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Gulmarg 'Sold Out' As Tourists Throng Kashmir For Christmas, New Year

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Tourists are heading to Kashmir in droves to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year, with hotels at destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam in the valley sold out in anticipation of snowfall.

Officials said tourists are making a beeline to Kashmir, especially to the famous ski resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, and Pahalgam, in south



Kashmir's Anantnag. Describing it as a positive indication, Tourism Secretary Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said he was confident that the winter months would be successful for Kashmir's tourism.

"The way the numbers and trends are coming, with both domestic as well as foreign tourists, my expectation is that the winters will be a grand success. Destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam are already sold out. Gulmarg is totally sold out

for Christmas and New Year's Eve. This is a very positive indication," he said.

Gulmarg, the tourist destination at an altitude of 8,000 feet, 50 km north of summer capital Srinagar, is also known as the 'Switzerland of Asia'.

Shah said warm hospitality of the people of Kashmir and all the stakeholders have played an important role in re-viving tourism.

The tourism department has lined up various activities

to enrich the experience of New Year revellers as a number of programmes have been planned for the New Year's Eve, including a musical evening, a firecracker show, night skiing, and torch skiing.

Asif Burza, a young hotelier who is the managing director of Ahad Hotels and Resorts a chain of hotels across various destinations in the valley - said the recent snowfall has increased tourist influx to Kashmir.

Srinagar Colder Than Gulmarg

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: There was a slight improvement in the minimum temperature across Kashmir on Friday -- the second day of the Valley's harshest winter period 'Chilla-i-Kalan' -- providing relief to the residents from the intense cold, officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.3 degrees Celsius on Wednesday night, a notch up from the previous night, they said.

Pahalgam recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, also a notch up from the previous night, they said.

Terrorism On Its Death Bed In Kashmir: LG

Says Security Situation Improved Post Article 370 Abrogation

Press Trust Of India

Kolkata: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that the security situation in the union territory has significantly improved following the abrogation of Article 370, asserting that terrorism is on its deathbed in the valley.

In response to the "unfortunate" terrorist attack on an army convoy in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, resulting in the death of five soldiers and injuries to two, Sinha expressed his condemnation.

He attributed attempts to disrupt peace in the valley to "our neighbour," a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Sinha emphasised, "It is a very unfortunate and sad incident. We condemn such violence. Our neighbour has been doing such things to disturb the peace in the valley. But it's



all in vain, as terrorism is on its deathbed in Kashmir."

Addressing reporters at a programme organised by the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce in Kolkata, Sinha further remarked, "The security situation

has improved to a large extent than what it was earlier, after the abrogation of Article 370."

Responding to queries from chamber members, Sinha compared the security situation in Kashmir to that in Bengal,

6 WE DECIDED TO IMPROVE THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM. There are immense opportunities in the UT, like in the horticulture sector. I want to ensure that after 2019, J&K is emerging as a peaceful and corruption-free region. There had been a record number of tourist arrivals in the UT last year."

stating, "The security situation in Kashmir is better than that in Bengal. Please visit the state, and you will see the difference."

Later, when questioned by reporters about the comment, Sinha clarified, "My remarks should not be twisted politically, as I meant to say that the security situation in Kashmir is as good as in Bengal." | More on P6

Solutions To All Problems Of Society In Gita: HM



Press Trust Of India

Kurukshetra: The solutions to society's problems are in the Bhagavad Gita and its message should reach every corner of the country and the world, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

He was addressing a gathering at the Sant Sammelan after visiting the International Gita Festival here in Haryana.

The home minister said after 75 years of independence, many seers and mahatmas have revived the knowledge of the Bhagavad Gita. "I have met many scholars around the world, and all believe that solutions to all the problems of the whole world lie in the Gita's message," he said. "We are sitting here on the holy land of Kurukshetra. More than 5,000 years ago, Lord Krishna also gave the message of the Gita to Arjun," Shah said, referring to the

Mahabharata.

Solutions to problems of people and society as well as the nation and the world lie in the message of the Gita, he said.

The minister said that in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had expressed his desire to hold the Gita festival, and since 2016, this festival is being organised at an international level. Assam is the partner state of the festival this year, he said.

The message of the Gita should reach every corner of the country and the world, Shah said and added that for the past seven years, the festival is being successfully organised.

The BJP comes out with its poll manifesto with the belief that the country's great culture should always be taken forward, he said. Policies were decided by keeping the country's great culture as a guide, Shah said.

He also spoke about the scrapping of Article 370 and said its | More on P6

The ski resort of Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius, an improvement of two degrees from the previous night, the officials said. The resort was the warmest place in the Kashmir valley -- warmer than even the Srinagar city.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, the Kokernag town saw the mercury settle at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius and Kupwara recorded the minimum of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius.

The intense cold conditions have resulted in the freezing of many slow-moving water bodies. It has also resulted in the freezing of water supply lines in some areas. The cold conditions have forced people in the valley to put on extra layers of clothes to stay warm.

With electricity supply erratic in many areas of Kashmir, people are using Kangri, an earthen firepot. | More on P6

Teen Killed In Mortar Shell Blast

Agencies

Jammu: A teenager was killed and another injured on Friday when a mortar shell exploded in Samba district of Jammu division. 19-year-old Pawan Singh of village Chandli was killed while another youth Koshan Singh sustained splinter injuries when a mortar shell they were reportedly fiddling with, exploded in the forest area of village Chandli in the jurisdiction of police post Goran in Samba on Friday evening, reports said. Roshan, who sustained serious injuries in the explosion, was removed to the government medical college (GMC) Jammu for treatment.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigation in this regard. (GNS)

Poonch Attack: Choppers, Sniffer Dogs Hunting For Terrorists

Security forces Friday launched a massive cordon and search operation in the forest area of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district and a National Investigation Agency team also visited there, a day after five army personnel were killed and two others injured in a terrorist attack. The General officer Commanding (GoC), XVI corps, Lt Gen Sandeep Jain visited Ground Zero and reviewed the situation with top army and police officers, officials said. "Indian Army and White knight Corps salutes the bravery and supreme sacrifice of four soldiers in Surankote on yesterday while fighting the scourge of | More on P6

FFRC Asks Private Schools 'Don't Charge Admission Fee In Violation Of Statute'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The committee for fixation and regulation of fee of private schools (FFRC) on Friday cautioned school administrators not to charge admission fee during the ongoing admission process in Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the established statute.

In a circular issued Friday, the FFRC Chairperson Justice Sunil Hali said that complaints are pouring in that the private schools are charging admission fee in violation of statute, as the admission process for new academic session has either commenced or is about to commence in private schools of J&K.

He said that it is also being alleged that the majority of schools are taking the money in cash and not providing receipt against the amount charged.

Referring to the Section 20E (1) of Jammu and Kashmir School Education Act 2002 amended from time to time,



Justice Sunil Hali said that the private schools shall not charge any fee from the students or guardians, except tuition fee, annual fee, transport fee and voluntary special purpose fee such as the picnic, tour and excursions, etc. completely voluntary in nature or any other fee as may be approved by the FFRC after following the procedure prescribed.

"Provided that private schools shall not charge in any manner, any other fee including admission fee or any amount, by whatever name called than the fee mentioned above." | More on P6

HC Grants Compensation For Land After 54 Yrs

Says Right To Property Legal Though Ceases To Be Fundamental In J&K: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday said that right to property continues to be legal and constitutional right even as the same has ceased to a fundamental right after abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Dhar made the observation while allowing a petition, seeking compensation for land measuring two kanals and 16 marlas at Parimpora Srinagar which had been taken by the Irrigation Department way back in the year 1969.

"It is to be noted that right to property was a fundamental right in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir prior to abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India, as such,

it cannot be stated that the petitioners have waived their right to property in favour of the respondents," the court said, adding, "At present, the right to property may not be a fundamental right, but it is certainly a Constitutional right guaranteed under Article 300A of the Constitution of India, which provides that no person can be deprived of his property save by authority of law. The right to property is a human right as well as a Constitutional right."

Thus, the court said, even if the right to property has ceased to be a fundamental right in this part of the Country, still then it continues to be a legal and constitutional right and "no person can be deprived of his property except by authority of law."

"Denial of this right to a person constitutes | More on P6

'If The Oxygen Machine Goes Off, He Will Die'

Power Cuts In Kashmir Risk Lives Of COPD Patients

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Frequent disruptions in the power supply in Kashmir valley have posed a substantial risk to the lives of patients reliant on life support systems. Patients, particularly those with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) find themselves struggling for oxygen during prolonged power outages.

In Srinagar's Alamgari Bazar, 85-year-old Ghulam Muhammad Mir lies in his bed wearing a snug oxygen mask—a lifeline in his battle against persistent respiratory challenges. Ghulam has COPD and asthma that makes him dependent on artificial oxygen to breathe.

Sami Mir, his son, a Kashmiri



businessman based in Chennai, had cut his trip to take care of his ailing father in Srinagar. However, the power situation in Kashmir has greatly affected his morale.

"My father has COPD, and his lungs are damaged. I cannot afford to sleep; I stay awake all night to check if the electricity is out,"

Sami said, adding, "If the oxygen machine goes off, he will die."

"Kashmir is not the only place which is cold in winter, there are other places in India which remain cold but why is Kashmir facing an electricity crisis like this?" Sami questioned the government.

Sami emphasized | More on P6

SHORT TAKES

Man Found Dead In Sopore

A man allegedly hanged himself to death in Sopore town of North Kashmir's Baramulla district, sources said. The 30-year-old man was found hanging inside his home in Hygam village of Sopore on early Friday morning, reports said. The body was recovered by a police team and taken to Sub-district hospital (SDH) Sopore for carrying out medico-legal formalities | More on P6

Himachal Cops Arrest Man From Jammu

The Hamirpur Police have arrested proclaimed offender Saherajuddin from Gulshannagar in Jammu, they said on Friday. Saherajuddin, a resident of Doda district's Gundakhara village, was wanted in a theft case registered against him under section 380 of the IPC at the Sadar Hamirpur Police Station in January, 2016. He was declared proclaimed offender by a | More on P6

Peddler Booked Under PIT NDPS Act

Jammu and Kashmir Police in Baramulla have booked a wanted drug peddler Shoab Aijaz Guru under stringent PIT NDPS Act. "Acting tough against drug peddlers and to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police booked the most wanted and notorious drug smugglers under PIT NDPS Act in Baramulla and lodged him in Central Jail Kot-Bhalwal | More on P6

Karnataka To Withdraw Hijab Ban

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said the restrictions on wearing hijab (head scarf) in educational institutions in the state will be lifted from December 23 and observed that choice of dress and food is personal. Speaking at the inauguration of three police stations in Nanjangud in Mysuru district, the Chief Minister said no one | More on P6

India Logs 640 Covid Cases

India on Friday recorded 640 fresh COVID-19 infections while the number of active cases climbed to 2,997 from 2,669 the day before, according to Union health ministry data. The country's COVID-19 tally now stands at 4.50 crore (4,50,07,212). The death toll climbed to 5,33,328 with one more fatality reported from Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated. | More on P6

ADGP Kumar Gets Add'l Charge of Dir ACB

Additional Director General Police (Law & Order) Vijay Kumar was given the additional charge of Director, Anti-corruption Bureau Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. The Government has relieved Anand Jain of the additional charges of ACB, to give it to Vijay Kumar. "In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Shri Vijay Kumar, IPS (RR-97), | More on P6



Friday Prayers Allowed At Jamia Masjid After 10 Weeks

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Congregational prayers were allowed at the historic Jamia Masjid here on Friday after remaining barred for 10 consecutive weeks, officials said.

However, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who delivers the Friday sermons at the grand mosque, was not allowed to move out of his residence in the Nigeen area of the city.

JKPCC Protest In Srinagar Against Suspension Of MPs

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The workers of Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Friday staged a silent protest against the suspension of Members of Parliament (MPs) here in Srinagar.

The protesting workers expressed their dismay and termed it a regrettable and unprecedented act within the parliament. Speaking to the media persons, the protesting JKPCC workers said that the suspension of MPs in parliament is very unfortunate.



Devotees burst firecrackers on the annual Urs of Sufi Siant Abdul Rheman Manak Shah at Rainawari area in the cold city on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Union Minister Gadkari Approves Parimpora-Shalteng Flyover

LG Thanks PM Modi, Union Minister

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major development, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has given a green signal for the construction of Parimpora-Shalteng Flyover.

The Parimpora-Shalteng road is the place which joins major roads with Srinagar city, such as Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara and other places, enhancing transportation infrastructure in Srinagar.

Local authorities and stakeholders have expressed optimism regarding the positive impact of the Parimpora-Shalteng Flyover, anticipating its role in transforming the commuting experience for the populace.

The approval comes as a crucial step towards mitigating the persistent traffic congestion issues in the area.

The upcoming flyover project, as per available details, is aimed at providing a strategic solution to the mounting traffic snarls experienced by commuters traversing Parimpora-Shalteng corridor.

Further, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha hailed the Union government's approval for the construction of the flyover. Sinha in a post on X, said that the project will boost connectivity to Sonamarg & approval to vital Parimpora-Shalteng flyover will ease traffic congestion and make travel smoother for people of north Kashmir.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore. Sub: Extension of e-tenders. Ref: This office E-NIT No. PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-76 of 2023-24, S. No. 03 and 05.

Court Of The 2nd Additional Munsiff At Srinagar (PROCLAMATION REQUIRING OBJECTIONS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC) CNR: JKS602-005598-2023 Date of filing: 19.12.2023 Date of Order: 20.12.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE I have lost the RC of my scooter bearing number JK01AL-4419. Now want to apply for duplicate if anybody have any objection may contact the RTO Srinagar within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کبری اکتھڑہ درخواست منجانب شہینہ شریف دختر محمد شریف شاہ ساکنہ پورہ تحصیل کبری برادری حصول SC سرٹیفیکٹ بحق دختر نرسٹ نثار و پسر عبدالحق اشہتہار مراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام

Office Of The Child Development Project Officer Poshan Khovripora. TENTATIVE MERIT LIST OF CANDIDATES WHO APPLIED FOR THE POST OF SANGNIS (WORKERS) IN RESPONSE TO Advertised NoticeNo.- 02 of 2023 dated 09-08-2023

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883 PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

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

PRAYERS FAJR 6:03 ZUHR 12:28 ASR 3:49 Magrib 5:30 ISHA 6:55

This Day In History

- 962 - Byzantine-Arab Wars: Under the future Emperor Nicephorus Phocas, Byzantine troops stormed city of Aleppo, recovering the tattered tunic of John the Baptist. 1482 - The Peace of Atrecht (now Arras) concluded between Louis XI of France and Maximilian of Austria, ending the War of the Burgundian Succession.

Can Coaching Centres Really Replace Schools?

Ummar Jamal

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Parents should understand the coaching centers can't be an alternative to schools. Government invests lots of resources to run these government schools. Parents rather than blaming the lack of quality education; which compels them to take extra help for their wards in form of coaching centers, should rather channelize their energies in holding government school teachers and administration therein to account

In the not-so-distant past, seeking tuition was a recourse primarily for academically challenged students. Those grappling with certain subjects sought extra help to bridge their knowledge gaps. However, that era has faded into the background as coaching centres have surged in popularity, particularly among 11th and 12th-grade students.

Valley has witnessed a surge in the establishment coaching centres in recent years, creating an educational landscape that caters not only to students from classes 9th to 12th but also thousands aspirants gearing up for national-level competitive exams such as NEET and JEE. While these coaching centres have become a refuge for students seeking additional support, this trend, however, comes with its own set of concerns.

One of the most evident consequences of the coaching center boom is the decline in regular school attendance, particularly among students in higher grades. Parents, lured by the promises of specialized coaching and individual attention, are opting to enroll their children in these centers, sidelining the importance of traditional schooling. The result is a growing number of empty seats in classrooms, as students split their time between school and private coaching, sometimes prioritizing the latter.

This shift in focus has broader implications for society. Schools, as pillars of social development, not only impart academic knowledge but also play a crucial role in fostering social skills, teamwork, and character development. The diminishing attendance in schools jeopardizes the holistic growth of students, as they miss out on the diverse experiences and interactions that are integral to their overall development.

Moreover, the menace of private coaching centers extends beyond the confines of educational spaces. The exorbitant fees charged by these centers contribute to educational inequality, widening the gap between those who can afford private coaching and those who cannot. This socioeconomic disparity undermines the foundational principle of equal access to education, perpetuating an uneven playing field that can have long-term societal repercussions.

The establishment of private coaching centers often hinges on the pursuit of profit maximization, turning education into a commodity accessible only to those with the means to pay. The underlying principle is straightforward – entry is contingent on one's financial capacity, negating the concept of education as a universal right. This profit-driven approach perpetuates a stark divide between affluent and underprivileged students, with many unable to afford the exorbitant fees and associated expenses of these institutions.

In the valley Government schools exist everywhere, the paradox of private coaching centers witnessing a surge in enrollment numbers raises pertinent questions about the shortcomings of government schools. While various factors may contribute to this trend, a prominent one is the inefficiency of the public education system. The widespread acceptance of private players charging steep fees suggests a lack of confidence in the ability of government institutions to provide quality education.

As these centers flourish, the question arises – can coaching centers be suppressed without addressing the root cause, the state of government schools? The answer seems to be a resounding no. The proli-



Photo for representational purposes only

eration of coaching centers can be seen as a necessary evil for parents seeking quality education in the absence of an effective public education system.

The current state of the education department, described by some as a flop-show, necessitates a shift in focus. Rather than merely scrutinizing private coaching centers, the authorities should undertake a thorough introspection. The emphasis should be on revitalizing defunct schools, elevating them to the standards set by these coaching abodes. This introspective approach is crucial for addressing the root causes of the rise of private coaching centers and ensuring that the education system as a whole meets the needs of students.

Acknowledging our collective responsibility for the rise of private players in education, it becomes imperative to address the underlying issues within the Government schools. To counter this unfortunate trend, the restoration and strengthening of trust in government institutions should be a priority.

Parents should understand the coaching centers can't be alternative to schools. Government invests lots of resources to run these government schools. Parents rather than blaming the lack of quality education; which compels them to take extra help for their wards in form of coaching centers, should rather channelize their energies in holding government school teachers and administration therein to account. Instead of spending thousand of rupees in private coaching they should put some endeavors to caution the government schools teachers that there is need to enhance the quality of education by visiting them often. Because most of times the teachers who is supposed to teach students free in school during working hours charges thousands of rupees to teach the same when he teacher at home or in coach-

ing centers.

Additionally, creating an environment that instills contentment and pride in enrolling children in government schools is paramount. This requires a concerted effort to bridge the gaps in the system, fostering an atmosphere where public education is not only accessible but also held in high regard. Ultimately, the challenge lies in transforming the narrative from one of privatization driven by profit to a renewed commitment to public education, where every child, regardless of socioeconomic status, can access quality learning opportunities.

While the trend of private coaching institutions can't be scotched in a day, it remains a reality that these private coaching institutes charge exorbitant fees due to the absence of a proper mechanism to regulate fee structures in private coaching centers. This underscores the need for a transparent and effective regulatory framework to ensure fair pricing and affordability for students seeking additional educational support. While regulating the fee structure for students in private coaching centers is crucial at this juncture, it is equally important to concurrently invest in the rejuvenation of government schools. By fixing of the fee at coaching centers, authorities can create an environment where private coaching centers serve as supplementary rather than essential, ensuring a balanced and fair educational ecosystem in the Valley.

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

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2023: A huge year for private space companies

Dr Srimathy Kesan

India's space sector has witnessed a remarkable evolution in recent years, particularly in the domain of space startups. From a single entity in 2014, the number of space startups in India has surged to an impressive 189 in 2023. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh disclosed that these startups have garnered a substantial investment of USD 124.7 million, highlighting the dynamic growth and potential of the country's space industry.

The Indian government has played a pivotal role in fostering this growth, exemplified by the introduction of the Indian Space Policy 2023. This policy is designed to encourage the extensive participation of non-governmental entities (NGEs) in all facets of space activities, driven by sector incentives and transformative reforms. The move towards increased privatization in the space sector has been a crucial factor in attracting investment and stimulating innovation.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been a key player, having launched over 430 foreign satellites. The earnings from European satellites exceed 290 million euros, while revenue from American satellites surpasses USD 170 million. These international collaborations underscore India's credibility in the global space community.

Private investment in Indian space startups has been substantial, with over Rs 1,000 crores pouring in since April of the current year. Union Minister Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that India has the potential to achieve a USD 100 billion space economy by 2040. A significant endorsement of this potential came when Alphabet, Google's parent company, invested USD 36 million in Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based space startup. This marked a watershed moment, being the first major investment in the Indian space sector post the

privatization policy implemented in April.

The Indian Space Policy 2023 has been a catalyst for the growth of the private space industry, turning it into an attractive investment option for both domestic and international investors. Companies like Skyroot Aerospace, SatSure, Dhruva, and Bellatrix are emerging as significant players, aspiring to become the Indian counterparts of renowned global space companies like SpaceX.

The recent achievement of Skyroot Aerospace in securing USD 27.5 million in a pre-Series C funding round reflects the confidence investors have in the sector. This funding will be instrumental in building infrastructure, advancing technology, attracting talent, and enhancing launch capabilities. Similarly, Chennai-based space startup Agnikul Cosmos secured an additional USD26.7 million in funding, underscoring the continued investor interest and confidence in the Indian space industry.

Digantara, founded four years ago, has raised a total of USD12.5 million, encompassing previous funding rounds such as the seed round, which secured USD2.5 million from Kalaari Capital in 2021. The recent infusion of 10 million is expected to propel Digantara into the forefront of space technology, particularly in the realm of space situational awareness.

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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been a key player, having launched over 430 foreign satellites. The earnings from European satellites exceed 290 million euros, while revenue from American satellites surpasses USD 170 million

This adds another feather to India's cap in its journey toward becoming a formidable player in the global space industry. As the space sector in

the country experiences an unprecedented surge in investment and innovation, start-up's success stories further contribute to the narrative of India emerging as a key contender in space technology and satellite management.

Several factors contribute to India's journey towards becoming a space powerhouse, including the recent Chandrayaan-3 launch by ISRO, the projected USD 1 trillion global space market by 2040, and the emerging potential of space tourism. Key recommendations for sustained growth include regulatory clarity, foreign investments, incentives, startup support, partnerships, research and development (R&D) centers, and skill development initiatives. As India continues to make strides in its space odyssey, these developments position the country as a key player in the global space arena.

AzaadiSAT, a pioneering satellite mission by Space Kidz India, signifies a groundbreaking initiative to empower economically disadvantaged government school girls in India. Launched to commemorate the 75th anniversary of independence, AzaadiSAT involves 750 girls from 75 rural schools across India (Kashmir – Kanyakumari). The project aims to impart fundamental space knowledge, offering hands-on experiences in satellite technology. Despite an initial setback, the project's resilience led to the successful launch of AzaadiSAT 2 on February 10, 2023, through SSLV-D2. This unprecedented venture not only fosters scientific curiosity but also promotes gender inclusivity in STEM, aligning with the UN's "Women in Space" theme.

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

Plight of Our Aged Fathers

Mushtaq Hurra

Though a mother cradles progeny in her sweet lap and suckles the marrow of her bones, it is a father who squeezes the nectar of his muscles to fuel the engine of his child, so that he/she can propel the wagon of life smoothly. If the mother holds the paradise under her feet, then it is the father who is the door of the paradise. If the mother is an epitome of love and sympathy, then the father is the treasure house of strength and courage. If the mother lactates us with the comeliness of her face, then it is the father who makes us drink the blood of his veins.

If the mother teaches us to walk, it is the father who first carries us on his shoulders, then strengthens our legs to gallop on the path of life. The mother brings us into the beautiful world of Allah SWT, but it is the father who enables us to explore the hidden corners of the world. The mother bakes rotis for us, but it is the father who grinds the flour in his mill of determination which runs on his red blood cells. The mother experiences the pangs of labour pain which is undoubtedly the severest pain in the world, but the father bears the gnaws of poverty which are even more prickly than the labour pain. If the mother is the home minister of a family, then the father is the defence minister of the family.

Mucky clothes and grubby hair, concretizes the fact that fathers straggle their own dreams and desires for the joys of their children. Raising a progeny eats up the youth of a father. He loses the sheen and masculinity to hard work, labour, drudgery and burden. He trades his precious possessions to buy comforts and pleasures for his children. He gives up living for his own, rather sees life through the prism of his children. He stops wearing branded outfits for the sake of his children.

He sacrifices his aspirations and longings for the safe future of his children. Pungent smell of sweat of an honest and toiling father is holier than the musk of a deer. He even barter his faith to make every comfort of life accessible to his children. Many fathers miss their meals to arrange delicious foods and cuisines for their children.

And ironically, we have begun to maltreat these godly figures. We have very proudly constructed old-age homes for them. Our conscience is dead. We have left our benefactors at the mercy of God. We have crossed the frontiers of humanity to dip into the ocean of opprobrium. We have deprived our fathers of their genuine rights, albeit a few instances where obedient and virtuous children treat their old parents as their masters. They feel alienated in their own houses which have been erected on their blood and sweat. Their roles in decision making have been reduced to a minimal level. They are hardly taken into consideration for different household matters. Even many fathers hesitantly beg before their children for a few bucks to fulfil their basic needs. A monarch of yesterday is a scrounger of today. We have confined space for our fathers



6 THE PLIGHT OF OUR FATHERS IS SOMEWHAT THE SAME. WE HAVE BEGUN TO HUMILIATE AND DEMEAN THEM. Curse of the heavens is about to entrap us. If the tradition is not brought to an end, then our fate is not going to be any different

in their own dens where bricks and mortar bear witness to their solitary ownership. Cursed and ill-fated are those who weigh their parents lightly, during their old-age days. Allah SWT and the beloved prophet Muhammad SAW have advised us to

be kind and compassionate to our parents.

Once a young sahabi requested prophet Muhammad SAW to reprimand his father for spend-thrifting his wealth. The sahabi said, "O Allah's prophet (SAW), my father spends

my wealth without my permission. Kindly take him to task for consuming my precious possessions so ruthlessly." The holy prophet (SAW) at once sent for him. The elderly father of the young sahabi came hurriedly at the call of the holy prophet (SAW).

Before the prophet (SAW) could ask him anything, the angel Gabriel (AS) came in and greeted the Allah's apostle, and said, "O beloved prophet (SAW), Allah (SWT) wants you to ask the old man to recite the poem he was mumbling while he was on way to your home. The prophet of mercy and compassion said, "Would you recite those lines loudly here which you sang sneakily, a few moments ago." Tears rolled down the face of the old man, and he cried out deplorably, "O beloved prophet (SAW) of Allah SWT, I bear witness to your prophet hood and the dominant hegemony of Allah SWT. I had silently and secretly mumbled a poem of complaint against my son to register my protest, but your Allah SWT has heard my silent cries. Let me recite it loudly before you."

The old man then lamentably exclaimed (Sum and substance of those Arabic couplets), "My dear son, I gave up living for myself when I begot you. A new journey of my life dawned at the horizon of my sky with your arrival. I fought boldly with harsh heat waves of life, to let you take rest under calm shades. I worked hard during chilly nights, to protect you from the frosty winds. I toiled hard like a miller's ox, to fuel your bones with the blood and sweat of my youthful days. I grew older, you grew younger. My back bowed down, your back straightened up. My legs lost their flesh and vigour, your legs became stout and sturdy. My hands began to shiver, your hands became brawny. I began to dwindle, you started flourishing. And then... I thought... As I have suffered and struggled for your comforts and sustenance, you too will reciprocate, to become the walking stick of my cruel days. When my sturdy legs refuse to walk along me, you will be there for my help. But... Once you trod the path of success and youthfulness, you forgot me completely. Young days spread a

scarlet red hue on your cheeks, and old-age paled my face like the yellow gallows of autumn. The season of spring bloomed kaleidoscopic flowers in thy garden, and the autumn of life snatched my colours of joy. The summer of life warmed you up, and the winter of life, froze my bones and bent my legs. And you, at once, began to stare at me scornfully. You frowned your brows, to scold and chide me. You even looked at me very sardonically, as if I am your slave, and you are my master. Then... I cursed and calumniated my thirty years of fatherhood, because thy atrocious approach, cemented a belief in my heart, that I am not a father, rather a servant; and you are not my son, rather my lord. If you had been my son, you would not have treated me so indifferently. You have forgotten the hardships of my days, and the insomnia of my nights. You have not weighed and valued my sacrifices for you. My son, now, you are my master, and I am your servant. But, don't deprive me of your alms and charity. I am living at your mercy."

The painful lines made my beloved prophet (SAW) blubber. His sobs and sighs were audible from a good distance. The poetry pierced daggers into the heart of the beloved prophet (SAW). He (SAW) lambasted and ridiculed the young sahabi, and said, "Get lost from here, you and your entire wealth belong to your father."

The plight of our fathers is somewhat the same. We have begun to humiliate and demean them. Curse of the heavens is about to entrap us. If the tradition is not brought to an end, then our fate is not going to be any different. Our parents deserve our love, respect, empathy and time. Let us all pledge to be kind and compassionate to our parents.

The author is a Teacher and a Columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com

Say No to Imposter Syndrome

Zakerah Sidat

Do you feel like you're not good enough, despite being a high achiever? Or filled with doubt when others recognise your achievements and abilities? Then you might just be experiencing "Imposter Syndrome". As the name implies, it leaves you feeling like a fraud, wondering when your secret will be found out. You're not alone though, even actor Tom Hanks and former First Lady Michelle Obama have admitted to experiencing it.

According to research published in The International Journal of Behavioural Science, "As many as 70% of us experience it (Imposter Syndrome) at some point in our lives". Discovered by psychologists Pauline Clance and Suzanne Imes in 1978, "Imposter Phenomenon" as it was then known, was shown to affect women. We now know that it can affect anyone, regardless of gender, job role or even social standing. Yet, cultural and racial bias play a major part, with minorities more at risk of developing it. For some, Imposter Syndrome is temporary, whilst for others, it's a life-long experience.

Imposter Syndrome can be a crushing condition that pushes you to self-sabotage. It can look like this:

- You often procrastinate, even though you're more than capable of doing the work.
- You hesitate when new opportunities arise, despite being fully qualified.
- You're a perfectionist who never knows when "good" is "good enough".
- You overachieve, causing yourself burnout.

It's not just your work/studies that can be affected. Imposter Syndrome can show up in various ways in your practice of the deen too. From feeling too guilty to pray Tahajjud due to missing some of the fardh salah, to the "shame" of being a "Ramadan Muslim", the condition can limit or even stop you from trying to do better. It can affect the not-so-religious and religious alike, as shown by the late Shaykh Muhammad al-Shareef (may Allah have mercy on him), who experienced it in his early years.

But it's not all doom and gloom. The good news is that there are ways to combat Imposter Syndrome, resulting in increased confidence, a healthier mindset and above all, a happier life. So how can I achieve this, I hear you ask. Keep reading to find out more.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE

The first step in the recovery process is acknowledgement. Actively internalising you have an issue and wanting to overcome it, is the difference between

someone who perpetually suffers from the condition and another who successfully combats it. Denial may creep in at first, suggesting you have nothing wrong with you, but once you realise and accept that there's an issue, the clouds of doubt disappear, making change increasingly possible. A senior radiographer explains, "I felt as if I was not good enough. I was praised at work, but instead of accepting that, I responded by saying anyone could do what I had done. I didn't even know Imposter Syndrome was a thing. When I found out, I thought, 'I'm going to try and tackle this, in sha Allah.'"

Something to keep in mind is that Allah only makes you go through tests you can handle. He knows the benefits in them, although you may not understand what they are. But stay patient and increase your tawakkul. It will help to strengthen your resolve. As Allah SWT says:

"Allah does not burden a soul with more than it can bear" (Surah al-Baqarah, 2:286)

"And whoever puts their trust in Allah, then He alone is sufficient for them." (Surah al-Talaq, 65:3)

2. VALUE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Sometimes you may ignore your achievements because you either feel unworthy, or you're trying to stay modest. But this only intensifies the "imposter" feelings. To remedy this, recognise that your talents and achievements are genuinely yours and are God-given blessings. Try writing them down in a journal and give gratitude to Allah for them; this can only open more doors of success. After all, as Allah mentions, "...If you are grateful, I (Allah) will certainly give you more" (Surah Ibrahim, 14:7)

3. CELEBRATE THE IMPERFECTLY PERFECT

Imposter Syndrome and perfectionism go hand-in-hand. As Coach Melody Wilding notes, "People with Imposter Syndrome have unreasonably high expectations of themselves", leaving them with feelings of inadequacy when they're unable to complete tasks "perfectly". A former businesswoman and perfectionist recalls, "I used to think my creations were never good enough, even though my customers loved them. They'd say that others were impressed and would often ask where they bought them from. I'd always think my creations could've been better. It took me a while, but I finally started to listen to my customers' compliments, rather than my self-doubt."

Remember, perfection can only be attributed to Allah SWT. So go easy on yourself, and know that as long as you've worked hard and tried your best, it's more than enough. It may be helpful to



remember this Qur'anic verse: "And it is Allah's will to lighten your burdens, for humankind was created weak". (Surah al-Nisa, 4:28)

4. SELF-ENCOURAGEMENT

Words of affirmation go a long way to quieten the "imposter" voice. Instead of using negative statements like, "I can't," or "I'm not good enough", replace them with the opposite. Take the example of Nadiya Hussain's powerful speech when she won The Great British Bake Off. "I'm never gonna put boundaries on myself ever again. I'm never gonna say 'I can't do it. I'm never gonna say 'maybe'. I'm never gonna say 'I don't think I can'. I can and I will." We've all seen how well that worked out, with her fronting cooking programmes and her guest appearances, mashaAllah.

Positive self-talk has many benefits as psychologist Dr Gregory L. Jantz notes, "One of the ways to recognise, promote and sustain optimism, hope and joy is to intentionally fill our thoughts with positive self-talk". The key here is to centre the positive self-talk around Allah, by adding the phrase "bi idhnillah" (by the permission of Allah) at the end of an affirmation. We know nothing can happen without Allah's will, so trust in Him to make it possible.

"He [Allah] is with you, wherever you are" (Surah al-Hadid, 57:4)

He always has our back, for He is Al-Wakeel (The Disposer of Affairs).

5. SURROUND YOURSELF WITH POSITIVE PEOPLE

There's always that one person (or more) who is a glass half-full type. Observing and interacting with positive

people can be inspiring, as Dr Sherrie Bourg Carter explains, "Being 'infected' by another person's happiness or enthusiasm can be a very good thing. Researchers have found that when subjects 'catch' positive emotions from others, they're more likely to be viewed by others and themselves as more cooperative and competent." With a refreshed mind, the "imposter" thoughts become much more manageable, as long as you remember to steer clear of "Negative Nancies". This also resonates with the Islamic perspective, as shown in the following hadith,

"The similitude of good company and that of bad company is that of the owner of musk and of the one blowing the bellows. The owner of musk would either offer you some free of charge, or you would buy it from him, or you smell its pleasant fragrance; and as for the one who blows the bellows [ie, the blacksmith], he either burns your clothes or you smell a repugnant smell." (Sahih Muslim)

As the saying goes, "A problem shared, is a problem halved". Talk about your struggle to those you're close to, and more importantly, to those who have your best interests at heart. They'll help you see things differently. Psychologist Dr Jason Eckerman advises, "When you're feeling like you don't belong in these situations, it can be helpful to talk with mentors who are more experienced".

6. MORE THAN ONE IMPOSTER?

It might surprise you, but the bombardment of "imposter" thoughts may not always be from yourself. Another sinister entity could be influencing you

- none other than the accursed Shaytan, whom Allah describes as the "open enemy" in various chapters of the Qur'an. Hell-bent on your downfall, his waswas (whispers) prod and poke at your insecurities, inciting you to listen. Of course, the easiest and most effective cure for this is found in the Qur'an, which is beautifully profound in its meaning.

- "Say, O Prophet, 'I seek refuge in the Lord of humankind,
- the Master of humankind,
- the God of humankind,
- from the evil of the lurking whisperer-
- who whispers into the hearts of humankind-
- from among jinn and humankind."

(Surah al-Nas, 114:1-6)

To pray with understanding and conviction will yield the best results. It'll shoo away the unwelcome "imposter" Shaytan, and leave you feeling calm, making space for positive thoughts. It's also beneficial to recite Surah al-Nas when Shaytan tries to interfere with your deen. No longer will you feel like you're not good enough when intending to do a good deed. Instead, you'll feel energised and grateful that you were able to do it.

7. SEEKING GUIDANCE THROUGH DU'A

What better way to ask for help to fight Imposter Syndrome, than to make du'a to Allah SWT? He loves to hear from you, as He mentions,

"Call on Me [Allah] and I will answer you." (Surah Ghafir, 40:60)

Beseech Allah by reciting His ninety-nine names and especially those that are relevant to your situation, such as Al-Jabbar (The Restorer), Al-Naseer (The Helper) and Al-Wakeel (The Disposer of Affairs). Include du'as for overcoming difficulty, such as the following du'a:

"O Allah! There is nothing easy except that which You make easy; and You make the difficult, if You wish, easy."

And the du'a of Musa (AS) for ease: "My Lord, expand for me my breast [with assurance] and ease for me my task and untie the knot from my tongue, that they may understand my speech." (Surah Taha, 20:25-29)

These are just some of the ways to fight Imposter Syndrome. Success comes with consistently working hard to banish negative thoughts and actions, patiently persevering through the hard times and ultimately trusting in Allah to get you through. It's a long road, but it's worth it. May all those who strive to combat Imposter Syndrome succeed and be left feeling lighter, happier and more confident. Ameen.

The article was originally published by Amaliah



DEVOTEES LIT UP DIYAS at the shrine of Sufi saint Abdul Rahman Manak Shah, to commemorate his death anniversary in the Rainawari area of Srinagar on Friday.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

J&K To Get Additional 7000 MW Of Power in Next 8 to 10 Yrs: GoI

Auqib Javeed



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is expected to receive an incremental hydro power capacity of approximately 7,000 MW in a phased manner in the next 8 to 10 years. This statement was made by the Minister of Power and New Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh, in response to a question in the Rajya Sabha regarding the power crisis in the Union Territory.

The response further reads that the Government of India and J&K government have created Rattle Hydro Power Development Corporation Limited, a joint venture company between NHPC and JKPC, for the development of the 850 MW Rattle HEP. The project is currently under execution and is expected to be commissioned by May 2026.

Further, according to the minister, Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited (JKSPDC) has generated 48,808.68 Million Units of electricity in the last nine years from 13 Hydro power projects with installed capacity of 1197.4 MW. The UT has also received 99,430 MU since 2018 from the center. The government said the energy deficit in UT has been reduced from 17.8% during the year 2018-19 to 1.5% during the year 2022-23. As on November 2023, 2791 MW of power has been allocated to UT from Central Generating Stations.

Ministry of Power has also been allocating additional power to J&K to help authorities to meet the increased demand of power during the winter months. "In this regard, Ministry of Power has made additional allocation of 393 MW for the month of December-23, 443 MW for the months of January-24 & February-24 and 593 MW for the month of March-24 to UT of J&K," the government said. The center said that the J&K government has identified 14 projects with aggregate installed capacity of 738.5 MW for execution. Providing details about the projects launched, the minister said, "Four hydroelectric projects namely Kiru (624 MW), Ratle (850 MW) Kwar (540 MW) and Karnah (12 MW) totalling to a capacity of 2026 MW have been launched in J&K since 2019."

Ease Of Doing Business Govt's Top Priority: Atal Dulloo

Meets Tourism Bodies And Industries' Federation In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo said on Friday that the ease of doing business (EODB) is a top priority of the government of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the industrial ecosystem in the region.

required approvals. During the interaction, heads and representatives from different Tour, Travel and Industrial Bodies presented a spectrum of issues before the Chief Secretary. Among the topics discussed were regular power supply to industrial units, renewal of licences, registration of hotels to be eased, promotion of virgin tourist destinations in a planned manner, streamlining of registrations.

Hotellers Club raised the issue of registration of hotels, permission for repairs, industry status, extension of leases. Houseboat Owners Association while submitting their memorandum raised the issue of renewal of licences, repairs of houseboats, subsidised timber among other things.

Chief Secretary gave a patient hearing to the demands of the associations and said that the government will act as a facilitator and will take all stakeholders on board. Atal Dulloo said that the government is taking promotion of tourism in and across the country very seriously and is taking several initiatives in this direction. He advised the various bodies that they should partner with the Government in organizing high profile events like the G20 event held this year and another with film industry can be planned. CS encouraged tourism players to be part of FAME events that will have a cascading effect on the arrival of tourists.

DIPR Staffers Acquainted With New Trends In Media For Info Dissemination

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Keeping in view the dynamic shifts in the realm of media and communication, the staffers of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) were today acquainted with the emerging trends for effective and time bound dissemination of information to print, electronic and social media.

During a day-long workshop on "Emerging trends in Media and Communication", organized by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Jammu, the senior faculty members as Resource Persons spoke in length about various communication skills. They focused on enhanced coordination between the department and media fraternity for dissemination of information, not only on the governmental schemes, but various events taking place across the Union Territory.

Joint Director DIPR Jammu, Atul Gupta, while delivering inaugural address, emphasized the significance of the workshop in equipping the participants with the emerging communication trends to deal with the subject in a better way. He hoped that the initiative will immensely help the employees perform their tasks with added efficiency and accuracy.

Earlier, the first session unfolded an introductory account about the objective of the workshop by Joint Director, DIPR Jammu, Atul Gupta.

J&K Congress Protests Against Suspension Of MPs

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Congress workers held a protest here on Friday against suspension of 146 MPs. Scores of workers assembled at the party headquarters at the Mou-lana Azad Road and started protesting against the suspension of MPs. The protesters raised slogans against the suspension and termed it a "murder of democracy".

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR. ADMISSION NOTIFICATION (Ph.D.) 01 of 2023-24. Applications are invited through online mode for admission to Ph.D. Programme 2023-24 (Full time/Part time) in various disciplines as per the following details.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION-IIND, RAJBAGH, SRINAGAR

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No. STD-II / 50 of 2023-24 Dated 22-12-2023 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from A-class Electrical contractors / registered firms enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/DGS&D and Inspection Agency for 'Stabilization/Improvement of 33 KV Shariefabad- Narbal Line by way of twining of existing 0.1ACSR with 0.1 ACSR from Shariefabad Bridge upto 33/11 KV Receiving Station Narbal under Capex Budget (Part B)'

Table with columns: SNO, Description of Work, Earnest Money (In Rs.), Estimated Cost (In Rs), Last date of sub mission of e-bid. Row 01: Stabilization/improvement of 33 KV Shariefabad- Narbal Line by way of twining of existing 0.1ACSR with 0.1 ACSR from Shariefabad Bridge upto 33/11 KV Receiving Station Narbal under Capex Budget (Part B). Rs 81140.00, Rs 40.57Lacs/-, 02-01-2024; 2:30pm

- 1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications by the bidder. The tender document is available on website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders may view or download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid on line up to date as per the details mentioned in the table below.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION URI NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

(Fresh to NIT No.98 Sr.1, NIT No.101 Sr.1) DATED: 22-12-2023 e-NIT No.107 of 2023-24/6318-27/R&B Uri e-tendering For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on a percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

Table with columns: S. No., Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs), Cost of T/DOC (In Rupees), E/Money, Time for completion of work, Time & Date of Opening of Bid, Class of Contractor, M.H of Account. Row 01: Construction of 1x15mtr. Span Foot Bridge over Nallah Gohallan at Jabla Sukhdar (2nd call). 43.62, 1100/-, 87250/-, 100 days, 29.12.2023, AAY BEE, UT Sector

- 1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below: 1 Date of Issue of Tender Notice: 22.12.2023 2 Period of downloading of bidding documents: 22.12.2023 from (10:00 AM) to 28.12.2023 (4:00PM) 3 Bid submission Start Date: 22.12.2023 (10:00 AM) 4 Bid Submission End Date: 28.12.2023 (4:00PM) 5 Date & time of opening of Bids (Online): 29.12.2023 (11:00 AM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

Kashmir University Enters Inter University Football QFs



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University has stormed into the Quarter Final of the North Zone Inter University Football Tournament after securing three consecutive victories. The team's latest win came against CU Bathinda with a two-goal triumph, where Talib and Afnaan showcased their prowess by each scoring a goal for KU.

Set to face Panjabi Univer-

sity Patiala in the Quarter Final, Kashmir University exhibited commendable performance, setting the stage for an exhilarating encounter.

Dr. Nadeem Ahmed, Coordinator DPES, extended heartfelt congratulations to the team for their outstanding achievements.

JKFA also extended its appreciation to Sajid Yousuf Dar, the International Coach / Coach Educator and coach of Kashmir University.

J&K Masters Win 5th Successive Roller Skating National



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Masters Roller Hockey Team of Jammu and Kashmir, under the captaincy of international Roller Hockey player, Rajesh Anand (J&K Police), has once again clinched the national title for the fifth consecutive year in the 61st National Roller Skating Championship held at Chandigarh.

The J&K team defeated Chandigarh, Telangana and Punjab teams in their league matches.

The J&K masters roller hockey team, comprising officials

from different departments, did not lose even a single match for the last five years.

The members of the star studied team include Param Vir Singh, (Jal Shakti Department), Gagan Singh Jamwal (Information department), Ankush Kholi (Hospitality & Protocol), Raibrinder Singh (Animal and Sheep Husbandry department), Vikram Gupta, (PMGSY, Jammu), Salil Mahajan, (Executive Engineer, Electric Division II, JPDCL, Jammu), Sanjeev Kumar, (Tourism Department), Arvindeep Singh, (School Education Department).

SA v IND: Kohli Returns Home, Gaikwad Ruled Out



Press Trust of India

CENTURION: Virat Kohli has returned to India due to a family emergency but the senior batter will be back in time for the first Test against South Africa starting here next week.

Kohli had travelled to South Africa as part of the Indian squad for the two-Test series, which will begin at SuperSport Park on December 26.

"Virat Kohli has returned to India due to a family emergency. But he will be back before start of the first Test," a BCCI source told PTI on Friday. It is understood that Kohli had already taken permission from BCCI brass about his short leave.

"Virat had already left on Thursday and it was pre decided. Virat didn't take part in the three day intra squad match where India and India A players took part," the source added.

No one in BCCI however could confirm the nature of the emergency.

Kohli had missed out on a Test match during the last

away series in South Africa due to a back injury.

He will be back in the Rainbow Nation on December 24 and will take part in the pre-match training.

Meanwhile, Indian batter Rituraj Gaikwad was ruled out of the two-match series, which is a part of the World Test Championship cycle, after fracturing his finger.

In Gaikwad's place, Abhimanyu Easwaran, who had a good intra squad match, has been drafted into the main team. "Rituraj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the two-Test series with ring finger fracture," the source added.

Gaikwad had injured his finger while trying to take a catch during the second ODI against South Africa earlier this week.

That Gaikwad was ruled out of the first Test was reported by PTI on Thursday but it wasn't confirmed if he had sustained a fracture.

'INDIA ARE 65 PERCENT FAVOURITES'

Mohammed Shami's absence will certainly leave a

gaping hole in India's planning but former South African pacer Fanie de Villiers believes that Rohit Sharma's men have the best chance of ending a 31-year wait for a Test series win in the Rainbow Nation.

"Indian team has arrived in South Africa with its best ever chance (to win a series)," De Villiers told PTI.

"India have been coming for many years but very few of your fast bowlers were line bowlers. But now you have Bumrah and Siraj. Yes, I agree that Shami not playing makes a massive difference. But Siraj and Bumrah are bowlers who can bowl line, whereas South African bowlers bowl from off to leg stump.

"Because they (Proteas pacers) are youngsters running and trying to bowl fast. Only Rabada can bowl that good line, I think India have got the best chance ever."

"I think, India have a 65 percent chance of winning this Test series," he declared when asked if he considers it a 50-50 contest in Shami's absence.

Madrid, Barcelona Still Alone In Fight For Super League

Agencies

MADRID: Real Madrid and Barcelona are struggling to find allies in their fight to revive the Super League project.

The Spanish powerhouses were quick to claim victory and praise the decision by the European Union's top court on Thursday to rule against the attempt by UEFA and FIFA to block plans for the breakaway competition.

But as the hours passed, there were no signs that they would get anybody else to join their crusade despite the favorable ruling.

Madrid and Barcelona faced an uphill battle trying to convince other clubs to get back on board, but they were not likely to give up anytime soon.

The Super League deal would be especially important for Barcelona, which could po-

tentially solve its financial difficulties if the competition was to be formed. The club said it was time to take action and invite "the parties to engage in a new phase of discussions."

But none of the other 10 clubs involved in the original project expressed their desire to return. Italian club Juventus had been one of the three hold-out clubs until finally withdrawing earlier this year.

Madrid's and Barcelona's rival Atletico Madrid was one of the clubs to quickly reinstate their stance against the new competition.



League would have promotion, relegation and exit from the breakaway competition.

The original idea introduced in April 2021 collapsed within 48 hours after vehement protests by fans, leagues and the soccer world in general.

"I hope they start their fantastic competition as soon as possible with two clubs," UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said sarcastically.

Madrid-based A22 Sports Management, the promoter of the Super League, immediately announced revised plans for the competition that would be a rival to the Champions League, Europe's top club tournament. The newly proposed Super

League would have promotion, relegation and exit from the breakaway competition.

The original idea introduced in April 2021 collapsed within 48 hours after vehement protests by fans, leagues and the soccer world in general.

"I hope they start their fantastic competition as soon as possible with two clubs," UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin said sarcastically.

KHYBER CEMENT
Dil se banao

MAZBOOTI SE BANI HAR

— DEEWAR SE JHALAKTE HAI —

DIL KE EHSAAAS

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