Sunday 17 December 2023 | Srinagar | Vol: 26 | Issue: 309 | Pages: 12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net ● twitter.com / kashmirobserver ● facebook.com/kashmirobserver ● Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

## **Some More Time Needed To** Silence Last Gun In Kashmir: DGP

Zehra Shafi

Srinagar: Asserting that it will take some time to silence the last gun in the valley, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain on Saturday said police are constantly working towards achieving the goal of zero infiltration, zero terror recruitment, zero smuggling of arms and ammunition, besides dismantling the narrative that promotes, justifies and glorifies terrorism.

In an exclusive interview with PTI video, Swain also said the number of local terrorists has considerably fallen to less than 20 this year, compared to 100 in 2022. However, he acknowledged that the foreign terrorists still pose a challenge.

"Last year, for the same period, it was 100. This year, it is less than 20 or even less if I remember correctly. There are foreign terrorists, there is no doubt about it. But the (number of) local terrorists or local recruitment has come down," he said.

"We do not want to put out the number of foreign terrorists. But there is a challenge on account of that," he added.

The DGP said police are

**250-300** 

**Militants** 

**Waiting To** 



working towards a system where the number of terror-related incidents would be the at the lowest.

'We would work towards zero infiltration, towards zero recruitment. We would work towards zero smuggling of arms and ammunition. Narcotics will also be dealt with strongly. Zero terrorfinancing and most importantly, we will work towards a narrative, an ideology, which justifies, glorifies and supports this, endorses this, legitimises this -- that is also equally important," he said.

Asked what are police doing about foiling terror attacks, the DGP said the progress has to be seen in terms of the overall decline.

"The progress is to be seen not in terms of episodes or incidents, but in terms of the overall decline," he said, adding, "We have a plan and I think the plan is in motion."

He said the government, at the highest level, has been saying plans to dismantle and degrade the terror ecosystem, which includes people who

bout 250 to 300 militants are present at launchpads across the border "waiting to infiltrate" Jammu and

Kashmir, a top BSF officer said on Saturday. The officer, however, added that security forces were alert

are waiting at launchpads, but we and the Army have dominated all the vulnerable patches and are alert,"

and would foil any cross-border infiltration attempts. "There are intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants

recruit youngsters into terror ranks, provide arms and ammunition to them, help in infiltration, provide logistics support and identify targets for terrorists, are afoot.

"All of that is part of the ecosystem. So we are constantly at work. People are being identified. For example, we have made some progress in identifying some (terrorist) associates who had planned some recent incidents. It is an ongoing exercise. As I was saying a little while ago, to be able to completely silence the last gun, it will take some time," Swain said.

Asked if Pakistan will try to push more terrorists into the valley before the snow blocks passages, he said the neighbouring country always tries to push in terrorists.

"This is something that we all know by now. There is no indication that they are stopping at it. But there is also no stopping at our level. We are resolutely fighting it and doing so very intelligently, scientifically and in a blatant and systematic manner." the DGP asserted.

He, however, made it clear that those on the right side of the law need not

## We're Constantly Seized With Contemporary Threats: Army Chief

'Our Legacy Challenges Of Unsettled Borders Will Continue To Engage Us'



**Press Trust Of India** 

New Delhi: India's armed forces need to be alive to the maxim of "expect the unexpected", Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande said on Saturday, underlining the need for the military to remain cognisant of the contours of the evolving geopolitical landscape and security challenges.

In an address at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Nagpur, the Army chief also talked about India's "legacy challenges" of unsettled borders and that those will "continue to engage us", in comments that came amid a lingering border row with

China in eastern Ladakh. Delving into various regional and global security challenges, General Pande said there has been an

increasing contestation in traditional and non-traditional domains in the Indo-Pacific and the "key markers" include the assertion of sharp and aggressive power with a shift in the centre of gravity of economic heft.

"Expect the unexpected is a maxim that we need to be alive to," he said.

"Black Swan events can add turbulence in the dynamic global security canvas. The outcome of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts will itself redefine relations, linkages and hierarchy amongst nations, giving a new shade to world politics in the coming decades," he added.

In an oblique reference to China and Pakistan, General Pande said the region is witnessing "cartographic manipulation", More on P11

## **Snowfall In** Higher Reaches, Rains In Plains

**Press Trust Of India** 

Srinagar: A few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir experienced fresh snowfall while the plains were lashed by rains on Saturday, officials said.

A feeble western disturbance hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday afternoon, they said, adding that a few areas in the higher reaches of the valley experienced light to moderate snowfall under its influence.

The ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district recorded around six inches of fresh snowfall, the officials said.

Snowfall was also witnessed in the Sonamarg tourist resort and on the Zojila axis, they added.

Meanwhile, the plains in the valley were lashed by rains that were going on till last reports came in, the officials said.

They said the western disturbance is going to affect Jammu and Kashmir till Sunday morning. Under its More on P11

#### **Snowfall Blocks Mughal Road**

ughal road, connecting Kashmir Valley's Shopian district with twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch, was closed due to fresh snowfall on Saturday, officials said. They said that there was fresh snowfall at several places along the road including 'Pir Ki Gali'. leading to the closure of the thoroughfare. More on P11

## Inspector General, BSF, Ashok Yadav told reporters in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. He said the brave **Infiltrate: BSF** jawans of the BSF and Army were alert in the border areas and would foil any infiltration attempts. More on P11

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Police Task Force (STF) has aron the charge of cheating people by impersonating a PMO official and an Army

who allegedly has links with several people in Pakistan and suspicious elements in Kerala also married a number of women in several states, STF IG JN Pankaj said here.



the STF arrested the accused identified as Sayed Ishaan Bukhari alias Ishaan Bukhari alias Dr Ishaan Bukhari in Neulpur village



Following a tip-off,

in Jajpur district on Fridav. accused found to be impersonating a Neuro Specialist, an Army Doctor, an officer in PMO, a close associate of high-ranking NIA officials and others. Numerous forged documents like medical degree certificates issued by Cornel University of USA, Canadian Health Institute others were also seized," Pankaj told reporters.

This apart, several affidavits, bonds, ATM cards, blank cheques, Aadhaar cards and visiting cards were also seized from the man who hailed from Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir.

"It was also found that the accused More on P11

## **Kashmiri Man Posing As** PMO Official, Army Doctor Arrested

**Press Trust Of India** 

Special rested a Kashmiri man The 37-year-old man

#### J&K Sees 57% Surge In Economic Offenses In 4 Yrs: NCRB

**Auqib Javeed** 

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a considerable surge in economic offenses, including forgery, cheating, and fraud over the past four years, according to data from the National Crime Records Bureau

Economic crimes typically involve individuals or organizations using deceit, manipulation, or other fraudulent means to achieve financial gain. Some common economic offenses include corruption, embezzlement, fraud and money laundering.

As per the NCRB data, J&K reported 621 economic crime cases in 2019. This number slightly decreased to 611 in



2020. However, in 2021, instances of economic offenses rose to 669.

Shockingly, in 2022, the region recorded the highest number of economic offenses, surpassing 976 cases, thereby indicating an increase of 57 percent from 2019. The cases include criminal More on P11

ORT

2 PSA Detentions Quashed

#### **DM Cannot Simply Reiterate Police Dossier: HC**

**M** Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against two detainees and observed that detaining authority cannot reit-

erate whatever is written in the police dossier. 'While formulating the grounds of detention, the Detaining Authority has to apply its own mind. It cannot simply reiterate whatever is written in the police dossier," a bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar said while quashing detention order under PSA against one Khursheed

Ahmad Sanaie of Fallchill Khansahib Budgam. 'The grounds of detention and the dossier, if in similar language, go on to show that there has been non-application of mind on the part of the Detaining Authority," the court said, adding, "The similarity of contents of grounds of detention and police dossier in the instant case clearly exhibits mechanical functioning of the

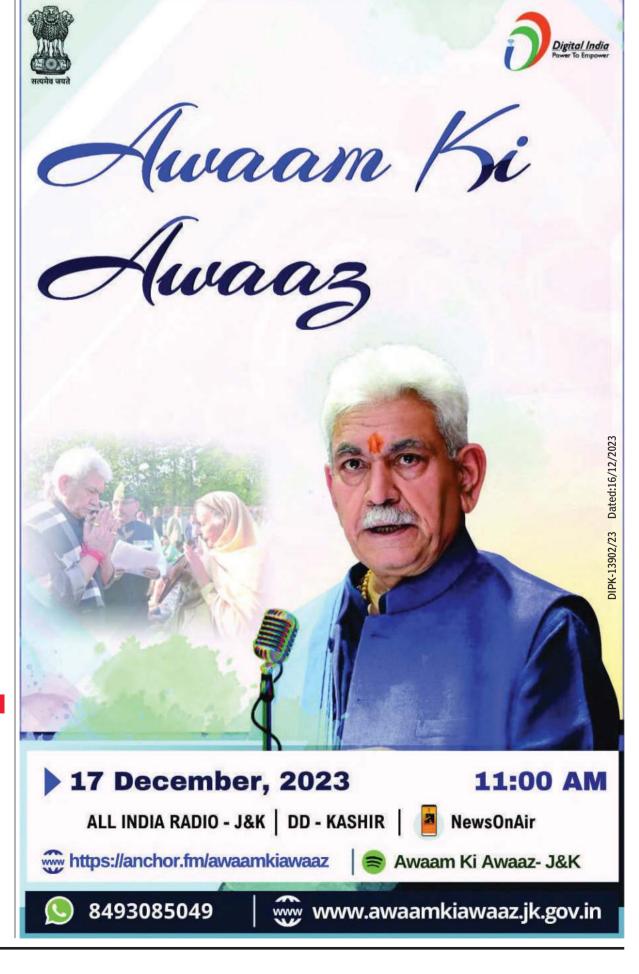
**Unknown Man** 

**Crushed To Death** 

## detaining authority, thereby More on P11 K E S

police vehicle on way from Doda to Srinagar met with an accident near Banihal, resulting in injuries to at least four police personnel on Saturday. An official said that a Police Vehicle bearing number JK02 4560, met with an accident at Chamalwas Banihal, resulting in injuries to four cops. "The injured cops were immediately taken from the site to a hospital for treatment", the official said. More on P11

n unidentified man was killed after being hit by a vehicle at Donipora Sangam area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag on Saturday evening. An official said that an accident took place at Donipora Sangam when a vehicle bearing registration number (JK19-6746) hit an unidentified person. He said the man got seriously injured and was shifted to SDH Bijbehara More on P11



#### **8 Mortar Shells Detected In Jammu**

ight old mortar shells were found during excavation in a field in the border areas of Jammu district on Saturday, officials said. The rusted 83 mm shells were dug out carefully after locals brought the matter to the police in Pallanwala border area of Akhnoor sector, they said The bomb disposal squads were called and they defused the shells, averting a major tragedy, they said.

#### 4 Cops Injured In **Highway Accident**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

## KASHMIR OBSERVER Srinagar | Sunday | 17-12-2023

## **Scholarships This Week**

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Scholarship Name 1** L'Oréal India for Young Women in Science Scholarship 2023

escription: L'Oréal India provides educational scholarships to young women who wish to pursue their graduation in any field of science, from a recognized institute in India. The aim of this scholarship is to encourage young women to pursue their education & careers in science and empower them with financial aid.

Eligibility: Female candidates who have passed Class 12 with 85% in PCB/PCM/ PCMB in the academic year (2022-23) are eligible to apply. Annual family income of the applicant should be less than INR 6

Prizes & Rewards: Selected women scholars will be provided up to INR 2,50,000 in instalments, towards their tuition fees and academic expenses for pursuing graduation in science

Last Date to Apply: 07-01-2024 Application mode: Applications are accepted online only

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LIS4

ارى حائدان كوصيرم

المهيه محمد اقبال كشقواري 16دممبر 2023 بروزنيچوار داعي اجل كولېيك كهركئين

اِنَّالِّنْ مُوَّانِّالِكِ فَعِينَ إِلَّالِكِ فَعِينَ إِنَّالِلْكِ فَعِينَ إِنَّالِلْكِ فَعِينَ إِنَّا لِلْكِ

مرحومه كي اجتماعي فاتحه خواني آبائ مقبره حضرت شيخ بها يُوالدين تَنج بخش صاحب تشميريٌ

میں بروز منگل دار 19د سمبر 2023 صبح 11 بجانجام دی جائے گی۔ (واقع بہائوالدین صاحب سرینگر)

بعدازاں مجلسِ فاتحہ خوانی ہماری رہایش گاہ واقع شاہ فیصل کالونی 90 فٹ روڈ صور ہ منعقد ہوگی اشاءاللہ

سوگواران \_\_\_\_\_ مجمه داقب ال کشتواری وامل حناسه

CALIFERENCIA DE LE MESTE CONTRACTOR DE LA CONTRACTOR DE L



**Scholarship Name 2 Corteva Agriscience Scholarship Program 2023-24** 

escription: An initiative by Corteva Agriscience India Pvt. Ltd. to provide financial assistance to meritorious students to pursue post-graduation or doctoral courses in the area of Agriculture.

Eligibility: Open for female students

studying in any year of post-graduation (MBA/M.Sc./M.Tech.) or PhD courses in streams such as Home Science, Biotechnology, Entomology, Breeding, etc. recognized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Applicants must be studying in government colleges only. Applicant's annual family income must

6,00,000 or less. Children of employees of Corteva &

Buddy4Study are not eligible.

Students from Pan India are eligible to

apply.
Prizes & Rewards: Up to 50,000 basis actuals (whichever is lesser) Last Date to Apply: 30-12-2023 Application mode: Online applica-

Short Url: CASP1 www.b4s.in/observer/

#### **Scholarship Name 3** Nikon Scholarship Program 2023-24

escription: An initiative of Nikon India Private Limited to financially support students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue photography-related courses.

Eligibility: Open for Indian students who have completed Class 12 and are pursuing photography-related courses with a duration of three months or more. Annual family income should be less than INR 6 lakh

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1 lakh Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2023 Application mode: Online applica-

Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NSP10

#### Before The Hon'ble Court Of J&K and Ladakh At Srinagar

Application No. /2023 In Caveat No. /2023

IN THE CASE OF: Asma and another

V/s Public at Large

...Non-Caveators

...Caveators

IN THE MATTER OF: Application seeking dispensation of the prior notice to the Non-Caveator(s). MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP:

The Applicant most humbly submits as under:

1. That the present application is being filed for seeking the dispensation of the prior notice to the Non-Caveator(s).

2. That since the case of the applicant is emergent in nature, therefore, the publication of the prior notice to the General Public also demands to be awaited for sometime, which can well, cause great prejudice to the applicant. Hence applicant craves leave of this Hon'ble court for dispensation of the prior recommendation of the Caveator.

3. That this application is supported by an affidavit duly sworn by the applicant.

IN THE PREMISES, it is, therefore, prayed that this application be accepted and prior recommendations for filing of caveat petition enclosed with this application may kindly be dispensed as same would be in consonance of law and justice.

Caveator In Person

#### Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District & Session Judge Ganderbal

Asma Taufeeg & Anr

In Caveat No. /2023

IN THE CASE. OF

...Caveator

Public at Large ...Non-Caveators IN THE MATTER OF: Application seeking dispensation of the prior

notice to the Non-Caveator(s). MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHTP-The Applicant most humbly

4. That the present application is being filed for seeking the dispensation of the prior notice to the Non-Cayeator(s).

5. That since the case of the applicant is emergent in nature, therefore, the publication of the prior notice to the General Public also demands to be awaited for sometime, which can well, cause great prejudice to the applicant. Hence applicant craves leave of this Hon'ble court for dispensation of the prior recommendation of the Caveator.

6. That this application is supported by an affidavit duly sworn by the applicant.

IN THE PREMISES, it is, therefore, prayed that this application be accepted and prior recommendations for filing of caveat petition enclosed with this application may kindly be dispensed as same would be in consonance of law and justice.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR** Office Of The Regional Director

#### **Department Of Social Forestry Kashmir.** Address: Forest Complex Silk Factory Road, Rajbagh Srinagar Behind Pollution control Board

E-mail Id: rdkdsf@gmail.com

Subject: Corrigendum to Abbreviated Short Term Auction Notice issued vide Auction notice No:DIR/DSF/M&E/1086-97 dated: 02-12- 2023 published on 05-12-2023 in "Daily Kashmir Images" and "Daily Brighter Kashmir".

Kindly read "cash/Demand draft" instead of "CDR" and "on the day of auction" instead of "within five days" as has been reflected in the Terms and conditions sub part (i) of point No. 05 of above

Also read "within two weeks (15 days from the date of auction)" instead of "within one week" as has been reflected in the Terms and conditions sub part (ii) of point No. 05 of above

The other terms and conditions shall remain same.

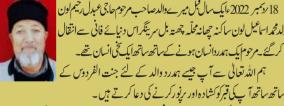
(Chairman Auction Committee) Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry,

No: RDK/DSF/Plg/1493-96 DIPK-13887/23

درخواست از جانب على محمر صوفي ولدمحمراصغرصوفي ساكنه مله بوچھن تخصيل پيڻن بار بموله بمرا دحصول

عاملەمندىجەعنوان الصدر كے نسبت رپورٹ پنچايت سكرى ونمبردارد به وچوكيدارعلاقه وآشاميدم وصول ہوئی۔مطابق رپورٹ مملہ فیلڈ سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کی دختر فاطمہ اختر کی پیدائش مورخہ 10-201 کوہونی ہے اور سائل مذکور نے تا مال کوئی بھی سند D.O.B ماصل تبیس کی ہے۔ ں بارے میں بذریعیاخباراشتہامشتھر کیاجا تاہےاگر سی شخص کوکوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سر لفکیٹ ہوتو دفتر طلهٔ میں اندرسات یوم پیش کریں۔بعد گزرنے میعاد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

## حاجی عبدل رحیم لون کی پہلی برسی پرخراج عقیدت



ساتھ ساتھوآ کی قبرکوکشادہ اور برنورکرنے کی دعاکرتے ہیں۔ آج ہم ان کی برسی کےموقعہ برانہیں محبت اور عقیدت کے پھول نیجاور کرتے ہیں اور تعالی سے دعا کرتے ہیں کہ ممیں آنیے والدصاحب کے لئے صدقہ جار بنے کام کرنے کی تو قیق نصیب کرے تا کہان کی قبر پر سکون رہے۔

، یہ باللہ تعالیٰ ہے ہمارے والد صاحب کے لئے مغفرت کا سوال کرتے ہیں۔مزید آج تک ہارے خاندان سے جو بھی گز رہلے ہیں خداوند کریم انہیں کروٹ کروٹ جنت نصیب کریں۔آمین ۔

**از طرف: فرزندان: محمد اسحاق لون ،عبدل قيوم لون ، شبيراحمد لون** قون نمبر: x 9419014629, 9858431967, 7889636811

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I want to change the name of my daughter on birth Certificate from Inasa Zainab to Inasa Zehra. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/ her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Afreen

Mother of Inasa Zehra

bmg

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

## JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

Standard Bidding Document For

Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Pipe network of GI Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves. Construction of Service Reservoirs (SRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants, Pre-Settling Tanks. Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Protection Works, staff quarters etc at various Water Supply schemes of Hydraulic Division Uri of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

#### **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** FRESH e-NIT No. 53 OF 2023-24 Dated: 15/12/2023

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Uri invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of Hydraulic Division Uri of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr.No	Particulars of the work	cost in lacs	Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Validity Period	Time of completion of work (in days)
1	Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting GI Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves.     Construction of Service Reservoirs (SRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants.     Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc. at various Water Supply schemes of Hydraulic Division Uri of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	500/-	02% of the estimated cost Or BID Declaration Form duly notarized	180 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Hydraulic Division Uri. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM)

12/2023. 05:00PM 12/2023. 10:00AM
12/2023.10:00AM
12/2023. 12:00PM
12/2023. 04:00PM
12/2023.12:00PM

Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.iktenders.gov.in

The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table

a. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-Challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG or BID Declaration Form duly notarized and

other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial cover. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in. Oueries by email if any should be made at urihydraulic@gmail.com.

No. HDU/eNIT-53/6475-86 DIPK-13854/23

Dated: 16/12/2023

**Executive Engineer** Jal Shakti Department Hydraulic Division Uri

#### The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education**

**SUB-OFFICE BARAMULLA** 

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Sept-1995 issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars Name: Ferooz Ahmad Bhat

S/o: Sonaulla bhat Roll No: 380416 Year & Session 1995 Sept.

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (it) naving any objection may tile the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as

Sd/ Assistant Secretary **Board Of School Education** Sub Office Baramulla

#### The Jammu And Kashmir **Board Of School Education**

**New Campus Bemina Srinagar** 

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th/11th/12th)under Roll No:. 415285 Session: Annual Regular Year 2012 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error com-



mitted by the concerned School/parent/ Board, against my Cast as Ganie Instead of Lone Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in

the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.

Name: Saleem Ahmad Lone F/N: Mohd Jalil Lone M/N Farzana Begum DOB 01-12-1995 Residence: Gulshanpora Gurez

bb

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I RABIYA MAJEED D/O SHEIKH ABDUL MAJEED R/O MADINA COLONY MALLABAGH SRINAGAR, declare that my vehicle Registration certificate bearing number JK01U 5462 (Santro xing) has been lost by me. If anyone finds the same may kindly contact me on contact number 9858829972. Further .I intend to obtain the duplicate Registration Certificate of the same and if anyone having objection regarding the same may contact ARTO Srinagar within the period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

# **Div Com Kick-Starts Plantation Drive At Eco-Park, Shalimar Canal**

Visits Interior Hamlets Of Dal To Review Beautification Works

**Observer News Service** 

Srinagar: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Saturday kickstarted plantation drive by planting a conifer sapling at Eco-park near Shalimar canal which was organized by Lakes Conservative and Management Authority.

The Div Com on the occasion said that the plantation will help to counteract the adverse impacts of pollution and protect the fragile environment.

Vice Chairman LCMA and CEO Srinagar Smart City Limited also took part in a plantation drive in the eco-park to reiterate their commitment to enhance the green cover and contribute to the protection of the environment.

Later, Div Com inspected the development works on the banks of Shalimar canal and instructed concerned authorities to complete all works and prepare it for the final inauguration.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir also conducted an extensive tour of interior hamlets of Dal Lake to inspect the eco-development and the beautification works at Kachri Mohalla executed by J&K Lake Conservative & Management Authority for transformation of hamlets into model villages.

He was accompanied by



Vice Chairman, LCMA Dr Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir and other officers of LCMA.

During his visit, Div Com inspected the development of sewer lines, beautification works for the development of parks, peripheral wooden piling of land, dredging channels for water transport, walkways & Gazebos.

Div Com, on the occasion, inspected the various eco-development activities and directed concerned officers to expedite the execution of works. He instructed for illumination of the hamlets with decorative lights besides instructed for making streetlights functional.

## VBSY Expands Reach To Four More Wards Of Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) entered its second day with great fervor as it unfolded in the four wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, namely Khanyar, Nai Sadak, Zaina Kadal, and Makhdoom Sahib.

The event garnered an enthusiastic response from local residents who congregated around the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) setup.

The participants eagerly tuned in to a recorded message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, emphasizing the significance of the campaign. They wholeheartedly took the Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge, affirming their dedication to the holistic development of the nation.

Adding a vibrant cultural touch to the festivities, local artists presented a lively display of cultural events, enthralling the audience with their performances.

The ongoing yatra aims to spotlight various flagship schemes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, PM PRANAM Yojana, and the Urea Subsidy Scheme. By bringing these transformative initiatives closer to the community, the initiative seeks to foster a spirit of development and progress.

The VNSY promises to continue its journey, creating awareness and understanding of these pivotal schemes, ultimately contributing to the nation's growth and prosperity.

The participants eagerly tuned in to a recorded message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, emphasizing the significance of the campaign. They wholeheartedly took the Viksit Sankalp Bharat pledge, affirming their dedication to the holistic development of the nation"

## J&K Tourism Council Inaugural Annual General Meet Held In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After a successful year, the JK Tourism Council convened its inaugural Annual General Meeting in Srinagar, focusing on the theme of #Sustainability and #Skill in the Tourism Industry.

Distinguished officials Ahsan ul Haq Chisti, Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Qurreshi, Dr. Faizan Ashraf from the Department of Tourism, Kashmir, University of Kashmir, Central University of Kashmir respectively, and besides officials from Institute of Hotel Management, alongside JK Tourism Council members, attended the event.

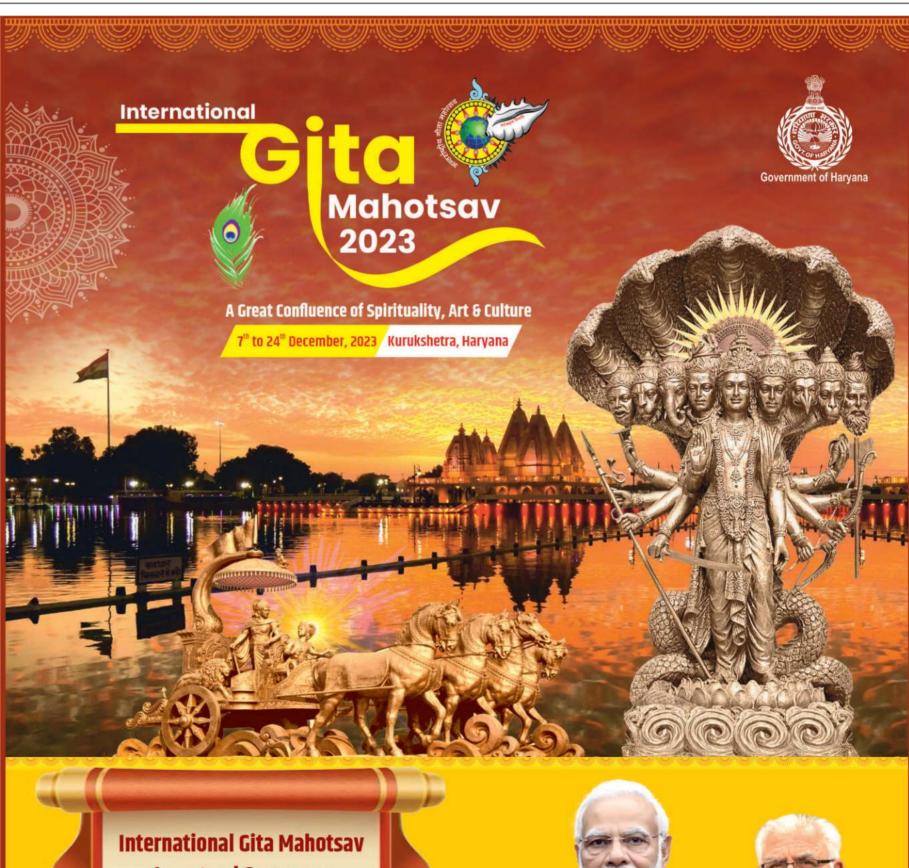
The session fostered a fruitful exchange of ideas among Public Policy Makers, academia, and industry representatives, garnering appreciation from participants for introducing such interactive platforms to the industry.

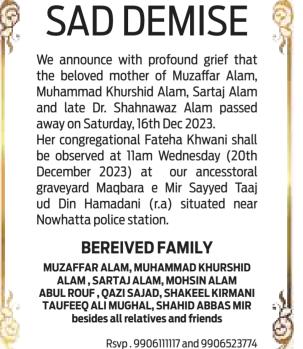
During the meeting, the JK Tourism Council presented its Annual Report, outlined future plans, and expanded its Executive Council by adding four new members through an innovative, fair, and transparent election process.

The day-long event also featured the presentation of awards, including the Best Travel Agent of the Year (2022-23) awarded to Duke Kashmir Travels and the Best Product of the Year Award (2022-23) also claimed by Duke Kashmir Travels. Additional accolades were bestowed upon Hotel Namrose Marvilla Group and Aala Travels for their noteworthy support throughout the year.

Recognition for the Best Executive Member during the year 2022-23 was granted to Rayies Zargar, while Manzoor Kundroo earned the distinction of Best General Member of the Year.

The JK Tourism Council expressed gratitude to all the dignitaries and members for their presence, contributing to the immense success of the occasion.

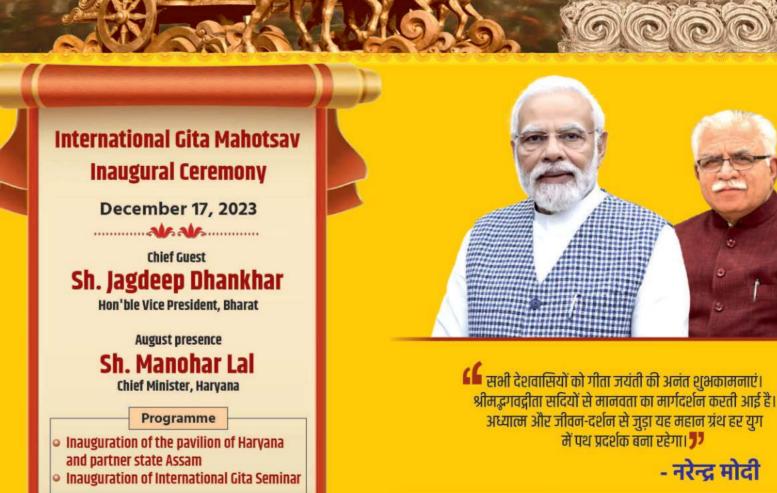




#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to notify for information of general public, police Dept and R.T.O office Srinagar that I Ali Mohammad Khan S/o Late Ghulam Hassan Khan R/o Nabidpora Hawal Near green land school having valid Mob No: 9419075882 have sold my vehicle (Alto Black) bearing Regd No; JKO1K-7406 Chasis No: 936073 Engine no: 3404349 model 2007 to one Mr. Saleem Yousuf Dar S/o Zaffar Ali Dar R/o Khushal Sar Zadi Bal Srinagar Mob. No; 9797737119 on 26-05-2023 and the vehicle along with relevant documents was handed over to the said purchaser on the same date. Mr Saleem Yousuf Dar was supposed to accompany me to RTO Office Srinagar for transfer of registration Certificate within a weeks time but so far he has avoided to attend the said office for unknown reasons.

As such it is notified for information of public in general and concerned departments in particular that the said vehicle if gets involved in any accident mishap or unlawful activity Mr. Saleem Yousuf dar will be solely responsible for the same and I shall not be liable in any way or manner for it.



🌱 Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture Department, Haryana 📵 www.prharyana.gov.in | Fellow us on 🗗 🔾 🚨 🔾 🚨 🖰 🐧 @ 😂 🗗 🗶 😂 @ @diprharyana

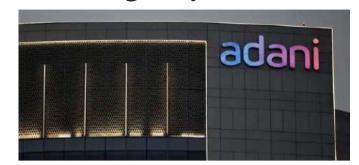
Visit the portal or Scan QR Code

for the information of events

www.internationalgitamahotsav.in

www.48koskurukshetra.com

## **Adani Group Acquires Controlling Stake In News Agency IANS**



**Agencies** 

MUMBAI: Adani Enterprises, billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship firm, said on Saturday it had acquired a majority stake in news agency Indo-Asian News Service or IANS as the conglomerate tries to consolidate its media presence.

The Adani group said in a statement that upon acquiring a 50.5% stake for ₹5,10,000 (\$6,140), it would assume full operational and management control of IANS.

The news agency reported a revenue of over ₹118.6 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

Adani group entered the media industry in March last year by acquiring Quintillion Business Media, which operates business and financial news digital media platform BQ Prime. Later in December 2022, it acquired almost a 65% stake in the broadcaster NDTV.

#### **Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf Dies** Aged 86, Crown Prince Sheikh **Meshal Named New Leader**

**Agencies** 

KUWAIT CITY: The ruling emir of oil-rich Kuwait, Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, died on Saturday aged 86, the royal court said, after three years in power marked by repeated political disputes.

"With great sadness and sorrow, we mourn... the death of Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait," said a statement aired on state television. The channel had cut its regular programming and switched to a broadcast of a Koranic recital before the announcement.

Meanwhile, the nation's crown prince and Nawaf's half-brother, Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, was named the Gulf nation's new emir, state television reported. "Kuwait's cabinet names crown prince, his highness Sheikh Meshal... emir of the state of Kuwait," the broadcaster said.

Sheikh Meshal al-Ahmad al-Sabah is 83 years old. Attention is now focused on whether the family will appoint a younger generation ruler as the next crown prince.

In November, Sheikh Nawaf was hospitalised "due to an tween elected lawmakers and emergency health problem" according to the official KUNA news agency. It did not provide details about his illness, but he was later declared to be in stable condition. Given his age, concerns about his health were commonplace during his rule.

Sheikh Nawaf ascended to the role of crown prince in 2006, appointed by his halfbrother Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. He assumed the position of emir upon Sheikh Sabah's death in September

2020 at the age of 91. In 2020, Sheikh Nawaf faced the challenge of navigating the economy through a crisis triggered by a fall in oil prices. Around 14 months after he was appointed emir, Sheikh Nawaf transferred key constitutional duties to Sheikh Mishal.

'Emir of pardons' Sheikh Nawaf's reign, though not the shortest in Kuwait's history, was notable for issuing numerous amnesties, earning



him the title "emir of pardons", according to Bader al-Saif, an assistant professor of history at Kuwait University.

Last month, Kuwait's Council of Ministers approved a draft royal decree calling for pardons for political prisoners convicted during the past decade. Similar pardons were also issued in 2021.

Sheikh Nawaf would also "be remembered for his unique personal attributes: soft-spoken, devout, modest, low profile," Saif said.

Kuwait, a conservative country where sovereign powers are concentrated in the hands of the ruling Al Sabah family, is home to the most active and powerful parliament in the

But repeated standoffs becabinet ministers installed by the ruling family have hindered development efforts and discouraged investors.

Following a succession of resigning governments and dissolved parliaments, Kuwait's current cabinet is its fifth in a

Sheikh Nawaf's rule also saw the Gulf country hold three parliamentary elections in as many years.

The political deadlock has delayed necessary reforms and blocked development projects, leaving infrastructure and education in disrepair and much of the population disgruntled.

Born in 1937, Sheikh Nawaf was the fifth son of Kuwait's late ruler from 1921 to 1950 Sheikh Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

He started his political career at the age of 25 as governor of Hawalli province, remaining in the position until 1978 when he began a decade-long tenure as interior minister.

## **Israeli Captives Mistakenly** Killed In Gaza Held White Flag, Official Says



**Agencies** 

Israeli hostages killed mistakenly in Gaza by Israeli forces were shirtless and one of them was holding up a white flag, according to an initial inquiry into the incident, a military official has said.

The incident took place in an area of intense combat where Hamas fighters operate in civilian attire and use deception tactics, the Israeli official said on Saturday.

A soldier saw the hostages emerging tens of metres from Israeli forces in the area of Shujayea, the official added.

'They're all without shirts and they have a stick with a white cloth on it. The soldier feels threatened and opens fire. He declares that they're terrorists, they [forces] open fire, two are killed immediately," said the military official.

The third captive was wounded and retreated into a nearby building where he called for help in Hebrew.

"Immediately the battalion commander issues a ceasefire order, but again there's another burst of fire towards the third figure and he also dies," said the official. "This was against our rules of engagement. **MOURNING AND ANGER** 

The military on Friday identified the three as Yotam Haim, 28, and Alon Shamriz, 26, abducted from Kibbutz Kfar Aza, and Samer Talalka, 25, abducted from nearby Kibbutz Nir Am, by Hamas.

About 300 people turned out to mourn Talalka at his funeral on Saturday in his hometown of Hura, in southern Israel, The Associated Press news agency reported.

"We had so many hopes, expectations, that he would come back to us," his cousin, Alaa Talalka told Israel's public broadcaster Kan.

"We're not going to start pointing fingers, who is guilty and who is not. It is just not the time," Talalka said. "The families are thinking only of how to bring the hostages back alive. This is the time to ask for the war to end.'

They were among about 240 people taken captive during Hamas's October 7 attacks in Israel, which killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, according to Israeli figures.

Promising to destroy Hamas and bring back the hostages, Israel launched a massive military offensive against the Palestinian group that has left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins. The territory's Hamas-run government says the war has killed at least 18,800 people, mostly women and children.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the killing of hostages as an "unbearable tragedy".

Hundreds of people are expected to gather on Saturday in Tel Aviv to call on Netanyahu's government to secure the release of 129 hostages still held in Gaza. Several returned home during a pause in hostilities which saw the release of captives in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel jails.

#### **Parliament Security Breach Accused Considered Self-Immolation, Other Options: Officials**



**Press Trust of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The five accused arrested in the December 13 Parliament security breach case have revealed that they explored self-immolation and distribution of pamphlets before settling on the plan to jump into the Lok Sabha's chamber with smoke canisters, Delhi Police officials said on Saturday.

The Delhi Police's Special Cell, which is investigating the case, also plans to record the statement of BJP MP Pratap Simha, who had authorised the visitor passes for the two men who breached security to enter the House.

Two men -- Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D -- had jumped into the Lok Sabha's chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow smoke from canisters and shouted slogans, before being overpowered by the MPs.

Around the same time, two others -- Amol Shinde and Neelam Devi -- released coloured smoke from canisters while shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside the Parliament premises.

Lalit Jha, the fifth accused, allegedly circulated videos of the protest outside the complex on social media.

"Before finalising this plan (to jump into the Lok Sabha chamber), they (accused) had explored certain ways that could be impactful in sending

their message to the government," a Delhi Police official aware of the investigations told PTI.

They first explored immolating themselves by covering their bodies with fireproof gel but dropped this idea.

They also considered distributing pamphlets inside the Parliament but finally went ahead with the plan they executed on Vednesday, the official said.

A team of the Special Cell's Counter Intelligence team has also planned to record the statement of Simha, the BJP's MP from Mysore, in connection with the case, the official added.

Late on Friday, the investigators took the accused to various places where they met and conspired on the breach.

The police are likely to seek Parliament's permission to recreate the breach that occurred on the anniversary of the 2001 attacks.

Sources said the investigators have also not given a clean chit to Mahesh Kumwat and Kailash -- who allegedly helped Jha escape.

The police will soon take Jha to Nagaur in Rajasthan where he stayed after fleeing on Wednesday. He will be taken to the place where he claimed to have destroyed his and the other's mobile phones, another official said.

All five arrested accused have been sent to seven days' police

## How Are Houthi Attacks On Ships In The Red Sea Affecting Global Trade?

LONDON: Yemen's Houthi rebels have escalated attacks on ships passing through the Red Sea during the Israel-Hamas war, raising concerns about the impact on the flow of oil, grain and consumer goods through a major global trade artery. Israeli-linked vessels have

been targeted, but the threat tainer ships and oil tankers flagged to countries like Norway and Liberia have been attacked or drawn missile fire while traversing the waterway between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. About 10% of the world's trade passes through the Red Sea.

In a sign of widening impact on global trade after a series of attacks or near-misses this week, Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, said Friday that it's told all of its vessels due to pass through a maritime chokepoint in the southern Red Sea to "pause their journey until further notice.'

German-based Hapag-Lloyd that was operating a vessel attacked Friday also said it was pausing all its container ship traffic through the Red Sea until Monday. MarineTraffic, a vessel tracking firm, showed plenty of ships still moving through the



Here are things to know about the recent attacks and the impact on global shipping: WHO IS ATTACKING SHIPS IN THE

**RED SEA AND WHY?** The Houthis are Iranianbacked rebels who swept down from their northern stronghold in Yemen and seized the capital, Sanaa, in 2014, launching a grinding

war against a Saudi-led co-

alition seeking to restore the government. The Houthis have sporadically targeted ships in the region, but the attacks have increased since the start of the

Israel-Hamas war. They have used drones and anti-ship missiles to attack vessels and in one case used a helicopter to seize an Israeliowned ship and its crew.

They have threatened to attack any vessel they believe

is either going to or coming from Israel. That's now escalated to apparently any vessel given recent attacks, with the Houthis also hailing vessels by radio to try to convince them to change course closer to the territory they control.

"The numerous attacks originating from Houthi-controlled territories in Yemen threaten international navigation and maritime security, in grave contravention of international law," the European Union foreign policy office said.

WHY IS THE RED SEA IMPORTANT?

The Red Sea has the Suez Canal at its northern end and the narrow Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern end leading into the Gulf of Aden. It's a busy waterway with ships traversing the Suez Canal to bring goods between Asia and

## **UK Teen Missing For 6 Years Set To Return Home From France Today**



**Agencies** 

**PARIS:** Alex Batty, the British teenager who resurfaced in southern France after disappearing six years ago, will take a direct flight from Toulouse to London in the late afternoon on Saturday, French prosecutor Samuel Vuelta Simon said.

The boy, who left a spiritualist community in the Pyrenees mountains, disappeared at the age of 11 during a holiday with his mother and grandfather in Malaga, Spain, in 2017.

Toulouse deputy prosecutor Antoine Leroy said on Friday

the youth had spent the past two years in different areas of southern France, living in "spiritual communities" with his mother, but not in a sect.

The grandfather died about six months ago, said Leroy, adding that the boy's mother might currently be in Finland.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) earlier said they were working with French authorities to bring Batty home to his grandmother, who is his legal guardian.

France's BFM TV has reported a search operation was underway to find Batty's mother.

#### **NEWS MAKERS**

## **Putin Supporters Formally Nominate Him As Independent Candidate In Russian Presidential Election**

**Agencies** 

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin's supporters on Saturday formally nominated him to run in the 2024 presidential election as an independent candidate, state

news agencies reported. The nomination by a group of at least 500 supporters is mandatory under Russian election law for those not running on a party ticket. candidates Independent also need to gather at least 300,000 signatures in their

The group that nominated Putin included top officials

from the ruling United Russia party, prominent Russian actors and singers, athletes and other public figures

"Whoever is ready to support the candidacy of Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin for the post of president of Russia, please vote. Who's in favour?" Mikhail Kuznetsov, head of the executive committee of the People's Front, asked those gathered.

The People's Front is a political coalition, founded in 2011

After the vote, Kuznetsov announced that the group had voted unanimously to nominate Putin.



According to Russian election laws, candidates put forward by a party that isn't represented in the State Duma or in at least a third of regional legislatures have to submit at least 100,000 signatures from 40 or more regions.

Those running independently of any party would need a minimum of 300,000 signatures from 40 regions or more.

requirements apply to Putin as well, who has used different tactics over the years. He ran as an independent in 2018 and his campaign gathered signatures. In 2012, he ran as a nominee of the Kremlin's United Russia party, so there was no need to gather signatures.

At least one party - A Just Russia, which has 27 seats in the 450-seat State Duma was willing to nominate Putin as its candidate this year.

## British Tabloid Publisher, Awarded 140,000 Pounds LONDON: Prince Harry won his

phone hacking lawsuit on Friday against the publisher of the Daily Mirror and was awarded over 140,000 pounds in the first of his several lawsuits against the tabloids to go to trial.

Justice Timothy Fancourt in the High Court found that phone hacking was "widespread and habitual" at Mirror Group Newspapers over many years and private investigators "were an integral part of the system" to gather information unlawfully. He said executives at the papers were aware of the practice and covered it up.

Fancourt found that 15 of the 33 newspaper articles in question at trial had been compiled with



**Prince Harry Wins Phone Hacking Lawsuit Against** 

the help of unlawful means. The Duke of Sussex had sought 440,000 pounds as part of his crusade against the British media as he bucked his family's longstanding aversion to litigation by becoming the first senior mem-

ber of the royal family to testify in court in over a century.

The appearance of Harry, the estranged younger son of King Charles III, in the witness box over two days in June created a spectacle as he lobbed allegations that Mirror Group Newspapers had employed journalists who eavesdropped on voicemails and hired private investigators to use deception and unlawful means to learn about him and other family members.

"I believe that phone hacking was at an industrial scale across at least three of the papers at the time," he asserted in the High Court. "That is beyond any doubt." AP

#### **Winter Heli Service Takes** Off For Marwah, Dachhan

DC Kishtwar Conducts Spot Inspection Of Arrangements

**Observer News Service** 

**KISHTWAR:** The Subsidised Heli winter Services took off on Saturday in Kishtwar, catering to the isolated, snow-bound regions of Marwah, Warwan, and Dachhan, where conventional road connectivity becomes impossible due to heavy snowfall and high altitude.

Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, visited Mar-

Engaging with the local community, Dr. Yadav emphasized that these services are introduced to enhance accessibility for the people, particularly prioritizing pregnant women, the elderly, and individuals facing medical emergencies. He reiterated the issuance of directives to concerned officers for their prioritization.

The registration and operational mechanisms have been



wah to personally oversee the arrangements put in place by heli-service provider and the local administration.

During the visit, Dr. Devansh Yadav directed the concerned officers and officials to prioritize the safety of passengers by ensuring proper security arrangements and thorough frisking protocols during every sortie.

Assurances from the authorities confirmed meticulous planning and a well-established mechanism aimed at ensuring convenience and safety of the passengers utilizing these services.

specifically tailored to meet the needs of the residents, allowing judicious utilization throughout the upcoming winter season.

In addition to his visit to Marwah. DC Kishtwar also evaluated the heli-services at Kishtwar itself, issuing necessary directives to further optimize and streamline the operations.

These subsidised heli-services are a pivotal step towards ensuring essential connectivity and accessibility for the snowbound communities of Marwah, Warwan, and Dachhan during the challenging winter

#### VIJAY DIWAS

### **Armed Forces Pay Tribute** To Martyrs In Jammu

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: The Indian armed forces paid tributes to the fallen heroes of the 1971 war on the occasion of Vijay Diwas here on Saturday.

Major General Gaurav Gautam, General Officer Commanding (GoC) Tiger division, laid a wreath at the 'Eternal Flame' in the Balidhan Stambh war memorial here to commemorate Vijay Diwas.

The Balidan Stambh (tower of sacrifice) was built in 2009 to commemorate the war heroes who sacrificed their lives for the country on the soils of Jammu and Kashmir in various battles and counter-insurgency operations since Indepen-

Vijay Diwas is observed annually to commemorate India's decisive win over Pakistan in 1971 which led to the birth of Bangladesh.

On December 16, 1971, Lieutenant General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, the then chief martial law administrator of East Pakistan and the commander of the Pakistan Army located in then East Pakistan, signed the instrument of surrender.

## JNV Budgam Holds **Alumni Meet 2023**

**Observer News Service** 

**BUDGAM:** Jawahar Novadaya Vidayala (JNV), Budgam on Saturday organised Alumni Meet

As many as 50 Aluminies attended the grand function and shared their post JNV stories with students.

Aliminies who spoke on the occasion, highlighted the role of JNV as a vibrant institution in shaping their career and making them as responsible

The alumni also shared their experiences of school days and also expressed their gratitude to the institution for helping them to create niche in different fields.

They also remembered their good old days and stressed for organizing such meets in every

The Principal, Ajay Kumar and the staff welcomed the alumni and thanked for sharing the valuable time and the to be with the students and



A GROUP OF WOMEN WALK over a wooden bridge on a cold and foggy Saturday morning in the interiors of Dal Lake. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

## **J&K Cong Passes Resolutions Demanding Statehood, Assembly Polls**

**Press Trust Of India** 

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Saturday passed two resolutions at its executive committee meeting demanding the restoration of statehood for the Union Territory and the assembly election.

JKPCC also demanded an immediate filling of all vacant posts in all government and semi-government institutions in a fast-track mode and called for the constitution of a "highlevel independent commission" for the investigation of recruitment scams.

The resolutions were passed under the command of AICC In-charge, J-K Affairs, Rajni

"Today we held the meeting of the political affairs committee in which we passed two resolutions - one political and another socio-economic. We are holding the meeting to debate the issues. We are discussing the J-K situation and

hearing workers' viewpoint on it," Patil told reporters here.

She said the party will accordingly formulate the policy according to them.

"They (Supreme Court) have kept the deadline of September 24... We want restoration of statehood. We want guarantees for jobs. We want an early assembly election so that we have a council of ministers and MLAs here," she said.

An assembly election has not been held in the region for more than five years.

The Congress unit said the deferring also of urban local body and panchayat elections has left no trace of democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party has already raised the issue with the government seeking elections to these bodies under the State Election Commission in accordance with amendments 73rd and 74th, with due reservation to OBCs like SCs. STs and women.

The party also demanded the

reservation for women in J&K since the delimitation has taken place in the Union Territory. "We are in favour of 33 per

cent reservation for women. It

was our commitment," Patil said. The party in one of the resolutions demanded the restoration of the old system of recruiting youths to the army with special focus on those from the border areas, includ-

ng the LOC. The Congress in these resolutions criticised the "authoritarian approach" of the current administration towards its employees and demanded a resolution of their long pending issues.

The Congress demands an immediate revision of the package and enhancement of the relief component of Kashmiri migrants, Patil said.

The party also demanded that in order to give relief to the common man the scale of free ration should be doubled and the old scale of subsidised sugar implementation of 33 per cent to each family be restored.

## MPs Only Hold 20 DISHA Meetings In J&K Against Required 80

SRINAGAR: In what could raise questions on performance of members of parliament from Jammu & Kashmir, only 25 percent of the required number of meetings of the district development coordination and monitoring committee, also known as DISHA, took place in the Union Territory during 2022-2023.

Official documents reveal that only 25 percent of the required number of DISHA meetings have taken place in the UT during the last fiscal.

As per documents of the Union Ministry of Rural Development, 20 such meetings took place in the Union Territory during 2022-23 against the re-

The district development coordination and monitoring committee, also known as DISHA, is responsible for monitoring centrally sponsored schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act( MGNREGA) and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY).

Headed by a Lok Sabha member elected from the district, the committee is required to meet at least once in a quarter. In a year, at least four meetings of the committee are required to be held.

These committees have been constituted by the Union Ministry of Rural Development at district levels to monitor proper implementation of key

quirement of 80 meetings central schemes/ programmes and to ensure better coordination at all the levels of elected representatives for efficient and time-bound development

of districts—(KNO)

## **DGP's Public Darbar Sees 300 Visitors**

'This Is A Place Where Broken Hearts Unite'

**Agencies** 

**SRINAGAR:** In the bone-chilling cold, nearly 300 people turned up at Director General of Police's (DGP) public grievances redressal camp here at Police headquarters, with hopes of getting their issues resolved.

Pertinently, DGP R R Swain commenced a weekly public grievance programme in Jammu and Kashmir a month ago, being held on Saturdays.

Ali Muhammad, one of the citizens, who turned up at Police Headquarters here, said such

their issues resolved within a shortest possible time," he said.

Ali Muhammad had visited the public darbaar with the grievances of his ward, who has pursued the MBBS in Pakistan, saying that the fate of these educated MBBS students are hanging in balance and now they are seeking the help of administration to get their issues resolved.

Similarly, Bashir Ahmad, accompanying him echoed similar views stating that such events are the need of the hour as meeting of a common man programmes are a must to bring with the top officials will not



respite to the people and also bridge a gap between the administration and general public. "It could have taken me

months to get a meeting fixed with the DGP to seek redressal of my grievance, but this programme has brought a platform for the people to seek the intervention of top authorities to get unites broken hearts—(KNO)

only help them to get their issues resolved but also bridge a gap between the people and the government.

"We are expecting this platform to continue to ease the sufferings of people," he said. Majority of the visitors opined that DGP's grievance redressal system

#### **Advisor MoHFW Participates In VBSY** At Tulmulla Ganderbal

**Observer News Service** 

**GANDERBAL:** Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Rajiv Wadhawan on Saturday visited Panchayat Tulamulla-A and participated in the ongoing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, a nationwide campaign aimed at spreading awareness and ensuring saturation of various flagship government schemes.

The event witnessed a mega public outreach program which was attended by Additional District Development Com-missioner, Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other officers besides PRI members and general public.

On the occasion, the Advisor engaged with the local community and assessed the implementation of various flagship schemes under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. The discussions and interactions held during this visit proimpact of the ongoing health- added

care programs at the grassroots

As a part of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp pledge, the participants including BDCs, DDCs, district officers, PRIs, and locals reaffirmed their commitment towards nation's development.

The program featured a message from Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, played through an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) van. The 'Meri Kahani Meri Zubaani' segment showcased beneficiaries sharing success stories of schemes like PMAY,PMJA, UMEED, KCC, PM Kissan, Poshan Abhiyan, Old Pension

Interacting with the officers, the Advisor said that the visit aimed to strengthen the coordination between the central and local authorities, ensuring the efficient execution of healthcare initiatives and other healthcare programs and services. It also provided an opportunity to identify areas for improvement and innovation in the delivery of healthcare to vided valuable insights into the the citizens of Ganderbal, he









**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, KASHMIR** 





#### WINTER AWARENESS COMPAIGN FOR POULTRY BIRDS Ongoing weather conditions demands special attention to poultry birds as it is

the transition period from summers to winters. Following are a set of precautions that must be followed to prepare your birds for upcoming winters and protect them from the ill effects of this season:

- · The chicken coops/nest boxes should be set up for winter.
- Leaks in the roof or other parts of coops should be plugged to prevent rainwater or snow from seeping in.
- Ensure that the coop is draught free to prevent unnecessary drop in temperature.
- The chickens moult naturally during this season and grow new set of fluffy feathers hence the flock requires an increase in protein diet for feather
- Nest boxes/coops must be thoroughly cleaned.
- Inspect the nest boxes/ coops for rodent holes and gaps to prevent predators Regularly check your chickens for any loose droppings, abnormal behaviour,
- decreased activity, pica etc. and report that to a veterinarian for timely
- Make sure that chicken get their daily essential nutrients.

FOR ANY QUERY CALL ON TOLL FREE NO: - 0194-2455369 OR 1962 OR CONTACT NEAREST VETERINARY HOSPITALS / DISPENSERY, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPT Issued in Public interest by, Extension Officer, Publicity Wing, Department of Animal Husbandry,

DIPK-13868-23 DT: 16/12/2023

## Judicial Academy Holds 2 Day Workshop At Jammu

**Observer News Service** 

IAMMU: I&K Judicial Academy, under the patronage of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy) and stewardship of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and guidance of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Rahul Bharti and Justice Moksha Kazmi, members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, organized two day workshop on "Judicial Ethics & Code of Conduct, Stress and Behavioral Management, Court Management & Docket Management, etc." for Civil Judges (Senior and Junior Division) of Jammu Province at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

The training programme was inaugurated by the Chief Justice in presence of Justice Rahul Bharti. Member, Governing Committee for Judicial Academy, Justice (Retd.) Bansi Lal Bhat, High Court of J&K, Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Dr. T. R. Raina, re-

tired Professor and Head of the Blood Bank Government Medical College Jammu who also happen to be the resource persons in the two day workshop.

Chief Justice, în his inaugural address, highlighted that Judicial Officers exercise sovereign power and hold public office of great trust and responsibility and therefore, their behaviour and conduct must re-affirm the faith of public in impartiality and independence of the judiciary both inside as well as outside the court.

He said that constant efforts should be put in to bridge the gap between what they say and what they do. He shared many real-life examples and impressed upon the members of Judiciary to strike a fine balance between their personal and professional lives so that there is no overlapping of roles. His lordship emphasized that the time of a judge is public time of which he is only a trusty and therefore, he cannot afford to waste even a

single minute out of it. Chief Justice advised the judi-Academy presented the welcome cial officers to take good care of address and gave an overview of themselves and maintain a good the programme. He highlighted

health as only a healthy mind and that a judicial officer must maina healthy body can generate good, sound, clean and noble thoughts and suggested them to practise Yoga to control their mind. He also called upon the Judicial Officers to inculcate a habit of deriving pleasure out of reading.

Justice Rahul Bharti, in his special remarks, underlined the purpose and importance of holding such training programmes at regular intervals to motivate and enhance the awareness level of judicial officers relating to the judicial ethics and to share best practices while applying the sameto their day-to-day work.

He emphasized that when a judge sits on trial, he himself is on trial and any action which may shake the public faith in Judiciary which is the hallmark of Judicial functioning is simply not permitted. He added that a judge is judged not only by the quality of his judgments but also by the quality and purity of his character.

Y.P.Bourney, Director, J&K Judicial

tain the highest standards of rectitude, honesty and integrity as well as must be free from all sorts of preconceived notions, biases and prejudices. Judges are supposed and expected to live and behave like hermits who have no desire or aspiration having shed it through penance. Their mission is to supply light and not heat.He emphasized the importance of judicial officers in observing the rules of Judicial conduct and decorum in their official as well as social behavior and maintain the highest ethical standards to enhance the prestige and the dignity of their office.

On day one of workshop, the first technical session was chaired by Justice (Retd.) Bansi Lal Bhat who educated the participants about the judicial ethics. He emphasized the need to incorporate in their way of life the Judicial code of conduct for optimizing the use of working hours. He said that a judge is always under public gaze and therefore, his every action; be it professional, family or social life should be in conformity with the highest standards of probity.



# **The Unraveling Catastrophe** of Kashmir's Aquatic Heritage

As we stand at the crossroads of a future where water scarcity could be the catalyst for unprecedented conflicts, the choices we make today will determine the legacy we leave for generations to come.

Faroog Shah

**≤ ≤** Beyond the visible degradation, the water's transformation from bluish-green to hazel due to heightened turbidity signifies a deeper crisis. This shift not only diminishes the lake's aesthetic allure but also spells economic hardship as tourist visits dwindle

he term "Pokhur" in Sanskrit signifies a water source. The names "Mokhta Pokher" and "Dodhe Pokher" convey qualities of purity, cleanliness, and pristine beauty. "Mokhta," meaning Pearl, and "Dodh," meaning Milk in the local language, are reflective of the clarity and purity of these water sources. Situated in proximity to the ancient Shiv temple in Vicharnag on the outskirts of Srinagar, both these bodies of water remained true to their names until the beginning of the militant uprising in Kashmir.

Witnesses recall that the waters from these springs were exceptionally clean, to the extent that one could even count the individual hairs on a person's head immersed in water whenever they took a plunge into them to seek relief from the summer heat.

According to the legend, a Hindu woman faced the tragedy of her son drowning in a distant water body. She approached Khawaja Habibullah Nowsheri, a mystic poet and a saint who lived in Nowshera during the era of Ali Shah Chek in the fifteenth century. With his mystical abilities, the saint extended his hand and miraculously retrieved the boy directly from Mokhta Pukhri.

In the present day, Mokhta Pokher and Dodh Pokher have undergone a stark metamorphosis, reducing them into stagnant cesspools that now serve as receptacles for sewage and human waste from the neighboring areas. The unfortunate degradation extends further as local butchers, situated in close proximity to these once pristine springs, slaughter sheep, allowing the blood and discarded entrails to find their way into what was once a pure source of water.

Additionally, the globally renowned Vichar Nag Shiv temple, mentioned in Kalhan's Rajtarangni, is in a state of complete disrepair. This temple holds sacred significance for Kashmiri Pandits, second only to Kheer Bhawani in Tulmulla—a village located to the north of Kashmir in the Ganderbal district.

The significance of this temple xtends beyond the religious beliefs of tens of thousands of Kashmiri Pandits. Within its premises were at least three springs, including a large one teeming with numerous fish, indicating the purity of its oxygen-rich waters. Unfortunately, since the departure of its caretakers, the temple has fallen into disrepair, and the oncevibrant springs have also lost their former splendor and allure.

Collectively, the intricate ecosystem of the water bodies surrounding this temple was highly complex. On one side, water from different sources would flow into various streams. converging at Mukhta Pukhri and Dodh Pukhi before ultimately reach-



ing the Gil Sar. The elaborate network of water channels, ranging in size, interconnected all the major water bodies in Kashmir, such as Anchar Lake, Dal Lake, and the Jhelum River. The continuous flow of water guaranteed that its quality remained consistently clean and suitable for drinking at all times.

Numerous small streams originating from Ganderbal and various directions used to channel their waters into Nallah Amir Khan. Unfortunately, their destiny mirrors that of Mukhta Pukhri and Dodh Pukhri, as they too have been irrevocably transformed into polluted drains. This outcome aligns with the prophecy of a fifteenth-century saint known as 'Alamdar-e-Kashmir' (Flag Bearer of Kashmir), who foresaw the ominous prediction: "Waethe Hokhan Haener Grazan—Teli Maale Aasi Wandar Raaj" (Rivers running dry and gutters roaring would be the result when the apes are in control.)

Anchar Lake, once a pristine jewel in the Kashmir Valley, now stands as an ecological disaster, its demise marked by severe pollution, rampant encroachment, and unauthorized constructions. Connected to Dal Lake, the environmental decline of Anchar is complete transforming it from a scenic waterbody into a tragic symbol of environmental degradation. Despite being a vital part of the local hydrological system, the lake's irreversible decline, exacerbated by the clogging of crucial water channels, has rendered it a shadow of its former self.

Dal Lake, a victim of political expediency, has witnessed the willful degradation of its ecosystem due to successive governments using encroachment as a vote-bank policy. Once a vibrant emblem of Kashmir, is perilously close to an environmental calamity, mirroring the fate of An-

Over the years, a disturbing trend has emerged, with hundreds of illegal settlements mushrooming in and around the lake, facilitated by policies that prioritize short-term political gains over long-term environmental sustainability. The lax enforcement of regulations and the deliberate overlooking of unauthorized constructions have created a breeding ground for unchecked encroachment, leading to the encirclement of Dal Lake by structures that not only mar its scenic beauty but also contribute significantly to the environmental decline.

The severity of the crisis is underscored by the ominous contribution of nearly 1,200 houseboats, disgorging a staggering 9,000 metric tonnes of waste annually into the lake, accelerating its gradual demise.

Compounding this situation, according to a 2017 survey, is the insidious impact of around 15 major drains channeling a toxic concoction of 18.2 tonnes of phosphorus and 25 tonnes of inorganic nitrogen nutrients into the lake. The ensuing environmental havoc is palpable, with approximately 80,000 tonnes of silt settling in the lake each vear, further disrupting its ecological equilibrium.

Beyond the visible degradation, the water's transformation from bluish-green to hazel due to heightened turbidity signifies a deeper crisis. This shift not only diminishes the lake's aesthetic allure but also spells economic hardship as tourist visits dwindle.

The Lake's water quality poses a dual threat-rendering it unfit for drinking and jeopardizing aquatic life due to the depletion of dissolved oxygen. The hundreds of hotels and unchecked encroachments are pushing this iconic waterbody to the brink.

The environmental distress grip-

ping the region casts a grim shadow over other water bodies in Kashmir including the River Jhelum, Manasbal Lake, and Wullar Lake, all succumbing to a shared tragic fate. The city's unabated discharge of sewage and human excreta directly into the once-proud River Jhelum paints a distressing tableau of environmental neglect.

At various points, the river's shallowness has reached alarming levels, allowing one to wade across from bank to bank—an unsettling testament to the severe degradation of these vital waterways. The looming threat of pollution has transformed these oncepristine bodies of water into murky, polluted havens, pushing them to the brink of irreversible collapse.

The coexistence of Hindus and Muslims in the vicinity of several water bodies in Kashmir, with their respective religious sites nearby, illustrates the shared commitment of our ancestors, regardless of their religious backgrounds, to uphold the sanctity of these water sources.

The reverence for water, evident in the practice of "Jal Pooja" among Kashmiri Pandits, and the high regard for preserving water bodies in Islam, highlights the common value placed on water conservation. Islamic teachings strictly prohibit the act of urinating in a water body, yet it is surprising to observe how Muslims have allowed their waste to contaminate these once sacred water sources.

The annual pilgrimage of Amarnath Yatris to Kashmir, marked by spirituality and reverence, has unfortunately been marred by instances of pilgrims urinating in the pristine waters of the region.

In the face of this relentless assault on the once-pure water sources that have defined Kashmir's landscape for centuries, it becomes imperative for us to reflect on the perilous path we are treading. The degradation of our water bodies is not merely an environmental crisis; it is a harbinger of a much graver threat that looms over the entire civilization.

As we stand at the crossroads of a future where water scarcity could be the catalyst for unprecedented conflicts, the choices we make today will determine the legacy we leave for generations to come. The call for water conservation is not just a plea for environmental stewardship; it is a plea for the survival of humanity itself. If we fail to heed this call, the very essence of civilization will be under threat, and the wars of the future will be fought not for land or power but for the most precious resource of all - water.

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

## Regulating Al A nuanced approach must for using AI for technological

advancement while keeping its harmful effects in check.

**Financial Express** 

The concern is genuine, as AI does have several positive as well as negative impacts. Deepfakes, cyber security, data thefts, etc, are the negatives; as Prime Minister Narendra Modi pointed out at the recently held Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), global security will face a big threat if AI-laced weapons were to reach terrorist organisations. At the same time, the positives are many, including harnessing the technology for education, healthcare, agriculture, etc. India has rightly acknowledged that while each country needs to do its own bit, AI regulation will also need a global consensus as the technology is not restricted by geographical boundaries. For instance, deepfakes have emerged as a big threat in India recently and need to be tackled on an urgent basis, and the government is working towards bringing certain measures to check them.

lobally, governments are grappling with

finding the right regulatory framework to govern artificial intelligence (AI).

The recent regulations brought about by the European Union (EU) is also being seen as a template by a section of advocacy groups on how to go about regulating AI. The EU has, for instance,

put clear guardrails on the adoption of AI by law enforcement agencies. It has put restrictions on facial recognition technology, and on using AI to manipulate human behaviour. Further, governments can use real-time biometric surveillance in public areas only where there are serious threats involved. These sound good, but may not be an ideal template to follow for countries such as India.

Reason: facial recognition technology is used by the State across the world, and not by private enterprises. And States use it for security purposes. A blanket ban can jeopardise national security and a case-by-case examination vests the determining power in the hands of the government. The

same applies in the case of real-time biometric surveillance. The case of the government acting as an arbiter comes out very clearly in the case of India where government agencies have been exempted from a lot of provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Law on grounds of national security.

So, rather than taking the extreme EU regulations as an ideal template, or even those of the US which are more in the form of guidelines, the better approach for India would be to identify dangers and see whether they can be tackled under existing laws. Most of the dangers AI poses, like deepfakes, can be tackled through existing laws like CrPC, IT Act, and DPDP Act. Some fine-tuning of the existing laws will certainly help.

For instance, currently intermediaries are supposed to remove harmful or unlawful content within 36 hours of being flagged. Perhaps this needs to be brought down to a couple of hours, as enough damage would have been done in 36 hours.

Certain Indian examples about handling such issues act as a perfect case study. A few years back, the government was concerned with the spread of rumours through WhatsApp. This was handled by engaging with the platform which brought about the forward label exclusively for India. This minimised the danger. The government may further increase the due diligence which social media platforms need to do with regard to checking the harmful AI-generated content in lieu of legal protection under the safe harbour clause. Such a nuanced approach will help in achieving the objective of using AI for technological advancement while keeping in check its harmful effects.

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

# That Special Creature A satirical feature

#### S.Sarwar.Malik

ot Shakespeare, Molier, Aldous Huxley but apparitions of men like Fikr Tounsvi and Naseem Hijazi glide in the sky of my imagination this midnight as I peer at the blank screen of the laptop. What I personally encountered during late hours, awarah galiyoon mein, (in vagabond streets) this-evening (and also midway of today's morning walk) brought the creature to the center stage.

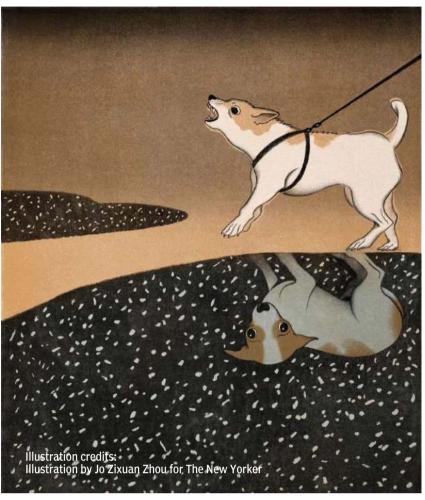
The day became 'special' because 'sitar baagnai' (constellation position determining horoscope) matched so perfectly that I was emboldened to walk freely even on those rehgozer (roads) where even firishtay (angels), some say, dare not tread these days.

Down Town, Uptown, Posh colonies of civil lines, whether of Jammu or of Kashmir all

are the same because of this omnipresent creature. This much is at least common so people cannot grouse about 'disparity' ...my quizzed lip corner seemed to say.

Sharp lenses of our media men, at times, capture some photographs of this creature; found enjoying siesta on garden benches (-City father's recently- installed- benches no exception), traffic police booths, planks of shops, road divider-green-stretches, in hospital corridors and where not. Large packs feeding on the 'g'dumps, or those roaming (menacingly?) in the vicinity of schools etc are a common sight. The mulaqaat/ encounter is really unnerving when these creatures give chase to pedestrians and vehicle drivers during early or late hours; maybe we are mistaken, it could be a regular practice hour for them, post announcement of some special-drives, christened 'khelo....khelo'.

True, in the post-domestication stage,



this creature has made strides along with homo -sapiens, from caveman to spaceman,graduating to become the proud escort, then to *phirangi( westerners)* laps and cozy beds and then to Lica's astronomical heights... What progress, this creature has registered! Besides appearing in popular cartoon channels they have been cast

as stars in many movies and shows. Even Kashmiris have dragged these creatures in heir pre 1975 politics- calling them *kroehun te safaid:* black & white; (not knowing it amounts to racial discrimination akin to blacks & whites). Also their name found mention in some Persian couplets & they even adore English idioms. Vow!

True majority of their brethren, including those who opened their eyes in poor places, had a different taqdeer( fate), like humans, as far as roti, laadpyar aur makaan( food, pampering & home) is concerned; (yes, yes I am talking about dogs; ) but those whom we daily see in Srinagar are somewhat better off. Thanks to the abundance of food among wazwan-relishing people; the sprouting of poultry chicken, mutton & beef sellers in every corner; to the garbage dumping points littering all streets-courtesy: citizens- devoid-of - civic- sense and partly SMC & administrators- over awed by law -framers, and animal lovers.com who together, in unison, seem to say "Tso-neukh Insaan Hoennen"; (idiom= disregard to hu-

Many years back a Columnist had written " agar illaqay kay doctors inka health checkup kerkay export trade to Nagaland ki possibility explore kertay this readilyavailable-abundant potential of our impoverished UT; revenue returns whereof would have benefitted all but our top brains, who have been inspired by family planning itch of Sanjay Gandhi of yore, decided in favour of snail -paced sterilization; conveniently with holding what it is going to cost; as well as length of life these creatures would still enjoy after nasbandi ( sterilization). In an English daily a million dollar question posed by a Law-knowingwriter was, 'would dogs stop biting after sterilization' and another Ace Columnist

wrote, 'no grudge that people talk about the rights of animals, but this much has to be agreed that humans too have rights; at least accept, humans too have them....a little more than dogs.'

Those at the helm advocated to go for special hospitals (sarcastically an acquaintance suggested.. "In all districts and blocks of J&K; reserving some wards in Maternity Hospitals, as interim arrangement. *Insaanun Balai*; — to hell with humans)".

So, O' common kashmiri don't give the dog a bad name; even after you are advised to look for froth in the whole population of your area; when a canine leaves your kids with encounter marks and Docs at the lone anti-rabies administering SMHS, make you wait for availability of anti-rabies.

More than a decade has passed since catch & sterilize programme was launched in Srinagar district but dismal achievement on that front too; (-that has left a huge dog-population, as this creature grows in geometrical), was the subject of conversation of a group of friends,, some days back, when a late-comer barged in and announced a news in all seriousness:

"Listen guys! Our Government has prepared a directory of Animal Lovers & Animal Rights Activists and by April 2nd 2024 all stray dogs will be apportioned among them for adoption as per their individual vocal cord-decibel-rating, followed by a daily free-parcel of *koker paache*; not neglecting Manika Gandhi & her followers in this IT"

Ye thee Katha hooen lattech hay, as Zareef Ahmed or Ali Majboor would have said. Adieu; till we meet again.

The author is a Srinagar-based Poet and

# Receding Reading Public

#### Abid Hussain Rather

WHEN we start searching for quotations and write-ups regarding the necessity and importance of studying books, we find thousands of quotations and articles penned down by various intellectuals and philosophers in the course of history. Speeches are given in various conferences and seminars organized at different occasions regarding the imperativeness of erudition in our lives. Still, studying books has become an abandoned habit in our society.

Increasingly, the reading public in Kashmir has declined especially because of the youth. It seems that nowadays people have lost the literary taste and are detouring from books. We constantly see that with every passing day, kids are losing interest in studying and it is observed that they mostly remain busy with social media, television and a plethora of options offered by World Wide Web. Another reason for detachment from exploring the literary world is tight schedule of schools, home work, tuitions etc. After all these things our children find little or no time for studying other books and literature beyond their prescribed syllabus.

There is a broad and vast world of literature beyond the prescribed books in our educational institutions. Nowadays, the trend of getting maximum marks in examination has restricted our children to tuitions, tests and short notes only. The students have even lost the habit of reading their curriculum books. The system of mechanical teaching and learning process in schools has also kept the students away from the world of books.

When we have a glance at the developed countries of the world, we find that people in such countries still posses a good literary taste and are fond of studying books. It has been found that even in the present digital technology world, 64% people in America read paper books while as 28% read digital books. During 2017, almost 80% of readers in America were people in the age group of 18 to 29 years. 30% people in America read books daily while as 25% people read a book once in a week. In India, 32% children read 24 books yearly. It is difficult to present the data regarding the trend of studying among Muslims but from observations it has been found that the results are not very satisfactory. One of the major reasons for the decline of the Muslim ummah is that we have lost the fervor of learning.

The dream of a majestic and elegant future of a nation depends on its passion and enthusiasm for knowledge and knowledge is correlated to the love for learning as knowledge comes from studying. When we talk about a bright and prosperous future of a nation, it is unavoidable to think



about its children and how to develop the habit of studying among them. Let's ruminate some ways and methods in which we can develop the literary taste among our children:

It is the duty of parents to create a conducive environment for learning in their homes for bright career of their kids. There should be small libraries in every houses with variety of books and a particular time for studying should be formulated by replacing the watching of some futile programs on our TV sets.

It has been found that people leave studying books if they find any difficulty in understanding a book. So it is advisable to help such people in studying a book. We should help them in knowing new words, idioms and phrases.

It is necessary to make book purchasing a routine habit to create a conducive atmosphere for studying in our houses. We should spare some money in every month for purchasing some books. Most of us spend some money on

wasteful activities which are rather harmful for us in the longer run. We should divert that amount for buying books. Parents should develop a sense in their children for saving some amount from their pocket money for purchasing books. Giving books as gifts to people on special occasions can be a step forward in this direction. Different social and religious organization should create a system of reading rooms and libraries in far flung areas where, otherwise, people are unable to access the books of their choice for studying.

Persuasion and encouragement acts as a catalyst in every work. So it is desirable to persuade people towards studying by organizing seminars, competitions etc. Children should be awarded suitably for reading a book and qualifying quiz competitions regarding studying various books. Target reading and prize awarding culture should be created in our educational institutions.

be created in our educational institutions.

It is necessary to visit libraries with our families

to introduce our children to the world of books, but unfortunately there are no libraries in our villages. We should take our children to different libraries during holidays so that they may develop an interest towards books.

There has been a custom of organizing book fairs in big cities by different publishers. Besides helping us in purchasing variety of books, such fairs develop an interest towards studying books in us. Government should help the publishers and other stakeholders to organize such book fairs in rural areas also to help people in developing a literary taste.

Besides above there can be many more practical ways and inklings to motivate people specially our youngsters towards studying books as it has been said where there is a will there is a way.

The author is a columnist and teaches Geography at GDC, Kulgam. He can be reached at rather1294@gmail.com

# Study Finds How Small Amounts Of Physical Activity Can Be Valuable In Late-Stage Lung Cancer

ANI

ore people die from lung cancer annually worldwide than from any other cancer. Nevertheless, a recent study headed by Curtin University discovered that individuals with incurable forms of the disease may live longer if they engage in less than five minutes of physical activity each day.

From the time of their diagnosis, 89 patients with incurable lung cancer had their daily activities monitored by a team from Curtin School of Allied Health, Curtin enAble Institute, and other research institutions.

They then compared the mortality rates after 12 months between those who engaged in more moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (such as walking) and those who were largely inactive — and saw significant results.

The people who completed more than 4.6 minutes per day of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity had a 60 per cent lower risk of mortality after 12 months compared to the group who were less active.

Study lead and former Cancer Council WA postdoctoral Fellow Associate Profes-



sor Vin Cavalheri said this could be important in treating people with inoperable lung cancer, particularly early.

"We previously demonstrated people with inoperable lung cancer were highly

sedentary and spent minimal time in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity before the commencement of treatment," he said.

"These new findings further indicate that healthcare providers should investigate

4

We previously
demonstrated people
with inoperable lung
cancer were highly
sedentary and spent
minimal time in
moderate-to-vigorous
physical activity before
the commencement of
treatment

a person's levels of physical activity in early management of inoperable lung cancer.

"We also need to evaluate what can be done to encourage people with inoperable lung cancer to exercise more, as 24 per cent of the study's participants engaged in less than one minute per day of moderate to vigorous physical activity."

Associate Professor Cavalheri said it was important to tailor any physical activity or exercise regimes to each individual, rather than focus on a set of guidelines which some people may find unattainable.

"This approach respects the inherent complexity of the individual's experience and encourages the development of strategies that are both feasible and sustainable, thereby increasing the likelihood of the successful adoption of physical activity as an integral component of their lives," he said.

"We need a supportive framework that enables people who are newly diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer to participate in physical activity based on their unique circumstances and goals."

While bedrest is often seen as the best option when sick, Associate Professor Cavalheri said the new study was part of growing evidence being active is beneficial even when dealing with serious diseases such as cancer.

"The association between higher physical activity levels and reduced mortality corroborates the findings from previous studies in the general adult population and people diagnosed with colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease," he said.

"If this association is confirmed, randomised controlled trials in people with inoperable lung cancer are warranted, with interventions designed to improve levels of physical activity."

## Arthritis Drug Found To Suppress Progression Of Type 1 Diabetes: Study

Press Trust Of India

A commonly prescribed rheumatoid arthritis drug may suppress the progression of type 1 diabetes, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

The researchers at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research (SVI) in Melbourne found that the drug called baricitinib can safely and effectively preserve the body's own insulin production and suppress the progression of type 1 diabetes in people who initiated treatment within 100 days of diagnosis.

Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. It typically appears in adolescence. The disease can also occur in children and adolescents depending on how many B-cells of the pancreas are

agnosis, and while the participants remained on the medication, their production of insulin was maintained," the researcher said.

The randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled human trial of the drug baricitinib monitored the blood glucose and insulin production of 91 participants over the course of one year.

Of these, 60 were given baricitinib and 31 were given a placebo. All trial participants were aged between 10 years and 30 years and started on the trial within 100 days of having been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

The study shows that people with type 1 diabetes in the trial who were given the drug required significantly less insulin for treatment.

Management of the lifelong autoimmune disease is incredibly burden-



non-functioning.

"When type 1 diabetes is first diagnosed there is a substantial number of insulin-producing cells still present. We wanted to see whether we could protect further destruction of these cells by the immune system," said SVI's Professor Thomas Kay.

"We showed that baricitinib is safe and effective at slowing the progression of type 1 diabetes in people who have been recently diagnosed," Kay said.

The findings show promise as the first disease-modifying treatment of its kind for type 1 diabetes that can be delivered as a tablet, the researchers said.

"It is tremendously exciting for us to be the first group anywhere in the world to test the efficacy of baricitinib as a potential type 1 diabetes treatment," said Kay.

"Up until now, people with type 1 diabetes have been reliant on insulin delivered via injection or infusion pump. Our trial showed that, if started early enough after di-



It is
tremendously
exciting for us
to be the first
group anywhere
in the world to
test the efficacy
of baricitinib
as a potential
type I diabetes
treatment

some on those diagnosed and their families, requiring meticulous glucose monitoring and insulin administration day and night to stay alive, the researchers said.

"We are very optimistic that this treatment will become clinically available. This would be a huge step-change in how type 1 diabetes is managed and we believe it shows promise as a fundamental improvement in the ability to control type 1 diabetes," said Professor Helen Thomas, preclinical lead on the trial.

## Office Of The Child Development Project Officer, Bandipora Poshan Project Sumbal

Subject: -Publication of Tentative Selection list of Candidates applied for the post of Sahayakas (AWHs)

W/o.Asif Hussian Wani Ward No.10

This office has advertised three (10) posts of Sangin's (AWW) vide advertisement Notice No:- (03) of 2023 Dated 03.10/2023 under endorsement No; CDPO/BPR/Adv/ 2023-24/346-55 Dated:-03.10.2023, under phase 2nd and same was published through department of information vide Dip No:-141657.in Newspaper Daily Rising Kashmir, Good Morning Kashmir and daily Aftab on 04.10.2023 & vide publicity was given through PRI's and same was also uploaded on website of DC office Bandipora and applications were received accordingly. After proper scrutiny of application forms by the District level selection committee the tentative merit penal of the candidates for each ward was made accordingly as per H.R. policy for Sahakayas (AWHs) constituted by Government vide order No: -222-JK (SWD) of 2022 Dated: -30.11.2022, Which is now being published for inviting of objections if any within 10.days from the date of publication, after expiry of cut date no objection shall be entertained. The merit list of all Candidates is mentioned at "Annexure-A" and provisional /Tentative selection list as per (Annexure "B") is shown below each wards from were applications for engagement of Sahakayas (AWH) were received. Annexure "A"

#### (Annexure-A)

	(Alliexore A)										
	Marit Pena	ıl of Candidates of Pa	nchayat Municipal Ward (	(05) Bandipora (Shei	kh Mohalla) for the Po	ost of Sahayakas	(AWH)				
S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualifications	Date of Birth	Markes Obtained	Percentage/weightage				
	Shaziya Bashir	W/o.Mohd Yaseen	Sheikh Mohalla Ward No.05	10th Pass	21.03.2003	305/500	61.40				
		Sheikh									
)	Pubby Pohman	W/o Shaikh Showket	Sheikh Mohalla Ward No 05	1∩th Pacc	01 03 1007	194/500	38.00				

		Ahmad					
		Marit Penal of Candid	ates of Muncipal Ward N	lo.10 (Bagh) Bandip	ora for the Post of Sah	akayas (AWH)	
S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Oualification Da	ate of Birth Ma	arkes/obtained	Percentage /weightage
1	Seerat Bashir	D/o.Bashir Ahmad Beigh	Ward No.10	10th Pass 13	.08.2002 33	0/500	66.00

	Ma	rit Penal of Candidate	s of Pan	chayat I	łalqa	a Quil Ward No.05 (Ch	nopan Mohalla) for th	e Post of Sahakayas .	
S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location	of AWC	Ward	Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10th	Percentage/Weight
			No					class	
1	Adfarah Ali	W/o.Shahnawaz Chopan	Chopan	Mohalla	Quil	lìoth Pass	17.03.1998	234/500	44.80

		<u> </u>	Ward No.05							
	Marit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Konan-A Ward No.03 for the Post of Sakayakas (AWHs)									
S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10th	Percentage/Weight			
						class				
01	Asiya Ahmad	D/o.Gulam Ahmad Mir	Ward No.03 Konan-A	10th Pass	04.01.1999	247/500	49.40			

J 2	110	tarric or carraiate	i diciitage/ 11/0	Location of Afric Halanto	Quantication	Date of Biltin	manico obtanica in lotti	i cicciitage/ weigit	
							class		
01		Asiva Ahmad	D/o.Gulam Ahmad Mir	Ward No.03 Konan-A	10th Pass	04.01.1999	247/500	49.40	
02		Shaista Zahoor	D/o Zahoor Ahmad Para	Ward No.03 Konan-A	10th Pass	01.02.1999	203/500	40.60	
				4					
		Marit	Penal of Candidates	of Panchayat Halqa Garo	ora-B (Galkul) Ward	No.(07) for the Post	of Sahayakas (AWHs)	)	
S.I	No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o Loc	ation of AWC Ward No	Dualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10th	Percentage/Weight	
1									

- 1							ICLASS	
	1	Zeenat Akther	W/o.Ab.Hamid Mir G	ialkul Garoora Ward No.07	10th Pass	01.04.1991	199/500	39.80
		Ma	rit Penal of Candida	ates of Panchayat Halqa Kud	lara (Dravipati) Ward	No.(07) for the Post	of Sahayakas (AWHs)	
	S.No I	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC War	d No Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10th	Percentage/Weight
							class	
			4// 1 1 1 // A 1 - A 1 - A 1 B					

1	Razeena Begum	W/o.Ishtiyaq Ahmad Paswal	Dravipati Kudara Wa	ard No.(07) 10th Pass	18.12.1998	288/500	57.60					
	Marit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Kudara (Monikhah) Ward No.(04) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWHs)											
S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward	Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in	Percentage/Weight					
			No			10th class						
1	Muheena Rano	D/o Mohammad Isreial Turk	Monikhah Ward No 04	10th Pass	27 01 2002	10th Pass	36.40					

	Marit	Penal of Candidates of Pa	anchayat Halqa Nadih	ial-B (Kulhama ) War	d No.(01) for the Post	of Sahayakas (AWI	Hs)
S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward	Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10t	hPercentage/Weight
			No			class	
1	Shameema Nabi	D/o.Irshad Ahmad Panchoo	Kulhama Ward No.01	10th Pass	13.06.1998	10th Pass	46.60

	Marit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Shockbaba Ward No.(05) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWHs)											
S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10th	Percentage/Weight					
						class						
1	Urooi Jahan Ara	D/o.Abdul Waheed Shah	Shockbaba-B ward No.05	10th Pass	12.04.2004	350/500	70.00					
2	Rifat Rashid Wani	D/o.Abdul Rashid Wani	Shockbaba-B ward No.05	10th Pass	06.11.2002	202/500	40.40					
3	Zahida Regum	W/o Muharakh ∆hmad	Shockhaha-B ward No 05	10th Pass	20 10 1994	313/1000	31 30					

	Marit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Chattibandy-C (Chopan Mohalla) Ward No.(03) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWHs)										
S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Markes obtained in 10th	Percentage/Weight				
						class					
1	Jameela Hassan	D/o.Gh Hassan Chopan	Chattibandy-C Ward No.03	10th Pass	01.04.2001	198/500	39.60				
2	Ulfat Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad	Chattibandy-C Ward No.03	10th Pass	23.03.2001	195/500	39.00				
		Chonan									

		ANNEXURE "B" Tentative Selection List of Sahakayas (AWHs)									
	S	.Name of Candidate	Parentage/W/o	Name of Panchayat		Location of AWC Ward No	Qualifications	Date of Birth	Markes Obtained	Percentage/	
ı	No		_	Halga/Muncipal ward			-			weightage	
	1	Shaziva	W/o Mohd Yaseen Sheikh	Ward No.05		Sheikh Mohalla	10th Pass	21.03.2003	307/500	61.40	
	2	Seerat Bashir	D/o. Bashir Ahmad Beigh	Ward No.10		Bagh	10th Pass	13.08.2002	330/500	66.00	
	3	Adfrah Ali	W/o Shahnawaz Mohamma Chopan	Quil		Chopan Mohalla Ward No.05	10th Pass	17.03.1998	234/500	44.80	
	4	Jameela Hassan	Gh. Hassan Chopan	Chattibandv-C		Chopan Mohalla ward No.03	10th Pass	01.04.2001	198/500	39.60	
	5	Urooi Jahan Ara	D/o.AbdulWaheed Shah	Shockbaba		Shockbaba-B Ward No.05	10th Pass	12.04.2004	350/500	70.00	
	6	Shameema Nabi	W/o. Irshad Ahmad Penchoo	Nadihal-B		Kulhama	10th Pass	13.05.1998	233/500	46.60	
ı	7	Mubeena Bano	D/o. Mohammad Isreial Turk	Kudara		Monikhah Ward No.04	10th Pass	27.01.2002	182/500	36.40	
	8	Razeena Begum	W/o.Ishtiag Ahmad Paswal	Kudara		Dravipati Ward No.07	10th Pass	18.12.1998	288/500	57.60	
	9	Zeenat Akther	W/o.Ab.Hamid Mir	Garoora		Galkul Ward No.07	10th Pass	01.04.1991	199/500	39.80	
ı	10	Shaista Zahoor	D/o.Zahoor Ahmad Para	Konan		Konan-A	10th Pass	01.02.1999	303/500	40.60	

No:-CDPPoshan/Bpr/2023-24/ DIPK-13891/23 Dated:-16 .12.2023

Child Development Project officer, Poshan Project Sumbal, (Member secretary)

#### **'Structured Approach Under IBC Brings Greater Value To Resolution Process'**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The insolvency law provides the opportunity to engage all stakeholders in a resolution process driven by information, and such a structured and process-oriented approach has brought greater value to the proceedings, according to an IBBI Whole Time Member.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is a key institution in implementing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), which provides a market-linked and time-bound resolution of stressed assets

Speaking at a conference in Bengaluru on Saturday, IBBI Whole Time Member Sandip Garg said that through the IBC, the courts have been empowered with enhanced authority to oust fugitive promoters and streamline the litigation process, aiming to minimise time



and maximise value. The code affords the opportunity to engage all stakeholders in a resolution process driven by information. This structured and process-oriented approach has brought greater value to the proceedings, he was quoted as saying in a release issued by industry body Assocham, which organised the conference.

Justice MM Sundresh of the Supreme Court said the IBC is an evolving framework designed to foster a collaborative resolution process among stakeholders, according to the

whose inbound shipments are

contracted include coal, coke;

pearls, precious and semi-pre-

However, gold imports in-

creased by 21 per cent to USD

32.93 billion. Electronic goods'

imports have risen to USD

57.83 billion during April-No-

vember 2023-24 against USD

51.89 billion in the same period

The gold imports in Novem-

ber rose by 6.24 per cent to

USD 3.44 billion. Oil imports

during the month, however,

dipped by 8.47 per cent to USD

Barthwal said the global

He added that GDP growth

of many countries are "not so

high", interest rate regime is not softening, global conflicts are ag-

gravating, irrespective of these

Exports in October had grew

According to the data, the

estimated value of services

export for November is USD

28.69 billion, as compared to

USD 26.93 billion in November

period, these exports stood

pared to USD 208.30 billion in

The World Trade Organisa-

According to UNCTAD report,

global trade expected to shrink

by nearly 5 per cent in 2023

amid geopolitical strains and

tion (WTO) has forecast that

global trade will grow only by

April-November 2022.

0.8 per cent in 2023.

shifting trade patterns.

During the eight-month

220.66 billion as com-

issues, "we are doing well".

trade is suffering but, "we are

14.93 billion.

holding the fort".

by 6.21 per cent.

cious stones; and fertiliser.

#### **India's Exports Dip 2.83% To** \$33.9 Bn In Nov; Trade Deficit Narrows To \$20.58 Bn: Govt Data

**Press Trust Of India** 

NEW DELHI: India's merchandise exports slipped by 2.83 per cent to USD 33.90 billion in November while the trade deficit narrowed to USD 20.58 billion, according to government data.

Imports also fell by 4.33 per cent to USD 54.48 billion in November, the data released by the commerce ministry on Friday showed.

Cumulatively, the country's merchandise exports in April-November FY2023-24 contracted by 6.51 per cent to USD 278.8 billion.

Imports were also down by 8.67 per cent to USD 445.15 billion in the eight-month period due to a fall in oil imports. Oil imports dipped to USD 113.65 billion as against USD 139.29 billion in April-November 2022-23.

The trade deficit difference between imports and exports during the eight-month period was USD 166.35 billion against USD 189.21 billion in the corre-

sponding period last year. Briefing reporters here, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that given the global situation, India's export numbers

All key export sectors have recorded negative growth during the April-November period of this fiscal and that include petroleum products, gems and jewellery, chemicals, garments, and engineering goods.

Sectors which registered positive growth include electronics, iron ore, and pharma. The other import segments

**Program On Protected** 

**Observer News Service** 

Kashmir University of

Agricultural Sciences and

Technology of Kashmir

Saturday organised an

extensive awareness and

popularisation program

on 'Protected Cultivation

of Vegetable Crops' at Ban-

The program was or-

ganised by Krishi Vigyan

Kendra Bandipora under

the 'Innovative Extension

Approaches for Promot-

ing Agriculture in Jammu

and Kashmir' project of

the Holistic Agriculture

Farmers, agriculture en-

trepreneurs, and others

from different parts of the

District Bandipora partici-

educate and empower

farmers with innovative

techniques to enhance

productivity and sustain-

ability in vegetable culti-

The program aimed to

pated the program.

Development

vation.

Sher-e-

Project.

SRINAGAR:

dipora.

**Cultivation Of Vegetables** farmers with advanced techniques that enhance crop yields, improve quality, and ensure sustain-

**SKUAST-K Holds Awareness** 

Dr. Feroz Ahmad Parray, Assistant Professor FOA Wadura provided insights into greenhouse and polyhouse technologies to optimize environmental factors for better crop yields.

Course Coordinator Dr Tahir Saleem, Scientist KVK Bandipora, said protected cultivation is a game-changer in modern agriculture, and the program aims to empower farmers with the knowledge and tools needed for protected vegetable cultivation.

Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora, Dr Tariq Sultan, said that the protected cultivation empĥasizes environmentfriendly and sustainable practices, promoting resource-efficient farming methods that contribute to long-term agricultural

Chief Horticulture Ofresilience. Participants gained inficer, Bandipora, Farooq Ahmad, while speaking sights into best practices, on the occasion, said that challenges, and success stories related to protectthe initiative is geared towards equipping local ed cultivation.

## Lolab Valley Emerges As A **Growing Tourist Attraction**

Admin serious in enhancing infrastructure, promoting unexplored destinations: Official

**Agencies** 

KUPWARA: Known for its stunning springs, beauty and historical significance, Lolab Valley in north Kashmir's Kupwara district is gaining popularity among tourists.

Recently, it received the Gold award for Best Offbeat Destination in India at the prestigious Outlook Traveller Awards 2023. On Friday, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated Team Jammu Kashmir, District Administration Kupwara and the people of Lolab Valley for the

Often referred to as the 'Land of Love', Lolab Valley, located over 110 kilometres from Srinagar, has been a hidden gem, attracting both locals and outsiders alike.

The valley assumes historical significance as the birthplace of a noted Islamic scholar Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri. It also gained attention in the early 1980s when a portion of a Bollywood movie starring Abhinav Chaturvedi was filmed in Chandigam. Over the last couple of years, concerted efforts have been made to enhance the valley's infrastructure and develop new tourist places as part of a facelift plan.

An official from the tourism department said that under the J&K administration's initiative to revitalise all tourist destinations and explore opportunities in lesser-known places, Lolab Valley has witnessed improvements in its tourist facilities. He said serious efforts are made to attract tourists to unexplored places. Known for its diverse fruit



production, natural beauty and dense forest cover, the valley boasts famous tourist spots such as Kalaroos Caves, Khurhama, Sever, Chandigam, Warnow, Aafan, Machil, Kairwan and Diver.

The old house of Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri at Shah Abad Warnow has become a popular attraction. Local businesses, including hotels and restaurants, have seen increased bookings and attendance from tourists across the valley and the country.

Owais Shah, a restaurant owner in Sogam, acknowledged the growing tourism prospects, saying hotels and restaurants are witnessing an increase in visitors. The popularity of government tourist huts and homestays has also contributed to the positive experiences of tourists exploring the Lolab Valley, he said.

Shahid Wani, a local resident said, "The growing number of tourists to Lolab Valley is a blessing for Kupwara district as the tour itinerary usually involves other places like

He said homestays are also increasing; however, specialised markets and tour guides could have taken tourism to a whole new level. "I have handled quite many tourist groups from various parts of the country and they have returned very happy and satisfied. I requested all of them to be ambassadors of Kupwara district which they happily agreed to," he said.

The Forest Department's efforts, particularly the introduction of the homestay concept in remote areas like Machil and Kumkadi, along with the establishment of Eco-Parks in Lolab Valley, have played a crucial role in attracting enthusiasts seeking offbeat destinations.

The locals have expressed optimism about the road connectivity with Ajas, Bandipora, saying it will further boost tourism in the region.

Following the opening of border areas for tourismrelated activities, Kupwara district has experienced a significant rise in tourist footfall.

#### **India, Oman Adopt Vision Document To Expand Ties; Resolve** To Conclude Trade Deal Soon

**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Saturday adopted a vision document to shore up bilateral cooperation in around 10 key areas and pushed for concluding a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) as early as possible during their "productive" talks to inject new momentum in India-Oman strategic ties.

PM Modi and the Omani ruler also discussed the situation arising out of the Hamas-Israel conflict, the challenge of terrorism as well as the larger need to try and achieve a two-state solution to the Palestine issue as a way forward, according to Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra.

The two sides also announced the third tranche of Oman-India joint investment fund worth USD 300 million (around Rs 2,500 crore) that would be used for channelising investment into the fastest growing sectors of the Indian economy.

The investment fund was started as a 50:50 joint venture between the SBI and Oman investment authority with the first tranche of USD 100 million and the second one of USD 200 million.

At a media briefing, the for-eign secretary said India and

Oman also signed agreements providing for cooperation in the field of information technology, combating financial crimes, culture and one for the establishment of a Hindi chair of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in Oman.

The Sultan of Oman arrived in Delhi on a state visit on Friday - his first trip to India as the top leader of the influential Gulf nation.

"Today is a historic day in India-Oman relations as the Sultan of Oman is on a state visit to India after 26 years," Modi said in his remarks at the delegation-level dialogue.

"On the basis of our successful engagements, we are creating a path of bright future today," he said, referring to the joint vision document.

"In this joint vision, concrete action points have been agreed upon in 10 different areas. I am confident that it will give a new and modern shape to our partnership," he added.

"I am happy that the discussion on the CEPA agreement is going on and two rounds of discussion have been successfully completed where many important issues have been agreed upon," Modi said.

Expressing hope that both sides will soon be able to sign the pact. Modi said it will add a new dimension to their economic cooperation.

## **H&H Deptt Organizes Awareness** Camp At Lalpora Lolab

**Observer News Service** 

**KUPWARA-** The Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kupwara Saturday organized a one-day awareness camp at Lalpora Lolab in district Kupwara to raise awareness among the participants regarding various welfare schemes and programmes offered by the department

The camp was attended by the Vice Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC), Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir. Assistant Director Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kupwara, Mohammad Yousuf Lone and Station House Officer Lalpora besides officials of the department and other line departments were also present on the occasion.

In his address, the VC DDC emphasized the need for revival of the handicraft and handloom industry so that a large number of unemployed youth could generate their livelihood. He highlighted the importance of traditional handloom products in daily use by the local people.

Addressing the camp, the Assistant Director impressed upon the participants to adapt the traditional crafts handloom weaving, Kanishawal weaving, Putto



embroidery, wood carving, paper mache, Zari, Tapestry, willow wicker and carpet etc. for earning their livelihood by availing the departmental schemes. He directed the concerned officers to make sure that

newly formulated schemes for artisans percolate down to the target public. He also informed the artisan and weaver community to avail the benefits of the departmental schemes since everything has been made available to them online through JK Single Window Clearance System.

The AD highlighted the achievements made by the department during the current fiscal and said that department has provided interest subsidy under Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, besides financial as-

sistance of more than Rs.1.2 crore under the said scheme has been granted to the artisan community of District Kupwara for setting up their own income generating units. He said that the department is also providing Rs. 1500 and Rs. 1000 monthly stipend to the trainees enrolled in the training centers during the training period.

The AD also appealed to the artisans and trainees to come forward for taking benefit of the state and central sponsored welfare schemes for their better livelihood. He further added that the department also provides financial assistance of Rs.1 lakh for the formation of cooperative selfhelp groups and till date 160 cooperative groups have been registered in the district Kupwara, out of which 20 were formulated in Lolab area.

### NIESBUD, J&K Bank Kick-**Start 3 Weeks Entrepreneurship Development Programme**

**Observer News Service** 

GANDERBAL: National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Bank Saturday kick-started three weeks Entrepreneurship Development Programme for aspiring

creating the resource pool for entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop has been organized to support the young entrepreneurs to aware them about sales and marketing, life skills and employability. The three weeks programme will cover the areas on ecommerce, market linkages, awareness regarding government schemes, entrepreneur-



and existing entrepreneurs at Ganderbal J&K.

Deputy General Manager J&K bank, Ashok Gupta inaugurated the programme and also briefed about the importance of such programmes. He also encouraged the participants to work with enthusiasm and ensured further support from I&K bank in future.

Tariq Ahmad (CSR Manager) also encouraged the participants and also briefed them about the J&K bank's role in

ship development, soft and hard skills, product value additions etc. NIESBUD will be providing the basic expertise on how to overcome the challenges facing during marketing packaging.

Dr. Aijaz Mir representing NIESBUD in the UT of J&K thanked the officials of I&K bank for making the workshop a success and also ensured further hand holding and support for participants and aspiring entrepreneurs in future.

## DISTRICT LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, GANDERBAL **DISTRICT COURT COMPLEX, GANDERBAL**

Email: dlsaganderbal@gmail.com

Phone No: +91-1942950922

#### **INTERVIEW NOTICE**

Subject; Selection of Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel.

It is notified for the information of all the candidates who have applied for the post of Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel at District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal, notified by J&K Legal Services Authority vide No: LSA/LS/96/2022/1162-65 Dated: 2212-2023, that they shall appear before the competent Selection Committee for the interview (overall performance on the basis of knowledge, skills, practice and experience) at Conference Hall, District Court Complex Ganderbal on 19th of December, 2023, at 10:30 am Sharp.

The candidates are required to bring with them all the requisite testimonials/ certificates in original.

NO: DLSA/GBL/2023/1336-42 Dated: 14-12-2023

DIPK-13841-23 DT: 16/12/2023

Secretary District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal.

#### REMEMBRANCE 25th Death Anniversary of



Famed Broadcaster and a gem of a human being LATE NOOR MOHAMMED LONE

It has been a long long time since you left us but the pain of your absence grows deeper with each passing day. Time moves on and takes each person in a different direction but the presence of those who nurture us guide us and enrich our lives in a million ways is sorely missed when the physical bond is severed. Up above in the heavens a bright star reminds us of your grace, piety and dignity. And we just pray that some day we will unite yet again *May your soul rest in peace (Ameen).* 

Deeply Remembered by:

ASHFAQ LONE, SHAFAT LONE, SHAH JI AHMED LONE

## Real Kashmir Seal 3-1 Win Over Shillong In I-League



#### Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** Real Kashmir Football Club (RKFC) continued their winning streak, securing a 3-1 victory over Shillong Lajong FC in their last home game of round one in the I-League

football tournament here on Saturday.

The Snow Leopards made a strong start with Kamal Issah scoring in the fifth minute at TRC Ground. But Karim Samb equalised for Shilling La-

jong FC by scoring a goal in the 16th minute as the first half ended with both teams level at 1-1.

Fuelled by the fervent crowd, RKFC relentlessly pressured the visiting team and scored two more goals in the second half.

RKFC regained the lead with Gnohere Krizo's goal in the 55th minute before local boy Mohammad Inam sealed the victory with a 69th-minute strike and was declared man of the match.

RKFC is on third place on the points table, tied on 20 points with Sreenidi Deccan FC, trailing only on goal difference. The Kashmir team has played 10 games so far with six wins, two draws and two losses.

Shillong Lajong's second consecutive loss kept them in fifth place with

RKFC will now play their next away match against Delhi FC on December 24.

## Khelo India Para Games: Armless Archer Sheetal Devi Clinches Gold



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Armless archer Sheetal Devi continued her stunning form as she won a gold medal in the Open category of compound section at the inaugural Khelo India Para Games here on Saturday. Sheetal's score of 141 was just enough to ward off a serious challenge from Uttar Pradesh's Jyoti Baliyan, who won the silver with 138, at the JLN Stadium here.

Sheetal, who won two medals, including a gold, at her maiden Asian Para Games in Hangzhou recently, did not have it easy. She had to dig deep into her skills and men-

tal strength to pip Jyoti in a thrilling finish. Sarita from Haryana won bronze with a score of 137.

Paralympians Harvinder Singh of Haryana and Vivek Chikara of Uttar Pradesh also finished among the medals in recurve archery. While Harvinder won gold, Chikara settled for silver and Sahil from Haryana won the bronze.

Tokyo Paralympics silver medallist Bhavina Patel of Gujarat clinched gold in women's Class 4 table tennis event as she beat statemate Usha Rathod 3-0 (11-7 11-1 11-8) in the final.

Birmingham Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Sonal Patel added another table tennis gold for Gujarat as she beat Bihar's Vidya Kumari 3-0 (11-3 11-1 11-2) in the final of women's Class 1-3 event.

Hangzhou Asian Para Games silver winner Rudransh Khandelwal of Rajasthan continued his good form on the final day at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, as he claimed the gold medal in the men's 50m pistol SH1 event with a score of 223.4. Khandelwal, who holds the world record in the same event, surpassed Haryana's Singhraj (216.4) who settled for silver. Rajasthan's Shiv Raj Sankhala won the bronze medal with a score of

## Surprised MI Moved On From Rohit So Early: Wasim Jaffer

Agencies

**NEW DELHI:** A day after Mumbai Indians (MI) appointed Hardik Pandya as their captain ahead of 2024 IPL season, former India opener Wasim Jaffer said he was surprised that five-time champions have quickly moved on from Rohit Sharma as their skipper.

On Friday, the franchise announced that Hardik would be the new skipper of the team, ending Rohit's ten-year reign as the captain, who assumed the role midway from the 2013 IPL season. Rohit had led Mumbai to five IPL titles - in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.

"He did lead Gujarat well. There were a lot of question marks over his performances as he was back after a long layoff, and how he would captain a new franchise, how he would bat at number four – he answered all those questions in the first season (2022). Even in the second season, he did well."

"But I'm surprised that MI has moved on from Rohit so early. It happened quickly. I'm also surprised. When they did the trade, it was probably communicated to Hardik that he is going to come in as the captain. But whether it was



communicated to Rohit, I don't know," said Jaffer in a video chat with ESPNCricinfo.

Hardik led Gujarat to the IPL title in 2022 in their debut season, and was the Player of the Match in the final against Rajasthan Royals at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. In 2023, Gujarat made the IPL final for the second time in as many seasons under Hardik's captaincy, where they finished runners up to Chennai Super Kings.

"There were a couple of guys who were pretty hopeful of becoming the (MI) captain. One of them is Suryakumar Yadav, who is captain-

ing the Indian (T20I) team. He was the one looking for an opportunity as he has captained (India recently) really well."

"Jasprit Bumrah as well, he captained India in Tests," added Jaffer, who has been a batting coach for Punjab Kings.

In both IPL 2022 and 2023 seasons, Gujarat had also topped the points table in the league stage under Hardik. Overall, Rohit captained in 158 IPL matches, winning 87 games, losing 67 matches and four fixtures ending in a tie, with his win percentage standing at 55.06.

## Bowlers Shine As Australia Lead Pakistan By 300 On Day 3

Agencies

**PERTH:** Australia's bowlers shared the wickets around on Saturday with Nathan Lyon having to wait a bit longer for his 500th after Pakistan folded for 271 in their first innings as the hosts took a 300-run lead on day three of the first test.

Off-spinner Lyon sits on 499 test wickets after claiming 3-66 while Imam-ul-Haq top-scored with 62 for the visitors, who were bowled out in 101.5 overs. Opting not to enforce the follow-on, Australia ended the day on 84-2 from 33 overs having posted 487 in their first innings.

Resuming on 132-2, Pakistan almost lost Khurram Shahzad to a run-out on the first ball of the day but skipper Pat Cummins (2-35) ensured no further damage was done, clean-bowling the nightwatchman (7) two deliveries later. Imam, who uncharacteristically danced past a Lyon delivery to get stumped by Alex Carey, had consolidated with Pakistan's premier batsman Babar Azam (21) but a collapse before lunch saw the tourists lose three quick wickets for 14 runs.

Some resistance from Agha Salman (28 not out) propped up Pakistan but when Aamer Jamal



(10) gave Lyon his second stumping for wicket 499 the modest crowd of 15,956 came alive, anxious to witness the impending milestone moment. Part-time spinner Travis Head, losing all sense of occasion, ended the Pakistan innings when he drew tail-ender Shaheen Afridi into a slog-sweep which found Usman Khawaja at mid-on.

To start the post-tea session, Australia lost first innings centurion David Warner for a duck and Marnus Labuschagne for two as Shahzad's double-strike threatened to inject

some spice into the contest. Pacers Shahzad and Afridi showed a better understanding of the Perth Stadium conditions in their second effort, aided by a slight deterioration of the surface, bowling with aggression to restrict the hosts to seven runs in the first 10 overs.

Khawaja and Steve Smith slowly steadied the ship, but not without a late scare when Smith hooked Afridi just over the head of deep fine leg for six, to see their side through to the close with an unbeaten 34 and 43 respectively.

## Liverpool v Man United: Ten Hag On The Hot Seat

Agencie

MANCHESTER: There's speculation manager Erik ten Hag is on the chopping block as Manchester United heads to English Premier League leader Liverpool on Sunday.

United's worsening form —

including elimination from the Champions League this week — has started a rumor that Ten Hag could be replaced by former Chelsea manager Graham Potter.

That's hardly the best prepara-

tion for a trip to Anfield, where United suffered a record 7-0 rout in March and hasn't won a league match in almost eight years. Ten Hag, in charge since mid-2022, insists talk about his future is not a distraction.

"I'm not concerned about that.

I want to win, I want to win with my team," he said on Friday. "I want to progress with my team in the right direction . . . we are here in a project."

Doubts have grown about Ten Hag's position as United's season

has suffered setbacks.

The proposed investment from British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe has led to suggestions he could make



changes once he gains a 25% stake in the club. Despite that, Ten Hag believes he has the backing of United.

"I feel that and they tell (me) that so that's fine. That's OK, but I'm focusing on the process, I'm focusing on making this team play better, I'm focusing on making the individuals better. That's my concern. That's all I'm doing, focusing on the right

thing and that is the team."

Jose Mourinho was fired as the
United manager after suffering a defeat at Anfield at this time in 2018.

Talk of United being in crisis, however, makes Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp uncomfortable.

"I never like when the headlines about United are not great before we play because it's like, 'OK, then it is the game where they can put everything right," Klopp said on Friday.

"I don't follow United closely enough to know exactly what the problem is there, but I saw Erik ten Hag was manager of the month last month and saw they were the team in form in the last

month so how can it be all wrong? I just don't understand it."

Liverpool's biggest home crowd in 50 years will be on hand, with more of the new Anfield Road Stand opening up to allow a crowd of more than 57,000. When the stand is finally fully open next year, Anfield will hold 61,000.

The 7-0 rout was United's worst in the rivalry and worst competitive defeat since 1931. Klopp described it as a "freak result that happens once in a lifetime."

Ten Hag hopes there is no repeat. He's still without suspended captain Bruno Fernandes, Harry Maguire is out injured, but Luke Shaw and Marcus Rashford should be available.

"We take that (7-0) in our memory, but you have to also take the benefit from it and learn from it and Sunday we can prove that," he said. "It was a bad experience, but it's not similar — you start again.

"We will not ignore it, but we go there and we will be confident, and I know my players, to go there and be confident from the start to the end. We have to fight there, we have challenge there. We go to win there."

## Ancelotti In 'No Rush' To Sign Real Madrid Extension Amid Brazil Rumors

Agencie

**MADRID:** Carlo Ancelotti says he is in "no rush" to sign a contract extension with Real Madrid amid continued speculation that Brazil's national team wants to hire the Italian coach.

Ancelotti's contract runs out at the end of this season.

"Being Real Madrid's coach is the most important thing," Ancelotti said Saturday. "If the club is happy then I am too. There is no rush to renew my deal, it's not a problem. We're been until 20 lune 2024."

lem. We're here until 30 June 2024."

Madrid hosts Villarreal in the Spanish

league on Sunday.

The 64-year-old Ancelotti has been linked to Brazil's men's team, a five-time world champion, ever since Tite stepped down as its coach in December 2022 after a disappointing World Cup.

Ancelotti has said on several occasions that he wants to honor his current contract with Madrid, while never revealing his plans for the future beyond next summer.

Brazil hired Fernando Diniz as head coach in July on a 12-month contract that will finish when Ancelotti's deal with the 14-time European Cup winner expires. Executives at the Brazilian soccer confederation indicated that their intention was to wait to bring



in Ancelotti to lead the team into the 2026

Ancelotti holds the record for Champions League titles as a coach with four after guiding both Madrid and AC Milan to two titles each. He is also the only coach to have steered teams to titles in Europe's five top national leagues in Spain, England, Italy, Germany and France.

#### **Union govt improving** citizens' health with holistic approach, effective campaigns: Amit Shah



Ahmedabad: The Centre has taken up the mission to improve the health of citizens with a holistic approach by increasing the budget for it and launching various schemes and campaigns during the last one decade, Union Minister Amit Shah said here on Saturday. Addressing the 6th

Addressing Advancements in Endourology Conference, Shah also thanked doctors and paramedical staff for working with dedication in the fight against COVID-19.

"The Union as well as state governments and doctors across the country are working together with a holistic approach to improve the health of the people through the implementation of schemes prepared minutely during the last 10 years," he said.

"The biggest work was to increase the health budget from Rs 33,000 crore to Rs 1.33 lakh crore. The government worked to improve the health infrastructure and increase human resources required for modern medical science," he added.

Campaigns such as Swachh Bharat Yojana launched for prevention of diseases as well as initiatives to take health services to every part of the country have played a crucial role, Shah said.

Citing a personal example, he said, "One of my granddaugh-ters was born during COVID-19, and family members decided not to take her to the government hospital for vaccination. Bill for vaccines for the child under nine years in a private hospital was Rs 36,000."

"As against this, we received a coffee mug and zero bill for my first granddaughter, who was born during normal time and got vaccinated in a municipal hospital." Shah told the gathering.

Shah also narrated how his sister, who wanted to come to India from the USA during the COVID-19 pandemic period

after flight services resumed, was unable to do so because she had not received a vaccination certificate even a month-and-half after getting inoculated.

"But in India you got the certificate on your mobile within 30 seconds. It was good use of technology by the government. We used technology and apps to make arrangements to provide receipt of administration of vaccines within 30 sec-

onds," Shah pointed out. Modi launched Swachhata Abhiyan nobody thought it had anything to do with health but there are surveys to show the cleanliness drive and building toilets have led to massive improvement in public health, especially of women and children, Shah asserted.

Fit India, Khelo India, and maternity nutrition mission to improve immunity level of mothers and newborns have played their part, he said, adding every child in the country under nine years of age gets vaccinated free of cost.

The government's approach to improve infrastructure for wellness centres, upgrade public and community health centres, as well as campaigns like Mission Dialysis, Matrutva Yojana and total eradication of TB have shown how the government has moved ahead with a holistic approach when it comes to health, the Union minister said.

During COVID-19 pandemic, people worried more about India than their own countries and it was justified because of the condition of medical infrastructure and a disease for which the right treatment was yet to be found, he said.

"Modi did not fight alone but kept 130 crore people of the country together to fight and we emerged from it successfully. Doctors and paramedical staff put their life in peril to save people, and many even died in the process.

# **Cardinal is convicted of** embezzlement in big Vatican financial trial, sentenced to 5 years

nal on Saturday convicted a cardinal of embezzlement and sentenced him to 5 years in prison in one of several verdicts handed down in a complicated financial trial that aired the city state's dirty laundry and tested its justice system.

Cardinal Angelo Becciu, the first cardinal ever prosecuted by the Vatican criminal court, was absolved of several other charges and nine other defendants received a combination of guilty verdicts and acquittals among the nearly 50 charges brought against them during a 2 year trial.

lawyer, Fabio Becciu's Viglione, said he respected the sentence but would appeal.

Prosecutor Alessandro Diddi said the outcome "showed we were correct."

The trial focused on the Vatican secretariat of state's 350 million euro investment in developing a former Harrod's warehouse into luxury apartments. Prosecutors alleged Vatican monsignors and brokers fleeced the Holy See of tens of millions of euros in fees and commissions and then extorted the Holy See for 15 million euros to cede control of the building.

Becciu, the first-ever cardinal to be prosecuted in the Vatican's criminal court, was accused of embezzlement-related charges in two tangents of the London deal and faced up to seven years in prison.

In the end, he was convicted of embezzlement stemming from the original investment of 200 million euros in a fund that bought into the London property, as well as for his 125,000 euro donation of Vatican money to a charity run by his brother in Sardinia.

He was also convicted of using Vatican money to pay an intelligence analyst who in turn was convicted of using the money for herself.

The trial had raised questions about the rule of law in the city state and Francis' power as absolute monarch, given that he wields supreme legislative, executive and judicial authority and had exercised it in ways the defence says jeopardised a fair trial.

The defence attorneys did praise Judge Giuseppe Pignatone's even-handedness and said they were able to present their arguments amply. But they lamented the Vatican's outdated procedural norms gave prosecutors enormous



leeway to withhold evidence and otherwise pursue their investigation nearly unimpeded.

Prosecutors had sought prison terms from three to 13 years and damages of over 400 million euros to try to recover the estimated 200 million euros they say the Holy See lost in the bad deals.

In the end, the tribunal acquitted many of the suspects of many of the charges but ordered the confiscation of 166 million euros from them and payment of civil damages to Vatican offices of 200 million euros. One defendant, Becciu's former secretary Monsignor Mauro Carlino, was acquitted entirely.

The trial was initially seen as a sign of Francis' financial reforms and willingness to crack down on alleged financial misdeeds in the Vatican. But it had something of a reputational boomerang for the Holy See, with revelations of vendettas, espionage and even ransom payments to Islamic militants.

The secretariat of state, for example, sought damages to fund a marketing campaign to try to repair the reputational harm it says it incurred. Even the Vatican communications department said the trial itself had been a "stress test" for the legal system.

Much of the London case rested on the passage of the property from one London broker to another in late 2018. Prosecutors allege the second broker, Gianluigi Torzi, hoodwinked the Vatican by maneuvering to secure full control of the building that he relinquished only when the Vatican paid him off 15 million euros.

For Vatican prosecutors, that amounted to extortion. For the defense and a British judge who rejected Vatican requests to seize Torzi's assets it was a negotiated exit from a legally binding contract.

In the end, the tribunal convicted Torzi of several charges, including extortion, and sentenced him to six years in prison.

It wasn't clear where the suspects would serve their time. The Vatican has a jail, but Torzi's whereabouts weren't immediately known.

The original London investigation spawned two other tangents that involved the star defendant, Becciu, once one of Francis' top advisers and himself considered a papal contender.

Prosecutors accused Becciu of embezzlement for sending 125,000 euros in Vatican money to a Sardinian charity run by his brother. Becciu argued that the local bishop requested the money to build a bakery to employ at-risk youths and that the money remained in the diocesan coffers.

The tribunal acknowledged the charitable ends of the donation but convicted him of embezzlement, given his brother's role.

Becciu was also accused of paying a Sardinian woman, Cecilia Marogna, for her intelligence services. Prosecutors traced some 575,000 euros in wire transfers from the Vatican to a Slovenian front company owned by Marogna and said she used the money to buy luxury goods and fund vacations.

Becciu said he thought the money was going to pay a British security firm to negotiate the release of Gloria Narvaez, a Colombian nun taken hostage by Islamic militants in Mali in 2017.

He said Francis authorised up to 1 million euros to liberate the nun, an astonishing claim that the Vatican was willing to make ransom payment to al-Qaidalinked militants.

The tribunal found both Becciu and Marogna guilty and sentenced Marogna to three years and 9 months in prison.

#### **Congress announces** 'Donate for Desh' crowdfunding campaign from Dec 18, BJP slams it

New Delhi: The Congress on Saturday announced it will launch a nationwide crowdfunding campaign 'Donate for Desh' on December 18 to generate resources for the party ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP hit out at the opposition party, alleging it was another attempt to siphon off public money and enrich the Gandhis" and pointed to the recent record cash seizure during income tax raids against a company linked to a Congress MP.

The Congress said that the campaign will be launched on Monday by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge in Delhi. At a press conference at the

All India Congress Committee headquarters, (AICC) Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal and Treasurer Ajay Maken said Indians above the age of 18 can donate a minimum of Rs 138 or in multiples such as Rs 1,380, Rs 13,800 and so on to the campaign.

Venugopal said the crowd funding initiative was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's historic 'Tilak Swaraj Fund', which was launched more than a hundred years ago in 1920-21.

He said the initiative aims to empower the party in creating an India that is rich in equal resource distribution and opportunities.

The party had launched an 'outreach-cum-crowdfunding' campaign on October 2, 2018, ahead of the last general elections, but the campaign did not gain much momentum on the ground.

Congress sources said the party is cash-strapped and facing a dearth of money to fight "the well-oiled BJP poll machinery". It has alleged that the BJP is garnering a majority of electoral bonds as the scheme is designed to favour the ruling party.

"Our inaugural campaign --'Donate for Behtar Bharat' -commemorates the 138-year journey of the Indian National Congress. Embracing our history, we invite supporters to donate in multiples of Rs 138, symbolising the party's enduring commitment to a better India," Venugopal said.

The Congress said it has created two online channels for the crowdfunding campaign -- a dedicated portal at donateinc.in and the official Congress website at inc.in.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, its national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that those who looted India for 60 years were now seeking donations from the same country.

The Congress has started a 'Donate for Desh' campaign to "deflect public attention from the unparalleled corruption in the party that has once again surfaced following the seizure of a huge amount of cash from its Rajya Sabha MP Dhiraj Sahu", he claimed.

The BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya also slammed the Congress.

"Don't be fooled by the Congress's lofty talk of this crowdsourcing being inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's historic Tilak Swaraj Fund".

They will tarnish both the Mahatma and Tilak. Going by their previous track record, this will turn out to be nothing but another attempt to siphon off public money and enrich the Gandhis," he alleged in a post on X.

"All the hard-earned money people donate, if they do, will go to the Gandhis, who will continue to enjoy the good life. Worse, the move will be reduced to nothing, but another means to solicit dirty money, the kind Congress MP Dhiraj Sahu has been caught with," Malviya alleged and added "Don't Donate for Dynasty'''.

The Income-tax department raids against an Odishabased distillery firm owned by Sahu's family, and some linked entities, ended early Friday, capping ten days of searches and recording the country's "highest-ever" cash haul at Rs 351 crore, official sources had said.

The Congress has distanced itself from the MP, claiming the party has nothing to do with his business.

On Saturday, Venugopal said the crowdfunding campaign will be officially launched by Kharge on December 18 and the donation link will go live at the same time.

#### CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

#### Some More

fear as the government wants to have a lasting peace in the region. "Once there is security and peace, there will be education, roads, health, electricity, economic activities," Swain

He said plans are afoot for breaking the unholy nexus between terrorism and corruption in parts of the system.

Swain presided over a public grievance redressal programme at the Police Headquarters (PHQ) here. This was the fourth event in a series of such programmes launched by the DGP.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the event, Swain said there has been an improvement in the situation on a number of parameters.

"The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said stone pelting is an act of terrorism because here, stone pelting was not always concerned with public services, such as water, electricity, road or bad governance or poor services. It was more about the other thing," he said.

Swain said several aspects of daily lives have eased out in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Students are going to schools, shops are open, tourism is flourishing, there is trade and commerce and industrial activities, which have given a boost to people's income. These are very important aspects of security management. Thirty years of violence will not end abruptly," he added.

To a question on whether the voungsters who used to indulge in stone pelting are visiting his "public darbar" and what has he told them, the DGP said there is a need to teach a lesson to some people to safeguard

the lives of the general public. "We have to check whether he (a stone pelter) is doing anything good now, so that it is mitigating. While we know that he had done something wrong, we check and place everything on record. It is not like we see the face and then decide. We go into details, objectively," he said.

Swain said the police force knows it will not be able to do anything without

the support of people and sought the cooperation of the public.

#### **250-300 Militants**

"We are confident of foiling any infiltration bid," Yadav added.

He said the connect between the security forces and the people of Kashmir has increased over the last few years. "If people cooperate with us, we can take developmental activities forward in a better way," he said

#### **We're Constantly**

leveraging of politico-economic heft and increasing military footprints as well as religious radicalisation as part of proxy-war pursuits.

"Grey Zone pursuits by our adversaries also mandate our attention and response. We already are witness to manifestations of disinformation campaigns, cyber-attacks, selective historical referencing, cartographic manipulation, leveraging politicoeconomic heft and increasing military footprints in our neighbourhood, and fanning religious radicalisation as part of proxy-war pursuits," he said.

The Army chief also observed that security and economic progress share a symbiotic relationship. "A secure environment provides the stability necessary for domestic and foreign investments, fostering economic growth," he said.

General Pande argued that technology has become the new strategic arena of competition and it is being leveraged for the "weaponisation" of a multitude of domains, ranging from information to supply chains.

"Technology, economy and security, in fact, form the strategic triad in the contemporary context," he said.

The Chief of Army Staff also highlighted major challenges facing South

"South Asia is marked by unresolved border disputes, both territorial and maritime, illegal cross-border migration, transnational crimes, terrorism and non-traditional threats, such as illegal and unregulated fishing, piracy and increasing religious

fundamentalism," he said.

"These manifestations, coupled with regional vulnerabilities to climate change-induced disasters, have kept the region in a flux," he added.

General Pande said all these developments are profoundly impacting the security domain and transforming the way nations interact, compete and pursue their interests.

"The Indian Army remains seized with the military implications of these dynamics. Proactive measures, capability enhancement, adaptability and a holistic approach to all aspects that impact or augment security stand mandated," he said.

The Army chief said India's rise in a "non-threatening" manner and as a responsible power stands acknowledged by the global community.

"India's growth in stature brings with it recognition, additional responsibilities, opportunities as well as challenges. As the nation's influence expands, some will question our rise, some will contest it while some will attempt to compete," he said.

"As a nation, we need to ensure that our national interests remain paramount. That mandates us to be a strong nation, to be able to defend our interests in the expanding strategic horizons," General Pande said.

"Our progression towards being a strong nation militarily needs to be achieved by enhancing our defence capability through self-reliance," he noted.

General Pande also asserted that the ability to correctly assess future threats remains pivotal to the country's strategic planning and preparedness.

"As guardians of the nation's security, we are constantly seized with contemporary threats," he said.

The Army chief also flagged concerns over the increasing weaponisation of space as well as challenges in the cyber domain. "The cyber domain has its own

myriad manifestations. The CERT-In annual report of 2022 records almost 14 lakh cases of website intrusion,

malware propagation, malicious code, phishing, distributed denial of service attacks, ransomware attacks and data-breach attempts in one year," he

The CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to cyber security.

#### **Snowfall In**

influence, light rain or snow is expected at a few places, especially in the higher reaches.

The meteorological department said there would be an improvement in the minimum temperatures due to the feeble western disturbance till Sunday, after which the night temperatures are again likely to fall by oneto-three notches.

#### **Snowfall Blocks**

DySP PC Surankote Hamid Ali Bandey confirmed to GNS the closure of the road.

Earlier this year, the road, considered as alternative to Jammu-Srinagar Highway, was closed on several occasions due to snowfall, particularly in 'Pir KiGali' and its adjoining areas.

#### **Kashmiri Man**

has married at least 6-7 women from various parts of India including Kashmir, UP, Maharashtra and Odisha," Pankaj said.

Impersonating a doctor with international degrees, he was also in romantic relationships with a number of women, the police official said.

Pankaj said that it seems that the accused is also wanted by Kashmir Police in connection with a case of cheating and forgery and one non-bailable warrant is pending against him.

He was allegedly in touch with several Pakistani nationals and some suspicious persons in Kerala. To a question, Panjkaj said that the

STF did not find any link of his with ISI. "A joint team of police from Punjab, Kashmir and Odisha will interrogate him," Pankaj said.

**J&K Sees 57%** 

breach of trust, counterfeiting, forgery, cheating and fraud.

Even though the crime branch wing of the Jammu and Kashmir police has launched a major assault on economic offenses, the effort has failed to yield positive results, as indicated by the NCRB data.

An official from the crime branch in Kashmir told Kashmir Observer that the tough actions taken by the police have discouraged "unscrupulous elements" from indulging in such

for handling these crimes, and strong actions are being taken. The public must cooperate with the police to prevent these crimes," the official said. Notably, in 2020, the Union Territory administration ordered the establish-

"We have created a separate wing

ment of an independent Economic Offences Wing (EOW) within the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). Last year, the government designated the offices of six divisions within the Crime Branch Jammu and Kashmir

as Police Stations specifically intended

for the registration and investigation

of various economic offenses, with special attention to cybercrimes. These wings included Special Crime Wing (SCW), Jammu; Special Crime Wing (SCW), Srinagar; Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Jammu; Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Srinagar; Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), Jammu,

for Excellence (CICE). Srinagar. According to the NCRB report, over 62 cases of Criminal Breach of Trust under Sections 406 to 409 of the IPC were registered in 2022.

and Cyber Crime Investigation Centre

Additionally, the report highlighted two cases of counterfeiting and 912 cases related to forgery, cheating, and fraud within the union territory in the same year.

The J&K police carried out investigation in 1,956 pending cases from the preceding year (2021) and over 1044 cases related to the economic offense were disposed-of.

Furthermore, 154 cases of economic

offenses were reopened for investigation by the police, while 129 cases were transferred to other states or agencies during the same period.

The report also mentioned that 192

cases concluded last year due to false final reports.

Moreover, the police resolved 1,044 cases pertaining to economic offenses over the course of the year.

#### **DM Cannot**

making the impugned order of detention unsustainable in law."

The court also directed release of Sanaie from the preventive custody forthwith "provided he is not required in connection with any other case.'

The court also quashed detention order against Ashig Hussain Bhat alias 'Hogard', a resident of Srinagar.

"If we have a look at the grounds of detention, it bears reference to FIR No.95/2021of P/S Harwan," the court said, adding, "It was incumbent upon the respondents to furnish not only the copy of the FIR but also the statements of witnesses recorded during investigation of the said FIR and other material on the basis of which petitioner's involvement in the FIR is shown, which has not been done. Even the copy of the dossier of detention has not been supplied to the petitioner."

#### 4 Cops Injured

He identified the injured cops as Adil Nazir, son of Nazir Ahmad, resident of Hazratbal Srinagar; Mehraj-ud-Din son of Abdul Rashid, resident of Noor Bagh, Sajad Ahmad son of Assadullah of Qazigund and Parvaiz Ahmad son of Abdul Rashid of Anantnag.

"Three of the injured cops have normal injuries while one has a fracture in his right arm", the official said fur-

#### **Unknown Man**

for initial treatment where he was declared brought dead. His body is lying at SDH Bijbehara for identification and other medical formalities.

Meanwhile, police has taken cognizance of accident—(KNO)

PRODUCTIVE TALKS

## **PM Modi Welcomes Oman's Sultan For Comprehensive Dialogue On Bilateral Relations**

**Agenceis** 

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held "productive" talks with Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on Saturday, with a focus on expanding bilateral cooperation in the key areas of security, defence, trade and economy.

The Sultan of Oman arrived in Delhi on a state visit on Friday, in his first trip to India as the top leader of the influential Gulf nation.

'Today is a historic day in India-Oman relations as the Sultan of Oman is on a state visit to India after 26 years. I am sincerely welcoming you on behalf of all the people of India," Modi said in his opening remarks at the delegation-level dialogue.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the two leaders reviewed the bilateral relationship,

covering an array of areas. "The leaders reviewed bilateral relationship covering the areas of political, security, defence, trade, economic, cultural and people to people ties. They also exchanged perspectives on regional and inter-



national issues," Bagchi said on X. It is learnt that the overall situation arising out of the Israel-Hamas

conflict also figured in the talks. In the morning, Sultan bin Tarik was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

"This first state visit of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik to India marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between India and the Sultanate of Oman," the MEA said earlier this

week while announcing the trip. India and the Sultanate of Oman are strategic partners and the bilateral trade and investment relationship between the two countries has been on an upswing in the last few years.

## Iran Waives Visa Requirements For **Indian Citizens, 32 Other Nations**

**Agenceis** 

Tehran: Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami has said the Iranian Cabinet has decided to unilaterally cancel visa requirements for visitors from India. Iran on Wednesday decided to waive visa requirements for 33 countries.

Speaking to reporters after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Zarghami said the decision is aimed at boosting tourism arrivals and attracting more visitors from countries around the world.

He said efforts to boost tourism can neutralize Iranophobia campaigns.

Recently Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam have waived Visa requirements for Visitors from India. India has one of the fastest growing market for Outbound Tourism India with a recent McKinsey analysis showing 13 million outbound Indian tourists in 2022.

The 33 countries approved for Iran's new visa-waiver program are as follows: India, Russian,



United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Seychelles, Indonesia, Darussalam, Japan, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia,

Croatia and Belarus. Earlier, Iran had visa waiver

programs for visitors from Turkiye, Republic of Azerbaijan, Oman, China, Armenia, Lebanon

According to the latest statistics, the number of foreign arrivals in Iran reached 4.4 million during the first eight months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21), an increase of 48.5% compared to the same period last year.

THE 33 COUNTRIES APPROVED FOR IRAN'S NEW VISA-WAIVER PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS: INDIA, RUSSIAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, Bahrain,

Saudi Arabia, Oatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Seychelles, Indonesia, Darussalam, Japan, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Belarus.

## Google's Gemini: is the new AI model really better than ChatGPT?



Agenceis

oogle Deepmind has recently announced Gemini, its new AI model to compete with OpenAl's ChatGPT While both models are examples of "generative AI", which learn to find patterns of input training information to generate new data (pictures, words or other media), ChatGPT is a large language model (LLM) which focuses

on producing text. In the same way that Chat-GPT is a web app for conversations that is based on the neural network know as GPT (trained on huge amounts of text), Google has a conversational web app called Bard which was based on a model called LaMDA (trained on dialogue). But Google is now up-

grading that based on Gemini. What distinguishes Gemini from earlier generative AI models such as LaMDA is that it's a "multi-modal model" This means that it works directly with multiple modes of input and output: as well as supporting text input and output, it supports images, audio and video. Accordingly, a new acronym is emerging: LMM (large multimodal model), not to be confused with LLM.

In September, OpenAI announced a model called GPT-4Vision that can work with images, audio and text as well. However, it is not a fully multimodal model in the way that Gemini promises to be.

For example, while Chat-GPT-4, which is powered by GPT-4V, can work with audio inputs and generate speech outputs, OpenAI has confirmed that this is done by converting speech to text on input using another deep learning model called Whisper. ChatGPT-4 also converts text to speech on output using a different model, meaning that GPT-4V itself is working purely with text.

Likewise, ChatGPT-4 can produce images, but it does so by generating text prompts that are passed to a separate deep learning model called Dall-E 2, which converts text descriptions into images.

In contrast, Google designed Gemini to be "natively multimodal". This means that the core model directly handles a range of input types (audio, images, video and text) and can directly output them too.

The verdict The distinction between these two approaches might seem academic, but it's important. The general conclusion from Google's technical report and other qualitative tests to date is that the current publicly available version of Gemini, called Gemini 1.0 Pro, is not generally as good as GPT-4, and is more similar in its capabilities to GPT 3.5.

Google also announced a more powerful version of Gemini, called Gemini 1.0 Ultra, and presented some results showing that it is more powerful than GPT-4. However, it is difficult to assess this, for two reasons. The first reason is that Google has not released Ultra yet, so results cannot be independently validated at present.

The second reason why it's hard to assess Google's claims is that it chose to release a somewhat deceptive demonstration video, see below. The video shows the Gemini model commenting interactively and fluidly on a live video stream.

However, as initially reported by Bloomberg, the demonstration in the video was not carried out in real time. For example, the model had learned some specific tasks beforehand, such the three cup and ball trick, where Gemini tracks which cup the ball is under. To do this, it had been provided with a sequence of still images in which the presenter's hands are on the cups being swapped.

Promising future Despite these issues, I believe that Gemini and large multimodal models are an extremely exciting step forward for generative AI. That's both because of their future capabilities, and for the competitive landscape of AI tools. As I noted in a previous article, GPT-4 was trained on about 500 billion words - essentially all good-quality, pub-

The performance of deep

learning models is generally driven by increasing model complexity and amount of training data. This has led to the question of how further improvements could be achieved, since we have almost run out of new training data for language models. However, multimodal models open up enormous new reserves of training data - in the form of images, audio and videos.

Als such as Gemini, which can be directly trained on all of this data, are likely to have much greater capabilities going forward. For example, I would expect that models trained on video will develop sophisticated internal representations of what is called "naïve physics". This is the basic understanding humans and animals have about causality, movement, gravity and other physical phenomena.

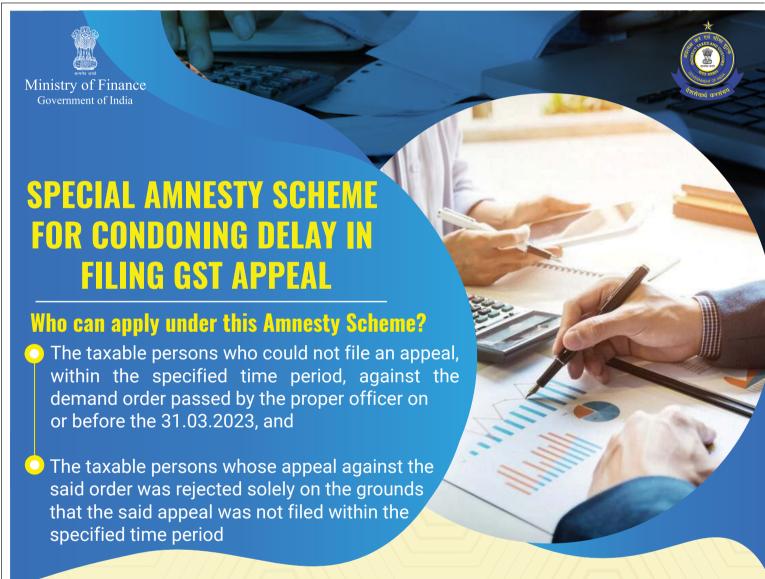
I am also excited about what this means for the competitive landscape of AI. For the past year, despite the emergence of many generative AI models, OpenAl's GPT models have been dominant, demonstrating a level of performance that other models have not been able to approach.

Google's Gemini signals the emergence of a major competitor that will help to drive the field forward. Of course, OpenAI is almost certainly working on GPT-5, and we can expect that it will also be multimodal and will demonstrate remarkable new capabilities.

All that being said, I am keen the see the emergence of very large multimodal models that are open-source and noncommercial, which I hope are on the way in the coming years.

I also like some features of Gemini's implementation. For example, Google has announced a version called Gemini Nano, that is much more lightweight and capable of running directly on mobile phones.

Lightweight models like this reduce the environmental impact of AI computing and have many benefits from a privacy perspective, and I am sure that this development will lead to competitors following suit.



To avail this Amnesty Scheme, you can now file an appeal in Form GST-APL-01 against the said order on or before 31.01.2024, subject to the payment of:

- Admitted liability (tax, interest, fine and penalty) arising out of the impugned order
- A sum equal to 12.5% of the remaining amount of tax in dispute, out of which at least 20% should have been debited from electronic cash ledger

**Please Note** 

- No refund shall be granted on account of this amnesty scheme till the disposal of the appeal
- No appeal under this amnesty scheme shall be admissible in respect of a demand not involving tax

Act without Delay!

Take immediate action to benefit from this golden chance.

For details please refer, Notification No. 53/2023-Central Tax dated 02.11.2023



Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs















cbc15502/13/0023/2324