

Planned Attacks On BJNY

Police Foil PCC Protest March In Srinagar

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Police on Monday thwarted the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) proposed protest march to Lal Chowk in response to the alleged planned attacks by the members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during Rahul Gandhi's led Bharat Jodo Nnyay Yatra (BJNY) in Assam.

Dozens of Congress workers and activists including females staged a sit-in protest at the PCC headquarters here this evening, shouting slogans like "long live democracy, down with hooliganism" against the ruling BJP for allegedly creating obstacles to disturb the Rahul Gandhi led Bharat Jodo Nnyay Yatra in Assam. The BJP, according to the protesting PCC workers, was "unsettled" by the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's rising popularity, which is why the ruling party interfered with the Yatra by flinging stones and yelling offensive chants.

In case the BJP's followers continue to create obstacles in the way of the Yatra, they wanted to step up their demonstrations throughout the country.

In the meantime, a posse of J&K police deployed in advance, blocked the main entrance of PCC headquarters to stop the demonstrators from making their way to Lal Chowk to voice their opposition.

As for the BJP, its actions, according to PCC president Vikar Rasool Wani, suggest that the party would lose the next Parliamentary elections this year. "The BJP has become more uneasy as a result of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nnyay Yatra, just as it did with the previous one. The Congress party, which supports democracy, organized this yatra in a democratic way with the goal of promoting peace and brotherhood in India," PCC chief told the media, adding Congress will not allow any elements with vested interests to abuse the democratic process.

'Srinagar Smart City'

Karan Nagar Gole Market To Be Redesigned On Lal Chowk Plaza Lines

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a significant development under the Srinagar Smart City Project, Karan Nagar Gole Market is set to undergo a major facelift, mirroring the successful model of the Lal Chowk Plaza. The project involves the installation of an amphitheatre or Visual Message Display (VMD) in the area. A senior official of the Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) informed that the ambitious project has commenced, with around 30 percent of its work completed.

"The project aims to infuse a modern aesthetic into the heart of Karan Nagar Gole Market. We are introducing a layout similar to Lal Chowk Plaza integrated with amenities such as an amphitheatre or large VMD in the area," he said.

The official said the estimated cost of the project is around Rs 22 crore, emphasizing a substantial investment to enhance the area's infrastructure and overall appeal.

"The rejuvenation project is expected to bring about a significant facelift to the Karan Nagar Gole market on the possible modernized lines," he said.



Braving cold weather, devotees attended special prayers at the Shankar Acharya Temple in Srinagar, to mark the consecration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Water Transport Set To Be Revived In Srinagar After 3 Decades

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After the gap of over three decades, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, is all set to witness a revival of water transport within the period of one month.

The water transport is a flagship project of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), which aims to revive the water-based public transport system in Srinagar City.

Earlier in the last month, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri reviewed the selection of the agency for operations of Water Transport

Services in River Jhelum and Dal Lake in Srinagar. He had emphasized the need for a water transport system as an additional mode of transport. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir also directed SSCL to finalize the routes and fare structure and call for tenders expeditiously.

General Manager of SSCL, Anuj Malhotra, said the water transport project at present is in the tendering process.

"We are expecting to commence the services in a month only," he said, adding that this is nearly after a few decades that the services are being revived.

"This will be the addition of public transport for the people. It is a joyous moment for the public and especially the water transport will ensure zero carbon emission, which is favorable for the environment as well," he added.

The General Manager further stated that the revival of water services will ensure jobs to the people as well. Pertinently, water transport was rampant and popular in Kashmir as most of the merchandise - timber, food stuffs, vegetables, firewood, charcoal, building material etc was all transported through this mode which started fast declining since late 70s.

IGNOU 37th Convocation To Be Organized In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) is going to conduct its 37th Convocation on 20th February 2024. The main venue of the convocation is IGNOU Headquarters at New Delhi.

The program will be telecast live on Gyan Darshan, Swayam Prabha, Doordarshan, webcast through social media platforms of the University. The 37th Convocation function will also be organized in Srinagar by the IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar for the Learners of the Kashmir region and the UT of Ladakh.

All the Learners who have completed their program in the Term: End Examination December 2022 and June 2023 are eligible to apply for receiving the degree

during the Convocation function. Online registration and remitting the requisite fee has started and the portal will remain open till 10th February, 2024. The eligible students who have not paid the requisite registration fee of Rs. 600/- per certificate online for the 37th Convocation, so far, may pay the requisite fee through <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/>.

Your FINANCIAL FIX

Beyond the Illusion Rational Outlook On Kashmir's Real Estate Growth

Irshad Mushtaq

The real estate market in Kashmir has seen significant growth over the past few decades, with the average selling price of land in areas such as Hyderpora, Lalbazar, and Bemina increasing from Rs 1.30 lac per kanal in 1991 to Rs 2.10 cr to 2.50 cr per kanal in 2023. This represents a profit of approximately Rs 2 cr over a 30-year period, with an annualized growth rate of 16.70% - 17.34% over the past 32 years.

While this growth may appear to be lucrative, it is important to consider the practicality of such returns over the long term. The projected exponential growth over the next 32 years seems to be too high, considering the compounding nature of the growth. Compounded annual growth of 17.34% annually may seem high, but it takes time and a steady growth strategy to achieve such returns. The magic of compounding is based on a certain growth rate, which is realized on a new base every year. It is important to focus on double-digit returns per annum, such as 12-15-20%, but expecting land to appreciate 100-165 times in the next 32 years as it has over the past 32



years is not logically possible. Finding an asset that can provide a consistent return of 12-15% annually over a long period may not be achievable with traditional real estate investments. In such cases, it is important to exercise caution and seek trusted advisory before making any investment decisions. Consulting a trusted financial professional and considering options such as gold, silver, real estate, shares, mutual funds, and asset allocation funds can provide a more realistic approach to achieving steady returns over the long term.

In conclusion, the real estate market in Kashmir has experienced significant growth over the years, but expecting the same level of growth in the future may not be practical. It is important to consider the magic of compounding and to focus on finding assets that can provide realistic, consistent returns over a long period. Consulting with a trusted financial professional and considering alternative investment options may be the best approach in planning for future financial growth.


— Author is NISM qualified, Mutual Fund advisor and distributor having experience of 18 years in financial market

Office Of The Adv. M.A Sofi And Associates
1. Masrat Bano
2. Mazam Akther Both Daughters: Ghufran Qadir Bhat.
Residents of Hariwara Goolpora Pattan, Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla Km. (Caveators)
Vs
PUBLIC AT LARGE (Non-Caveator/Non-Appllicant)
In the Petition in terms of Section 14B-A
The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seek in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in ex parte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
Sd/advocate

Jaipuri Family Bereaved
Rukaya Asghar, wife of Syed Mohammad Asghar Jaipuri Hussaini Hamdani, passed away after a brief illness at her residence in Kamnagarpora Srinagar. She was the sister-in-law of renowned Urdu poet and author Syed Akbar Jaipuri. Fatiha khawani shall be held at our ancestral graveyard in Hassanabad on Wednesday, January 24th at 8 AM. Later condolence gatherings shall continue throughout the day at their residence in Kamnagarpora Rajpuri Kadal, Inshallah.
BEREAVED
Cell- +91-8713917648

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
یا اہلبیت! وکے ساتھ ہی جانی ہے کہ علیہم جو ہم محمد مصطفیٰ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے پیارے اور عزیز ترین ساتھی ہیں۔ ان کی رحلت ہو گئی۔ اس سلسلے میں رسم چہرہ سہم اور اجنبی کی فاتحہ خوانی ہفت روزہ 25-01-2024ء بروز دوشنبہ 25-01-2024ء کو اپنے عزیز دوستوں اور اقارب کے ساتھ ہوا۔ انشاء اللہ
متواتر پڑھیں گے 10.30 بجے انعام پوریا جامعہ اہل سنت اور جماعت اسلامی
فون نمبر 9596021463, 788842975
سوگواران

GRATITUDE



We are grateful to all those who offered condolences by visiting us or through other means on the sad demise of late Ajaz Hussain of 88 Balgarden, Srinagar on 18th January 2024. We deeply appreciate your expression of sympathy. Thank you for your support at this difficult time. Thank you all for your prayers and thoughts.

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PRAYERS

HIJRI CALENDAR
11 Rajab
1445

FAJR 6: 07
ZUHR 12:42
ASR 4:11
Magrib 5:52
ISHA 7:16

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Tuesday | 23-01-2024

Snow's No Show

As Chillai Kalan is about to draw to a close, Kashmir remains snowless. And there are little signs that the Valley will witness any precipitation in near future. Gulmarg has already been hit hard. Its brown and bare slopes have prematurely ended the skiing season, with tourists canceling their bookings. This is a source of deep disappointment for the Valley which is predominantly reliant on tourism, which accounts for 7 percent of the region's gross domestic product (GDP).

According to government statistics, the valley welcomed around two crore tourists last year. In 2022, which marked the revival of tourism in the region after an almost three-year lockdown, approximately 19 million tourists visited.

However, the absence of the once abundant snow is not merely a disappointment for tourists and ski enthusiasts, it is a stark reminder of the severe impact of climate change on the region's economy. The current dry spell is not merely an isolated incident; it is emblematic of the broader climate crisis. Experts warn that extreme weather events, like the current snowlessness, are predicted to become more intense and frequent in the future. Rising temperatures, attributed in part to global climate change, have altered the region's weather patterns, leaving Gulmarg devoid of its signature snow.

If the dry weather persists, agriculture could also be impacted. As snow melt diminishes, the region anticipates water shortages that could severely impact farming. The frequent and prolonged dry spells would only exacerbate concerns about water scarcity and the potential for forest fires. In response to changing weather patterns, farmers are adapting their practices, with some shifting from water-intensive rice cultivation to fruit farming. However, this transition is not without risks, as the dry spell and premature sunshine threaten early blossoming, impacting fruit yields.

Climate change, however, is a global phenomenon and Kashmir is turning out to be one of its latest victims in recent years. The escalating global crisis has already led a staggering 110 million individuals to flee their homes in 2023, driven by a combination of climate-related disasters and conflicts. Countries, like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, face many deaths in extreme heat, particularly in densely populated urban areas. What is more, the surge in extreme weather events is increasing PTSD, anxiety, and depression among survivors of hurricanes, wildfires, and floods.

There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe. But it may take decades before the world is able to sufficiently reign in the factors which are contributing to the disruption in the climate. As continuing heatwaves show, the world needs to quickly get its act together before it is too late.

OTHER OPINION

Asia ascendant

On January 19, the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) spacecraft of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), launched in September, was expected to soft-land on the moon. Shortly after the stipulated time, reports from JAXA indicated the lander had touched down but its solar panels were not producing power, forcing the craft to bank on its batteries. However, SLIM, it said, appeared to be transmitting data, and checks of its other components did not indicate any damage — meaning Japan had become the fifth country to soft-land a robotic spacecraft on the moon. SLIM, like Chandrayaan-3, was tasked with a lunar soft-landing and deploying a rover mission (with two small rovers) but its primary mission was pioneering. Thus far, interplanetary spacecraft to the moon and Mars have been assigned suitable landing areas several hundred metres wide. SLIM however was designed to land within a 100 sq. m area, and thus its nickname "moon sniper". In a press conference in which they confirmed the controlled descent, JAXA officials also said it could be a month before they could ascertain if SLIM had successfully executed its pinpoint landing.

SLIM's partial success (for now) comes a day after a moon-landing mission built by Astrobletic, a private U.S. company, and funded by NASA, reentered the earth's atmosphere following a propellant leak. SLIM also happened roughly a month ahead of a landing attempt by another American company and four ahead of China's ambitious sample-return mission from the moon's far-side. JAXA's lessons from SLIM are expected to inform the planned Lunar Polar Exploration Mission, an India-Japan collaboration with India expected to provide the lander. Precision landing is valuable because it allows lunar missions to begin closer to a place of interest, where there may be a smaller patch suitable for landing, instead of landing further away and roving to the area. And the moon's surface around its south pole is mostly rough terrain. There are now five countries with the demonstrated ability to land robotic spacecraft on the moon. These plus the European Space Agency are the world's major spacefaring entities. No other such entity has a robotic lunar mission planned in the near future. Both the U.S. and Russia also last demonstrated their abilities in a bygone era, although the NASA Commercial Lunar Payload Services programme will be making frequent attempts, as with the Astrobletic mission. As such, the new Space Race is currently being led by Asian countries.

The Hindu

Remote Jobs Can Rescue Careers in Kashmir

Fatima Latif

The past few years were marked by unprecedented events around the world especially in Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir had already been in a lockdown, when Covid-19 hit the world. Hence, the effects of the lockdowns were more pronounced here.

However, the shared suffering also brought along with it an opportunity for shared solutions. For Kashmir, this worked. It meant that Kashmir wasn't exclusively left behind. The quick shift from offline to online mode for work, education and possibly everything meant that Kashmir too could join in — now with the internet services restored.

In the post Covid world, Kashmir is still mitigating past and new challenges. Unemployment is soaring. However, the way the pandemic brought together the world, Kashmir too has gotten an opportunity to take inspiration from the rest of the world. Infact, it has also brought for Kashmiris a chance to take advantage of the many new opportunities that have opened up around the globe.

One such opportunities is the opportunity to work remotely — at any place, from anywhere.

For the most part, our youngsters had the education and the skills but lacked guidance as well as opportunities. Remote jobs have opened up the possibility for them to explore many new careers and opportunities. Infact, remote jobs seem to be more democratic and inclusive in that they do not require one to shift to a tier-1 city or another country all together.

Hence, in an increasingly interconnected and technology-driven world, remote jobs have emerged as a transformative force in the employment landscape. The rise of remote work has opened up a plethora of opportunities, making it more accessible for people of all backgrounds and abilities to engage in meaningful employment.

Many young people have reasons because of which they cannot move out of Kashmir. Sometimes, this would become an impediment due to the lack of jobs here. Now, with remote jobs available, it is easier for such youngsters to work in good organisations which

do not expect them to move their entire lives to another place. Thus, remote jobs are healing the pandemic of uprootedness that had become a prerequisite for "success" in the past. Remote work overcomes geographical barriers that often limit individuals in traditional job setups. Physical location no longer dictates job opportunities, as remote jobs allow individuals to work from anywhere. This flexibility empowers people in rural areas, enabling them to access job opportunities that were once reserved for urban dwellers. By doing so, remote work bridges the gap between different regions and promotes economic growth across the board. Moreover, remote jobs enhance work-life balance. The traditional 9-to-5 office culture often leads to stress, burnout, and an imbalance between work and personal life. Remote work provides a solution by offering individuals the freedom to work from home or any location of their choice. They can create a work schedule that suits their needs, leading to improved work-life balance. This flexibility benefits parents, caregivers, and individuals with personal commitments, as they can fulfill their responsibilities while actively participating in the workforce. It also promotes inclusivity for people with disabilities. Traditional work environments may present physical accessibility challenges, making it difficult for individuals with disabilities to fully participate. Remote jobs eliminate these barriers by providing a level playing field. With the right tools and technologies, individuals can work from the comfort of their homes, leveraging their skills and expertise without hindrances. This inclusivity empowers people with disabilities, allowing them to contribute to the workforce and access employment opportunities that were previously out of reach. Furthermore, remote jobs foster diversity by embracing individuals from various backgrounds and cultures. Employers are no longer limited to hiring within a specific geographic area. Remote work enables companies to tap into a global talent pool, attracting top talent from diverse regions. This diversity of thought

and experience drives innovation and enhances problem-solving capabilities within organizations. Additionally, it reduces unconscious biases associated with physical appearances, names, or accents, focusing solely on skills and qualifications. Remote work has become a game-changer for women from areas such as Jammu and Kashmir. Women, especially married women, who do not have the privilege or the opportunity to work outside, are increasingly taking up remote jobs to grow financially. Day in and day out, social media is filled with posts by such women looking to work. The ability to stay home and work gives married women an opportunity to strike a much needed balance. It helps them be present at home and also grow professionally. With no expectation to show up at a physical office and commute for hours, women are saving up a lot of time and energy. With financial freedom, women can also seek house helps at home and create a safer way to take care of their kids without having to drop them at crèches. If the husbands also have the option to work remotely, it works wonders for a family that can now spend time together. Even though remote work also comes with its own set of challenges for women. However, if dealt with ethically, it can be revolutionary for them.

Hence, remote jobs have brought about a paradigm shift in the world of work. They offer numerous advantages that make them better, more inclusive, and more accessible for everyone. By overcoming geographical barriers, enhancing work-life balance, promoting inclusivity for people with disabilities, fostering diversity, and reducing environmental impact, remote jobs have the potential to transform the employment landscape for the better. Embracing remote work is not just a trend; it is a step towards a more equitable and inclusive workforce for all.

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

The author is a New Delhi based tech-consultant



All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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Ensuring Enriching Winter Breaks for Kashmir's Children

As the winter season blankets the beautiful valley of Kashmir, it brings with it a sense of coziness and tranquility. However, for the young minds of our region, the long winter break can sometimes lead to a lack of engagement and missed opportunities for growth. It is crucial to recognize the significance of planning activities for children during this period, fostering not only their intellectual development but also contributing to their overall well-being.

Firstly, organized activities dur-

ing the winter break can provide children with a structured routine, ensuring that their time is spent productively. This is especially important in preventing the tendency for youngsters to succumb to excessive screen time or other passive activities. By engaging in planned events, children can learn new skills, discover their interests, and develop a sense of discipline that will serve them well in the future.

Secondly, the winter break activities can play a pivotal role in promoting social interaction among

children. In a world where technology often replaces face-to-face communication, these activities provide a platform for children to build friendships, collaborate, and share experiences. Social skills acquired during these interactions are invaluable and contribute significantly to the child's personal and emotional development.

Furthermore, the diverse culture and rich heritage of Kashmir offer a unique opportunity to incorporate local traditions and crafts into these planned activities. This not only strengthens the connection of chil-

dren with their roots but also ensures the preservation of our cultural heritage for generations to come.

In conclusion, while the winter break is a time for rest and relaxation, it is equally important to ensure that our children's potential for growth and development is maximized. By planning and organizing enriching activities, we not only invest in the future of our youth but also contribute to the cultural richness of our beloved Kashmir.

Bareen Meer

Career Counseling Isn't A Bad Idea After All

Mohammad Hanief

Career Counseling is a system of scientifically based measures aimed at preparing young people to choose a profession, taking into account personality characteristics and the socio-economic situation in the labor market, to assist young people in professional self-determination and employment.

Every year, tens of thousands of young people graduate from high schools with honors. At the same time, a relatively small number of high school students become highly qualified specialists and achieve success in career growth. Thus, the right choice of the future profession very often means much more good grades and a significant amount of knowledge.

The adequacy of the choice and the level of development of the profession affect all aspects and the overall quality of life. Career counseling at the stage of choosing a profession and organizing vocational education will allow students in the future to become successful, and motivated for successful self-realization in their chosen field of activity.

Career counseling is a process that helps individuals identify and explore career options, make informed decisions about their future, and develop strategies to achieve their goals. It can be helpful at any stage of life, but it is especially beneficial for young people who are just starting out in their careers.

Career counseling can be of wonderful help for grooming a person, as they may be overwhelmed by the numerous options available to them. After graduating from college, graduates may feel a sense of emptiness and are often unsure about where to start their job search. Perhaps they are unsure about their education and whether they want to pursue further studies. Career counseling can be very useful for these graduates, as it can prepare them for immediate satisfaction and a long, prosperous professional life.

A career coach can help an individual in exploring their interests, values, and skills. This can be done through a variety of assessments

and exercises that help the individual to identify these areas. Once these areas are identified, the career coach can help the individual to develop a plan to pursue their goals. This may include setting up informational interviews, researching different careers, and exploring job opportunities. The career coach can also provide guidance and support throughout the process to ensure that the individual is on track and making progress.

Career counseling helps individuals understand the relationship between their education and career goals. It can assist individuals in making informed decisions about their future by exploring different career options and the educational requirements needed to pursue those options. Career counseling can also help individuals identify their strengths and weaknesses, and understand how these factors can impact their career choices. By providing guidance and support, career counseling can help individuals achieve their educational and career goals.

Career coaching helps individuals in making informed decisions about their future by providing them with information about various career options, the pros and cons of each option, and the steps required to pursue each option. It also helps individuals to understand their own strengths and weaknesses and how these fit into different career paths. Ultimately, career coaching can assist individuals in making informed decisions about their future by providing them with the information and tools necessary to make an informed decision.

An experienced coach can help individuals in a number of ways. It can assist with identifying and exploring career options, developing job search strategies, writing resumes and cover letters, preparing for interviews, and understanding and managing job stress. It can also help individuals assess their strengths and weaknesses, set realistic career goals, and create action plans for achieving those goals. Ultimately, career counseling can help individuals make informed decisions about



their careers, leading to greater satisfaction and success.

A career guidance counselor can help an individual learn about different job options that are available, and help them understand the job market. The counselor can also provide information on job search strategies, resume writing, and interviewing. Additionally, the counselor can help the individual identify their strengths and weaknesses, and match them with potential careers.

A career advisor can help an individual manage their career transitions by providing support and guidance throughout the process. They can help with exploring new career options, identifying transferable skills, and creating a plan to make the transition. They can also provide resources and advice on networking, interviewing, and job search strategies. A career advisor can be a valuable asset during a time of transition and can help an individual manage their career successfully.

A career guidance counselor can help you choose a satisfying and successful career path. They can help you assess your interests, skills, and values, and match them to careers that fit you. They can also help you explore different career paths, learn about job outlooks and requirements, and find the education and training you need

Career counseling can play a pivotal role in helping individuals overcome obstacles to career success. By providing guidance and support, career counselors can help individuals identify and overcome barriers that may be preventing them from achieving their career goals. Common obstacles that career counselors can help with include a lack of direction, self-doubt, imposter syndrome, and a lack of confidence. By working with a career counselor, individuals can develop a plan to overcome these obstacles and move forward in their careers.

A career counselor can also provide support and encouragement when individuals are facing difficult challenges in their careers. By helping individuals to see challenges as opportunities for growth, career counselors can help them to develop the resilience needed.

A career guidance counselor can help you choose a satisfying and successful career path. They can

help you assess your interests, skills, and values, and match them to careers that fit you. They can also help you explore different careers, learn about job outlooks and requirements, and find the education and training you need.

Career Counseling can help you identify the barriers that may be impeding your success in life. Career counselors can help you identify these barriers, as well as ways to overcome them. Students and professionals alike often fall into a pattern of thinking that hinders their success, and this is a vital component of Career Counseling. This process can be difficult to break, but the results can be worth it. And career counselors can help you identify your hidden strengths and talents.

A career development is a lifelong process that, whether you know it or not, actually started when you were born! There are a number of factors that influence your career development, including your interests, abilities, values, personality, background, and circumstances. Career Counseling is a process that will help you to know and understand yourself and the world of work in order to make career, educational, and life decisions.

Career development is more than just deciding on a major and what job you want to get when you graduate. It really is a lifelong process, meaning that throughout your life you will change situations with change, and you will continually have to make career and life decisions. The goal of Career Counseling is to not only help you make the decisions you need to make now, but to give you the knowledge and skills you need to make future career and life decisions.

Since career development is a lifelong process, career counseling can be appropriate for anyone, including freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and even alumni. The earlier you get started making intentional decisions about your future, however, the better prepared you will be! We recommend that all freshmen come in and visit with a Career Counselor.

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Is Forgiveness Against Our Human Nature?

Robert Enright

To answer our question, we need to ask a further question: What is the essence of our humanity?

For the sake of simplicity, we consider two distinctly different views of humanity, both of which involve ideas from biology and philosophy.

FIRST VIEW

The first view involves dominance and power. Charles Darwin, for example, argued that we are biologically programmed for the quest of the survival of the fittest. As individuals stand higher in the dominance hierarchy than others, then they are more likely to pass their own DNA to the next generations. In philosophy, Nietzsche (1887) continues this theme with his argument that humanity has a quest for power, similar to the biological idea of dominance over others.

From the ideas of this first position, in an early doctoral dissertation on the psychology of forgiveness, Droll (1984) made the intriguing claim that humans' essential nature is more aggressive than forgiving allows. Those who forgive are thwarting their basic nature, much to their detriment. From this position, science would expect that aggressors are compromising their well-being as they offer mercy to others, who might then take advantage of them.

SECOND VIEW

The second view involves the theme of cooperation, mutual respect, and even love as the basis of who we are as humans. Within biology, almost a half-century ago, E.O. Wilson (1975) described what he called sociobiology, or the concept that to survive well, we have to live in cooperative communities with one another.



In other words, dominating others could alienate those others, with the result of hostility within families and communities. Such hostility could hurt both the systems in which the hostility occurs as well as the individuals who practice the hostility and those individuals who are the recipients of the hostility. In philosophy, as just one example, we find Kant's (1785) theme that all people are ends in and of themselves and should be treated as such. In other words, we strive in a moral sense not to dominate others.

For this second view within psychology, we see the theme of love, in the sense of serving others, in the work of Lewis, Amini, and Lannon (2001). They present the scientific argument that to flourish as human beings, we need both to receive love from and offer love to others. Because love is so important to every one of us, we often experience anguish when others withhold their love from us. The more that love is taken away, the more suffering someone may experience. The road to healing may take longer the longer and more in-

tensely that love is withdrawn. Without love, our connections with a wide range of individuals in our lives can fall apart. From E.O. Wilson's perspective, this can damage harmony within communities, which is the point of our survival as a species.

IS FORGIVENESS AGAINST OUR NATURE?

From this second viewpoint of who we are as humans, forgiveness plays a key role in the biological and psychological integrity of both individuals and communities because one of the

outcomes of forgiveness, shown through scientific studies (Enright & Fitzgibbons, 2015), is the diminishing of hostility and the restoration of harmony. Forgiveness can break the cycle of anger and even revenge. At least to the extent that the people from whom you are estranged accept your love and forgiveness and are prepared to make the required adjustments, forgiveness can heal relationships and reconnect people.

WHICH OF THESE TWO APPROACHES SEEMS MORE CORRECT?

Given that dominance and a lack of respect and a lack of forgiveness can compromise a person's psychological and relational well-being, the first approach does not seem viable as a way to live. Given that forgiveness has been shown in numerous studies to enhance well-being, it follows that the second approach seems more valid, both from the reasoning of philosophy and the supported hypotheses from social science. Even common sense strongly suggests that the will to power over others does not make for harmonious interactions. For example, how well has slavery worked as a mode of social harmony?

Forgiveness is not against our nature. Instead, forgiveness is part of that nature when we see that we need to live in community and love those who are close to us in that community.

As an important caveat, when we take a Classical Realist philosophical perspective, that of Aristotle, we see the distinction between potentiality and actuality. We are not necessarily born with the capacity to forgive, but instead with the potential to learn about it and to grow in our ability to forgive. The actuality of forgiving, its actual appropriation in conflict situations, develops with

practice.

Do you see how forgiveness safeguards both your humanity and that of others? This is the case because one way to reclaim the love that has been taken from you by the unfair deeds of others is by forgiveness. This will enable you to feel love again and be more receptive to love from others in the future. When you demonstrate greater love to others, you give them the opportunity to learn about forgiveness, put it into practice, and find a way to end the destructive effects of resentment in their own relationships and communities.

IN CONCLUSION

When we see the essence of humanity through the lens of sociobiology, Kantian philosophy, and social science, the conclusion is this: Not only is forgiveness consonant with our nature but also it may be one of the elements that helps humanity to survive, especially in an age in which the proliferation of nuclear weapons, when used to dominate others, could exterminate communities of persons and even humanity itself.

If forgiveness is part of our human nature but must be cultivated through thought and practice, then why do almost all societies on planet Earth spend so little time thinking about and deliberately practicing forgiveness within their own families and communities? What has prevented this? HE O. Wilson is correct, that we are better off when living in cooperative communities, then we need to find a way of making forgiveness a natural part of our lives and our communities for the good of humanity.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

6 Injured In Wild Boar Attack In Kulgam Market



KO NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: At least six people were injured after being attacked by a wild boar (wild pig) in the main town of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Monday.

"The hospital has received six injured people who were attacked by a wild boar. They are being treated and vaccines have been administered to them," official at the hospital said.

He said the condition of all the injured persons is stable. Meanwhile, the wildlife department and Kulgam police later rushed to the spot. After strenuous efforts, the wild boar has been tranquillised and shifted to safer place. —(KNO)

DC Urges Faster Progress on Srinagar-Baramulla Highway



BARAMULLA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today conducted a thorough assessment of the ongoing construction and road widening activities along the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway NH1, specifically from Narbal to Uri, during his on-site visit.

During the visit, the DDC and a team of officers conducted a comprehensive on-site inspection of key construction sites, including Khan QQ para Bypass, Delina Flyover, Sangrama Flyover, Pattan Bypass, Narbal/Mirgund Package-1-B, Hamray and other significant locations.

The DDC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner or Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shabir Ahmad Raina; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Superintendent Engineers PWD, OE Beacon and other concerned officers from various departments.

DC Bandipora Urges Officers To Enhance Winter Preparedness



KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman Rather on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review the winter preparedness in view of the weather advisory predicting snowfall in coming days aiming to gear up the administration and machinery to deal with any disruption/contingency.

At the outset, the DC stressed taking preventive and precautionary measures well in advance so that routine functioning at all essential installations, besides trade, transport, essential supplies, and other routine works, are not affected.

20% Valley Water Supply Hit by Dry Spell: Jal Shakti Dept

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amidst a prolonged dry spell in Kashmir, approximately 20 percent of the valley's potable water supply is "badly affected", the Jal Shakti Department said on Monday.



Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Kashmir, Er. Sanjeev Malhotra, speaking with the news agency, said the situation may deteriorate further if there is no immediate wet spell.

The Chief Engineer said an emergency water supply plan has been initiated for areas having water scarcity. But this is not a permanent solution, he clarified. "For water supply, there is no contingency plan, as water production depends

on the availability of water in bodies like rivers and springs," he explained.

Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project Gets Another Extension

Project has surpassed agreed targets in some cases: World Bank

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The World Bank has extended the deadline for completion of Rs 1500 crore Jhelum-Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) in J&K Union Territory to December 31, 2024.



The latest implementation status and results report of the multi-crore project reveals that its closing date has been extended by 12 months until December 31, 2024.

The deadline was extended after the project implementing entity, Economic Reconstruction Agency, in its letter dated December 11, 2023, requested another 12-month extension to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Finance Ministry. DEA, in its letter dated December 12, 2023, has endorsed the request of the project implementing entity, and requested the World Bank to grant a further one-year extension.

President Murmu Presents Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to Outstanding Young Achievers

KO NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: The President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to the 19 children at a function held in New Delhi on Monday. One child each in the categories of Bravery, Science & Technology, and Innovation; four children in the category of Social Service; five children in the category of Sports and seven children in the category of Art and Culture received the award.



Speaking on the occasion, the President said that this award ceremony is an opportunity to encourage the amazing potential and talent of young achievers. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of children. She appreciated all the children for their excellent work.

Drug Module Busted In Sopore, 3 Arrested, Vehicle Seized: Police

KO NEWS SERVICE

SOPORE: Three persons were arrested along with a huge quantity of drugs in north Kashmir's Sopore, police said on Monday.



Sub Divisional Police Officer Sopore, Dr. Raies Ahmed Mir said that on 11 January, a naka was established at rail-station crossing, following which a truck was intercepted.

With a comprehensive approach, involving strict law enforcement measures and community engagement," he said.

He said that during checking 5136 capsules of Spasmo-proxylon plus were recovered from a bag and during investigation the driver disclosed his identity as Rameez Wali Rather son of Wali Mohammed Rather of Kralgund Handwara.

Meanwhile, two drug peddlers were arrested along with Spasmo-proxylon plus tablets and Codeine Phosphate by PP Fruit Mandi, a police spokesman said.

"During his further disclosure, it came to fore that he had given the consignment to Shah Nawaz Ahmed Shah of Dargapora Sopore. Shah was arrested in a swift action by the police with 744 Spasmo-proxylon plus capsules," he said.

He said that on a specific input, a police party headed by I/C PP Fruit Mandi, Sub Inspector Bilal Rashid intercepted a Maruti Swift bearing registration number JK01AU-3674 in which two persons were on board.

Man Charred To Death, 2 Houses Damaged In Fire In Pattan

Agencies

PATTAN: A man was charred to death, while two residential houses were damaged in a massive fire in Khambayat village of Baramulla's Pattan late last night.

one of the residential houses due to a short circuit in electric blanket in which a 26-year-old man was charred to death. He said that two houses were also damaged in the devastating fire, while police have taken cognisance of the matter.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that fire broke out in

The deceased has been identified as Adil Ramzan Dar son of Mohammad Ramzan Dar. —(KNO)

Illegal Hooking: KPDCCL Conducts Over 30,000 Inspection In Two Months

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the past two months, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) has carried out more than 30,000 inspection drives across Kashmir division to check hooking on bare conductor lines and use of crude appliances.

speaking to the news agency, Managing Director for KPDCCL, Musarrat Zia said, "In past two months, the distribution company has taken a proactive approach and we have done nearly 30,000 to 35,000 inspections and disconnections throughout the night." Zia said that the team of KPDCCL has saved hundreds and thousands of units of energy during the number of inspection drives.

RTI Pend Sheds Light On Solid Waste Management Strategies

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a bid to promote environmental awareness, the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information (RTI) Foundation hosted its 20th RTI Pend event, centering on "Solid Waste Management at Block Level." The event, conducted online, drew considerable attention and participation.

Thousands of households in smart meter areas have stopped hooking because of the power theft videos we have put on social media wherein we showcase the particular household stealing the government energy without showing their faces," he said.

Tennis Star Erin Mir Ranked 27th In The Country



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Erin Mir, a talented 10-year-old from Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, is leaving an indelible mark in the world of tennis. Commencing her professional training in 2022, Erin's unwavering commitment and tireless work ethic on the court have set her apart.

On November 23, 2023 Erin achieved a significant milestone by securing her first-ever victory in the AITA Under-12

Championship series. Despite starting as a newcomer in the AITA rankings, her ascent to the 27th rank in the Under-12 category in the country within a short span of time, is an ample testimony to her perseverance and hard work.

Erin Mir's remarkable success not only reflects her dedication and progress but also underscores the sheer determination of this young player to excel in the sport.

Khelo India Winter Games: DC Takes Stock Of Arrangements

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: In preparation of the 4th edition of Khelo India National Winter Games at Gulmarg, the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa on Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers at Golf Club Gulmarg to take stock of various arrangements put in place for holding the games.

During the meeting, the DC conducted a thorough review of arrangements related to the successful conduct of the National Winter Games. He issued directives to the concerned departments, urging them to adopt a cohesive approach to ensure the event's resounding success.

Emphasizing on comprehensive planning, the DC under-

scored the importance of making all essential arrangements, such as health provisions, accommodation, sanitation, traffic regulation, lodging and other facilities well in advance with a focus on seamless execution.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority, Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Syed Altaf, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Muazzam Ali, District Youth Service and Sports Officer, officials from JSD, R&B, JKPDCL and other concerned departments.

Later, the DC met hoteliers of Gulmarg and urged them to ensure the availability of accommodations for athletes, spectators, and guests visiting the place during the sporting events.

Abdul Samad Steers J&K To 1st 2024 Ranji Win

Press Trust of India

CUTTACK: Abdul Samad helped Jammu & Kashmir overcome a tricky chase with an unbeaten 66, steering his team to a two-wicket win over Odisha in Ranji Trophy here on Monday.

It was the first win of the season for J&K after sharing points with Delhi and Himachal in their two home games marred by bad light in Elite Group D.

Resuming at 72 for four, J&K needed another 77 runs for



the win and they somehow managed to cross the line. IPL regular Samad stood like a rock as wickets kept

falling at the other end. His knock comprised seven fours and two sixes. Samad remained unbeaten alongside India pacer Umran Malik when the winning runs were scored.

J&K had taken the first innings lead by making 180 in response to Odisha's 130 on the opening day.

Brief scores: Odisha 130 and 198 vs Jammu & Kashmir 180 and 149/8 in 23.2 overs (Abdul Samad 66 not out; Rajesh Mohanty 5/61). J&K beat Odisha by two wickets.

4 Kashmiris In Indian Physically Disabled Squad For England Series



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four cricketers from Kashmir Valley were on Sunday named in the Indian Physically Disabled Men's Team for the five-match T20 series against England. The series will be played in

Ahmedabad, Gujarat between January 28 and February 6. Wasim Iqbal (batsman), Jaffer Amin Bhat (batsman), Majid Ahmad Magray (off-spinner) and Aamir Hasan (last bowler) were named to the 16-member squad. Wasim has also been named the vice

captain of the national team. The five-match tourney is being organized by the Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI) and supported by BCCI. The final game of the series will be played at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Virat Kohli Withdraws From First 2 Tests Against England



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India's batting mainstay Virat Kohli has pulled out of the first two Tests against England due to personal reasons, the BCCI said on Monday.

The BCCI urged the fans and media to refrain from speculating about the reason for his forced break. The five-match series begins in Hyderabad on January 25.

"Virat Kohli has requested the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to be withdrawn from the first two Tests of the upcoming IDFC First Bank Test series against England, citing personal reasons," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

The BCCI also said that Kohli had discussed with skipper Rohit Sharma and team management about his decision to pull out. The BCCI will announce the replacement soon.

SKY Named Captain Of ICC Men's T20I Team Of The Year

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Flamboyant middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav has been named the captain of the ICC men's T20I Team of the Year, which also includes three more Indians in opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, spinner Ravi Bishnoi and left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh.

The right-handed stroke-maker from Mumbai had a solid 2023. His first innings of just seven to start the year against Sri Lanka was a mere speed bump in another prolific year, as he made scores of 51 (36) and 112 not out (51) in the next two matches.

Consistent scoring in 20s to 40s continued, before an in-

nings of 83 (44) against the West Indies in Providence proved his class. He ended the series against the West Indies with a knock of 61 (45) in Florida.

He made half-centuries against Australia (80 off 42 balls) and South Africa (56 from 36 balls), before posting a 100 against the Proteas off just 56 balls in their final T20I of the year in Johannesburg.

Besides the Indian quartet, the 11-member team also has England's Phil Salt as Jaiswal's opening partner, West Indies' Nicholas Pooran as wicket-keeper, Mark Chapman of New Zealand, Zimbabwe's Sikanadar Raza, Uganda all-rounder Alpesh Kamrani, Ireland's Mark Adair and Richard Ngarava of Zimbabwe.

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

