

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



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 terror financing 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

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

Mughal 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](#)

250-300 Militants Waiting To Infiltrate: BSF

About 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 and would foil any cross-border infiltration attempts. "There are intelligence inputs that 250-300 militants are waiting at launchpads, but we and the Army have dominated all the vulnerable patches and are alert," Inspector General, BSF, Ashok Yadav told reporters in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. He said the brave jawans of the BSF and Army were alert in the border areas and would foil any infiltration attempts. [More on P11](#)

Kashmiri Man Posing As PMO Official, Army Doctor Arrested

Press Trust Of India

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Police Special Task Force (STF) has arrested a Kashmiri man on the charge of cheating people by impersonating a PMO official and an Army doctor.

The 37-year-old man 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.



Following a tip-off, the STF arrested the accused identified as Sayed Ishaan Bukhari alias Ishaan Bukhari alias Dr Ishaan Bukhari in Neulpur village in Jajpur district on Friday. "The accused was 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 Cornell University of USA, Canadian Health Services Institute, and 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](#)

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 (NCRB).

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](#)

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 reiterate 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 Khurshed Ahmad Sanaia 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 detaining authority, thereby [More on P11](#)

SHORT TAKES

8 Mortar Shells Detected In Jammu

Eight 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 Akhnour 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

A 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](#)

Unknown Man Crushed To Death

An 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](#)

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Dated: 16/12/2023
DIPK-13902/23

17 December, 2023

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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

Description: 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 Lakhs.

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



Scholarship Name 2 Corteva Agriscience Scholarship Program 2023-24

Description: 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

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

Scholarship Name 3 Nikon Scholarship Program 2023-24

Description: 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 applications only
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
...Caveators
...Non-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.

nj
Caveator In Person

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

In Caveat No. /2023

IN THE CASE OF:

Asma Tufeeq & Anr
V/s
Public at Large
...Caveator
...Non-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:

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

nj

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: Sonaula bhat
Roll No: 380416
Year & Session: 1995 Sept.



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

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

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 committed 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 Bemina. 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 (Santra 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.

nj

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 mentioned auction notice.

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 mentioned auction notice.

The other terms and conditions shall remain same.

Sd/
(Chairman Auction Committee)
Regional Director,
Department of Social Forestry,
Kashmir.

No: RDK/DSF/Plg/1493-96
DIPK-13887/23
Dated: 16-12-2023

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer Hydraulic Division Uri

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 BQ.

Sr.No	Particulars of the work	Estimated 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)

Critical Dates

i	Publish Date	15/12/2023, 05:00PM
ii	Document download/ sale start date	15/12/2023, 05:00PM
iii	Pre- Bid meeting date	16/12/2023, 10:00AM
iv	Bid submission start date	16/12/2023, 12:00PM
v	Bid submission end date	21/12/2023, 04:00PM
vi	Date and time of bid opening	22/12/2023, 12:00PM

1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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 LI after opening of financial cover.
5. 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 bid shall be declared non-responsive.
6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
7. Queries 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

کشتواری حساندان گو صدم

الہیہ محمد اقبال کشتواری 16 دسمبر 2023 بروز پنجشنبہ وار داعی اجل کو لیک کہ گئیں

ان اللہ وانا الیہ راجعون

مرحومہ کی اجتماعی فاتحہ خوانی آج ہی مقبرہ حضرت شیخ بہاؤ الدین گنج بخش صاحب کشمیری میں بروز منگل وار 19 دسمبر 2023 صبح 11 بجے انجام دی جائے گی۔ (داعی بہاؤ الدین صاحب سر سترگ) بعد از اس مجلس فاتحہ خوانی ہماری رہائش گاہ واقع شاد فیلڈ کالونی 90 فٹ روڈ صورتہ منعقد ہوگی انشاء اللہ

سوگواران
محمد اقبال کشتواری و اہل حسانت

از نیابت گوام احمد پورہ

درخواست از جانب علی محمد صوفی ولد محمد صوفی ساکنہ بلوچن تحصیل پٹن بارہمولہ برادر حوصل D.O.B سرٹیفکٹ پٹن دفتر فاطمہ اترتہ

اشتہار برآمد آگاہی خاص وعام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے نسبت رپورٹ پنجابیت سکری ڈیپارٹمنٹ چوکیدار علاقہ ڈا شامیڈم سے موصول ہوئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ عملہ فیلڈ سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کی دفتر فاطمہ اترتہ کی پیدائش مورخہ 15-10-2011 کو ہوئی ہے اور سائل مذکور نے تاحال کوئی بھی سند D.O.B حاصل نہیں کی ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار منتشر کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکٹ ہو تو دفتر لڈ میں اندر سات یوم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے میں یاد کوئی مذکور یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
fko
نائب تحصیلدار

حاجی عبدالرحیم لون کی پہلی برسی پر خراج عقیدت

18 دسمبر 2022ء ایک سال قبل میرے والد صاحب مرحوم حاجی عبدالرحیم لون ولد محمد اسماعیل لون ساکنہ چمنہ محلہ جھنڈ پٹن سر سترگ اس دن اپنے انتقال کر گئے۔ مرحوم ایک ہمدرد انسان ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ایک سچے انسان تھے۔ ہم اللہ تعالیٰ سے آپ جیسے ہمدرد والد کے لئے جنت الفردوس کے ساتھ ساتھ آپ کی قبر کو نشادہ اور پر نور کرنے کی دعا کرتے ہیں۔

آج ہم ان کی برسی کے موقع پر ان کی محبت اور عقیدت کے پھول تجاویز کرتے ہیں اور تعالیٰ سے دعا کرتے ہیں کہ ہمیں اپنے والد صاحب کے لئے صدقہ جاریہ کے کام کرنے کی توفیق نصیب کرے تاکہ ان کی قبر پر سکون رہے۔

ہم اللہ تعالیٰ سے ہمارے والد صاحب کے لئے مغفرت کا سوال کرتے ہیں۔ مزید آج تک ہمارے خاندان سے جو بھی گزر چکے ہیں خداوند کریم ہمیں ان کی جنت نصیب کریں آمین۔
از طرف: فرزند ان: محمد اسحاق لون، عبدالرحیم لون، بشیر احمد لون

فون نمبر: 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

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 kick-started plantation drive by planting a conifer sapling at Eco-park near Shalimar canal which was organized by Lakes Conservatory 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 Conservatory & 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, entrancing 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 Qureshi, 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.




International Gita Mahotsav 2023

A Great Confluence of Spirituality, Art & Culture

7th to 24th December, 2023 | Kurukshetra, Haryana



Government of Haryana



International Gita Mahotsav Inaugural Ceremony



December 17, 2023

Chief Guest
Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar
Hon'ble Vice President, Bharat

August presence
Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Programme


- Inauguration of the pavilion of Haryana and partner state Assam
- Inauguration of International Gita Seminar

“सभी देशवासियों को गीता जयंती की अनंत शुभकामनाएं। श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता सदियों से मानवता का मार्गदर्शन करती आई है। अध्यात्म और जीवन-दर्शन से जुड़ा यह महान ग्रंथ हर युग में पथ प्रदर्शक बना रहेगा।”

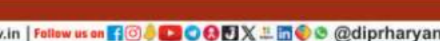
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SAD DEMISE

We announce with profound grief that the beloved mother of Muzaffar Alam, Muhammad Khurshid Alam, Sartaj Alam and late Dr. Shah Nawaz Alam passed away on Saturday, 16th Dec 2023. Her congregational Fateha Khwani shall be observed at 11am Wednesday (20th December 2023) at our ancestral graveyard Maqbara e Mir Sayyed Taaj ud Din Hamadani (r.a) situated near Nowhatta police station.

BEREIVED FAMILY

MUZAFFAR ALAM, MUHAMMAD KHURSHID ALAM, SARTAJ ALAM, MOHSIN ALAM, ABUL ROUF, QAZI SAJAD, SHAKEEL KIRMANI, TAUFEEQ ALI MUGHAL, SHAHID ABBAS MIR besides all relatives and friends

Rsvp. 9906111117 and 9906523774

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: JK01K-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.

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-



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

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

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 snow-bound communities of Marwah, Warwan, and Dachhan during the challenging winter months.

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.

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 "high-level independent commission" for the investigation of recruitment scams.

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

"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 implementation of 33 per cent

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, including 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 to each family be restored.

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

Agencies

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-

quirement of 80 meetings.

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

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 programmes are a must to bring

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 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

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 unites broken hearts—(KNO)

Advisor MoHFW Participates In VBSY At Tulumulla Ganderbal

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Rajiv Wadhawan on Saturday visited Panchayat Tulumulla-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 Commissioner, 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 healthcare initiatives and other flagship schemes under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra. The discussions and interactions held during this visit provided valuable insights into the impact of the ongoing health-

care programs at the grassroots level.

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 and others.

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 programs and services. It also provided an opportunity to identify areas for improvement and innovation in the delivery of healthcare to the citizens of Ganderbal, he added

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 Balidan 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 Independence.

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 Vidyalaya (JNV), Budgam on Saturday organised Alumni Meet 2023.

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

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

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 year.

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 staff.

Judicial Academy Holds 2 Day Workshop At Jammu

Observer News Service

JAMMU: J&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, in 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 judicial officers to take good care of themselves and maintain a good

health as only a healthy mind and a 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. Bournay, Director, J&K Judicial Academy presented the welcome address and gave an overview of the programme. He highlighted

that a judicial officer must maintain 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.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, KASHMIR

Chicken Care in Winter

WINTER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 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 regrowth.
- Nest boxes/coops must be thoroughly cleaned.
- Inspect the nest boxes/ coops for rodent holes and gaps to prevent predators from getting in.
- Regularly check your chickens for any loose droppings, abnormal behaviour, decreased activity, pica etc. and report that to a veterinarian for timely advice.
- 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 / DISPENSARY, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPT
Issued in Public interest by, Extension Officer, Publicity Wing, Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir

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

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.

Farooq 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

The 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 extends 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 once-vibrant 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-

char Lake.

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 year, 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 once-pristine 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 Yatis 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

Globally, governments are grappling with finding the right regulatory framework to govern artificial intelligence (AI). 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.

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,

Regulating AI

A nuanced approach must for using AI for technological advancement while keeping its harmful effects in check.

Financial Express

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

Not Shakespeare, Moliere, 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 '*khele*...*khele*'.

True, in the post-domestication stage,



Illustration credits:
Illustration by Jo Zixuan Zhou for The New Yorker

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 their 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. Wow!

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 human).

Many years back a Columnist had written " *agar illaqay kay doctors inka health checkup kerkey* export trade to Nagaland ki possibility explore kertay this readily-available-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-knowing-writer 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 UT".

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 Columnist

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 possess 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 ruminant 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.

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

More 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

“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 1 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)

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 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 list of the candidates for each ward was made accordingly as per H.R. policy for Sahayakas (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 where applications for engagement of Sahayakas (AWH) were received. Annexure "A"

(Annexure-A)

Merit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Municipal Ward (05) Bandipora (Sheikh Mohalla) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWH)

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualifications	Date of Birth	Marks Obtained	Percentage/weightage
1	Shaziya Bashir	W/o.Mohd Yaseen Sheikh	Sheikh Mohalla Ward No.05	10th Pass	21.03.2003	305/500	61.40
2	Rubby Rehman	W/o Sheikh Showket Ahmad	Sheikh Mohalla Ward No.05	10th Pass	01.03.1997	194/500	38.80

Merit Penal of Candidates of Muncipal Ward No.10 (Bagh) Bandipora for the Post of Sahayakas (AWH)

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks/obtained	Percentage /weightage
1	Seerat Bashir	D/o.Bashir Ahmad Beigh	Ward No.10	10th Pass	13.08.2002	330/500	66.00
2	Shafeena	W/o.Asif Hussian Wani	Ward No.10	9th Pass	05.04.200	533/1100	48.45

Merit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Quil Ward No.05 (Chopan Mohalla) for the Post of Sahayakas .

S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward/No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
1	Adfarah Ali	W/o.Shahnawaz Chopan	Chopan Mohalla Quil Ward No.05	10th Pass	17.03.1998	234/500	44.80

Merit 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	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
01	Asiya 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

Merit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Garoora-B (Galkul) Ward No.(07) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWHs)

S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
1	Zeenat Akther	W/o.Ab.Hamid Mir	Galkul Garoora Ward No.07	10th Pass	01.04.1991	199/500	39.80

Merit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Kudara (Dravipati) Ward No.(07) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWHs)

S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
1	Razeena Begum	W/o.Ishtiyag Ahmad Paswal	Dravipati Kudara Ward No.(07)	10th Pass	18.12.1998	288/500	57.60

Merit 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 No	Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
1	Mubeena Bano	D/o.Mohammad Isreial Turk	Monikhah Ward No.04	10th Pass	27.01.2002	10th Pass	36.40

Merit Penal of Candidates of Panchayat Halqa Nadihal-B (Kulhama) Ward No.(01) for the Post of Sahayakas (AWHs)

S.No	Name of Candiate	Parentage/W/o	Location of AWC Ward/Qualification	Date of Birth	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight	
1	Shameema Nabi	D/o.Irshad Ahmad Panchoo	Kulhama Ward No.01	10th Pass	13.06.1998	10th Pass	46.60

Merit 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	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
1	Urooj 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 Begum	W/o.Mubarakh Ahmad	Shockbaba-B ward No.05	10th Pass	20.10.1994	313/1000	31.30

Merit 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	Marks obtained in 10th class	Percentage/Weight
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 Chopan	Chattibandy-C Ward No.03	10th Pass	23.03.2001	195/500	39.00

ANNEXURE "B" Tentative Selection List of Sahayakas (AWHs)

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/W/o	Name of Panchayat/Halqa/Municipal ward	Location of AWC Ward No	Qualifications	Date of Birth	Marks Obtained	Percentage /weightage
1	Shaziya	W/o.Mohd Yaseen Sheikh	Halqa/Municipal 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	Adfarah 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	Chattibandy-C	Chopan Mohalla ward No.03	10th Pass	01.04.2001	198/500	39.60
5	Urooj 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 Panchoo	Nadihal-B	Kulhama	10th Pass	13.05.1998	233/500	46.60
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.Ishtiyag 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
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)

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 Gnorehere 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 16 points.

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

Birmingham Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Sonal Pa-

tel 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 194.7.

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

Agencies

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 preparation 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

Agencies

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 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 World Cup.

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.

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 markets 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 Turkey, Republic of Azerbaijan, Oman, China, Armenia, Lebanon and Syria.

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, 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.

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



Agenceis

Google Deepmind has recently announced Gemini, its new AI model to compete with OpenAI'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 ChatGPT 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 upgrading 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 ChatGPT-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 as 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, publicly available text.

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.

As 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 "naive 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, OpenAI'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 to see the emergence of very large multimodal models that are open-source and non-commercial, 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.

Ministry of Finance
Government of India

SPECIAL AMNESTY SCHEME FOR CONDONING DELAY IN FILING GST APPEAL

Who can apply under this Amnesty Scheme?

- The taxable persons who could not file an appeal, within the specified time period, against the demand order passed by the proper officer on or before the 31.03.2023, and
- The taxable persons whose appeal against the said order was rejected solely on the grounds that the said appeal was not filed within the specified time period

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

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Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

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