Q4	Q94	Q64	Q34	B	B & A
	Q19	Q109	Q79	Q49	C	NO CHANGE
	Q77	Q47	Q17	Q107	B	DISCARDED
	Q38	Q8	Q98	Q68	B	A
Q28	Q118	Q88	Q58	D	NO CHANGE	

Further, such candidate(s) who deposited amount @ Rs 200/- per question and whose objection(s) is found genuine/correct as per revised/final answer key, will get the refund in their bank accounts provided to the Board.

Note: No further claim in respect of final answer key shall be entertained by JKSSB through any medium.

Sd/-
Reyaz Ahmad Malik (JKAS)
Controller of Examinations
J&K Services Selection Board

No.: JKSSB-COE0EXAM(UT)/88/2023-03 (7314392)

DIPK-12490/23
dated: 20-11-2023

Farhan Muneer: Kashmir's Powerlifting Prodigy

Agencies

SRINAGAR: For years, 22-year-old Farhan Muneer has been training hard to build his physique.



A resident of Khayam area of Srinagar, Farhan gradually started feeling changes in his body after he transformed himself from a skinny to a chiseled lad.

Simultaneously, Farhan observed that he could easily lift heavy weights.

This is when he started getting serious about the game of powerlifting and bodybuilding.

Come 2022, Farhan has been awarded as the youngest certified trainer in Kashmir by Global Indian Fitness Federation.

J&K Wins Sabre Team Gold In National School Games

Secy DYSS praises J&K athletes

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary Department of Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, on Monday inaugurated the 67th National School Games in the discipline of Fencing for Under-19 boys and girls at Gymnasium Hall, University of Jammu here.



While extending thanks to School Games Federation of India for sanctioning four Nationals to J&K this year, Sarmad Hafeez said that the Government of J&K was committed to promote sports and possess all that was required to host mega sporting events in a most befitting manner.

event is part of the series of National School Games that J&K has been hosting and till now four national level competitions in sports disciplines of Football, Volleyball, Judo and Fencing have been organised during the current year.

and language. Earlier, in his welcome address, Director DYSS, Subash Chibber, highlighted the achievements of the department and encouraged the participants.

Meanwhile, J&K Under-19 boys won Sabre team gold on Day 1 after beating Haryana in the final. The gold medal winners included Harshit Kohli, Anubhav Sharma, Vatsal Gandhotra and Amish Sharma. The silver medal in this category went to Haryana and the bronze was bagged by Punjab and Gujarat.

J&K Bank Rout Galaxy 8-0 In Srinagar Premier League

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank FC ran amok Monday, scoring eight goals past Galaxy FC in a Srinagar Premier League fixture at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

of which came in the 51st minute, when Waris found the back of the net. Tawfeeq made it 4-0 in the 58th minute. Akif scored in minute 74, before Prem got his second goal of the game in 78th minute. Akif pounced upon his third goal in minute 85, while Shahid got in on the act a minute later.

The Galaxy team fell apart in the second half of the game, allowing six unanswered goals as J&K Bank striker Akif Reshi

At full time, J&K Bank FC had beaten Galaxy FC 8-0. Bank's



scored another hat trick in the Premier Division. Prem put Bank ahead in the 24th minute, before Akif doubled the lead in minute 30. At half time, the score read 2-0 in favour of J&K Bank. The second half of the game saw Galaxy let in six goals, the first

Tawfeeq was awarded player of the match. As per the fixtures list release by DFA Srinagar, the final Round 20 match will see Downtown Heroes FC take on FC1 on Tuesday, November 21, at Synthetic Turf TRC. The game kicks off at 3:00 PM, as per the schedule.

FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2023

Anticipating the post festival rush of passengers, Railways have planned to run the following post Festival Special Trains as per schedule given below:-

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Frequency / Day, Period. Lists various special train services for Northern Railway.

Table listing train numbers, routes, and schedules for various lines including Vadodara, Haridwar, and Delhi. Includes details on frequency and periods.

LIST OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS PASSING THROUGH NORTHERN RAILWAY NETWORK

Table listing train numbers, routes, and schedules for special trains passing through the Northern Railway network.

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.



NORTHERN RAILWAY visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

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Study Reveals How Hunger Influences Decision-Making

Agenceis

A study on mice has shown how gut-produced hunger hormones can influence decision-making and drive an animal's behaviour. The researchers said that the findings demonstrate how the hunger hormone can cross the blood-brain barrier and directly impact the brain to drive activity, controlling a circuit in the brain that is likely to be the same or similar in humans.

The blood-brain barrier is known to strictly restrict many substances in the blood from reaching the brain. The study findings are published in the journal, *Neuron*. Researchers put mice in an arena that had some food, and looked at how the mice acted when they were hungry or full.

While all the mice spent time investigating the food, only the hungry ones would begin eating, the researchers at University College London, UK, found.

They also used brain imaging to study activity in the mice's ventral hippocampus, which is a decision-making part of the brain understood to help form and use memories to guide behaviour.

The researchers found that activity in a subset of brain cells in the ventral hippocampus increased when the mice approached the food and that this neural activity inhibited them from eating.

However, when the mice were hungry, less neural activity in this brain region was observed and therefore, they were not inhibited from eating. The researchers also found that this corresponded to high levels of the hunger hormone ghrelin circulating in the blood.

Further, by activating these ventral hippocampal neurons, the researchers were able to experimentally make mice behave as if they were full and therefore stopped eating. Researchers also said that the findings could contribute to research into the mechanisms of eating disorders, along with other links between diet and other health outcomes such as risk of mental illnesses.

The scientists said they are continuing their research by investigating whether hunger can impact learning or memory by checking if mice perform non-food-specific tasks differently depending on how hungry they are.

Global one-day temperature spikes above 2C for first time: EU monitor

Agenceis

PARIS: The global average temperature on Friday was more than two degrees Celsius hotter than pre-industrial levels for the first time on record, Europe's Copernicus climate monitor said Monday.

Months of extraordinary heat is expected to make 2023 the hottest year in history, with droughts, massive wildfires and fierce storms ravaging swathes of the planet.

According to provisional data, global temperatures on November 17 were 2.06C above the pre-industrial average, Samantha Burgess, Deputy Head of the EU's Climate Change Service (C3S) said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

"This was the first day when global temperature was more than 2C above 1850-1900 levels," she added.

The 2015 Paris Agreement enshrined the goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to "well below" 2C above pre-industrial levels and to aim for a safer 1.5C.

One day above 2C does not mean that the Paris threshold has been breached -- the deal instead refers to change measured over decades.

Climate experts have since urged the world to aim for the



lower limit to avoid major climate impacts, such as heatwaves, super hurricanes and melting ice caps.

They defined warming as "the increase in the 30-year global average" relative to the average from 1850 to 1900.

The current climate is considered to have warmed by nearly 1.2C compared to that reference period.

The first day to exceed the 2C target is part of a series of records this year: October was the warmest ever recorded globally, as was every month

since June, according to Copernicus, which said that 2023 would with "near certainty" surpass the hottest year on record set in 2016.

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.

October was 1.7C warmer than an estimate of that month's average for the pre-industrial era, Copernicus said earlier this month.

And 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 pre-industrial average.

Leaders meeting November 30 to December 12 in the United Arab Emirates for the COP28 conference will have to respond to a damning progress report on the world's Paris pledges after major scientific studies have made clear the world is far off track.

The conference is expected to draw up the first official assessment of the Paris Agreement and, if possible, corrective measures.



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Turkish Burger

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2 Rafale Jets Were Dispatched After Reports Of UFOs Near Imphal Airport

Agenceis

The Indian Air Force (IAF), soon after receiving information about the sighting of an unidentified flying object near the Imphal airport on Sunday, scrambled its Rafale fighter aircraft to search for them.

The Unidentified Flying Object was sighted over the Imphal airport around 2:30 pm yesterday after which a few commercial flights were affected.

"Soon after information about the UFO near the Imphal airport was re-



ceived, a Rafale fighter aircraft from a nearby airbase was scrambled to go and search for the UFO," defence sources told ANI.

"The aircraft equipped with advanced sensors carried out low-level

flying over the suspected area to look for the UFO but it did not find anything there," they said, adding that after the first aircraft returned, one more Rafale fighter was sent for the search but the UFO was not seen around the area.

"The agencies concerned are trying to find out the details of the UFO as there are videos of the UFO over the Imphal airport," they said.

Soon after the Imphal airport was cleared for flying, the Shillong-headquartered Eastern Command of the Indian Air Force stated that it had activ-

ated its Air Defence response mechanism without giving any specific details of the steps taken by it.

Eastern Command, in a post on 'X' (formerly Twitter), said, "IAF activated its Air Defence response mechanism based on visual inputs from Imphal airport. The small object was not seen thereafter."

The Rafale fighters of the Indian Air Force are deployed at the Hashimara air base in West Bengal and keep flying from different air bases in the eastern sector along the China border.

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR — DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI — DIL KE EHSAAAS



Spectrum Adv | 963700698