

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Saturday 27 January 2024 | Srinagar | Vol: 27 | Issue: 23 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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J&K One Of The Fastest Growing Regions In India Now: LG

Says Biggest Challenge Today Is Drug Abuse Among The Youth

KO Web Desk

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday expressed the government's commitment to stamp out terrorism and its ecosystem and said Jammu and Kashmir has become one of the fastest-growing regions in the country, registering a remarkable 35 per cent increase in the current year and surpassing the national average.

Sinha said that it has given a befitting reply to the enemies of humanity and sponsors of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir by showcasing to the world the region's economic strength, business potential, cultural richness and tourism opportunities.

"The efforts are going on for the final assault on terrorism, its ecosystem and



unholy proxy war being sponsored by a neighboring country. We have tried to create a new Jammu and Kashmir which has the power, strength of spirituality,

modern and scientific facilities and response," the LG said while addressing the Republic Day function here. Sinha paid homage to police, army and paramilitary

personnel who laid down their lives for the security of the nation.

"While remembering their sacrifices, we reiterate our commitment to stamp out terrorism and its ecosystem from the soil of Jammu and Kashmir. I congratulate the police forces who have bagged 113 gallantry medals - highest among other forces. The police's fight against terrorism is exemplary," he said.

Sinha said Jammu & Kashmir was fully committed to the resettlement and welfare of minority communities and Kashmiri Pandit families. "Last year, new housing infrastructure with all essential facilities was inaugurated for PM Package employees in Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, and Shopian," he said, adding, "During the

current fiscal year, construction of a total of 3,000 houses will be completed."

All pending promotions have been approved, and promotions to gazetted categories have been approved in the shortest possible time, as a first, he said. "I assure you all that we are making every effort towards ensuring that every citizen lives a life of prosperity in a dignified and honorable manner."

In Kashmir Valley, he said, all PM Package and minority community employees have been stationed at secure locations. "Nodal officers have been appointed in every district and Raj Bhavan to address their security and other issues."

After a long wait of decades, he said, refugees from West Pakistan | More on P6

Path-Breaking Initiatives for Farmers' Welfare: LG

- Holistic Agriculture Development Program with 29 projects at Rs. 5,013 cr
- Expected monumental changes for 13 lakh farmer families
- Rs. 28,000 crore investment in GSDP
- 2.44 lakh metric tons additional cold storage capacity in three years
- Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme implemented in all 20 districts
- Distribution of 14.83 lakh Kisan Credit Cards for economic security
- Yellow revolution brings new income source with an increase in vegetable cultivation
- Sulai Honey, Bhaderwah Rajmash, and Mushkubdi receive GI tags
- Integration of 23 mandis with e-NAM for fair prices of farm produce
- Rs. 2852 crores deposited in bank accounts of 12.58 lakh farmers
- Connection of progressive farmers and youth with new technologies in agriculture
- Distribution of 9000 solar agricultural pumps under PM Kusum Yojana
- J&K Dairy Mission to double milk production by 2027
- Approx. 3,000 agriculture and animal husbandry assistants appointed
- Women farmers have established nearly two lakh agriculture nutrition gardens

ICJ Orders Israel to Prevent Genocide in Gaza

Netanyahu Unfazed

Agencies

Gaza: The World Court ordered Israel on Friday to prevent acts of genocide against the Palestinians and do more to help civilians, although it stopped short of ordering a ceasefire as requested by South Africa.

While the ruling denied Palestinian hopes of a binding order to halt the war in Gaza, it also represented a legal setback for Israel, which had hoped to throw out a case brought under the genocide convention established in the ashes of the Holocaust.

The court found that Palestinians were protected under the convention, and that there was a case to be heard about whether their rights were being denied in a war that the court said was causing grievous humanitarian harm. It also called for Palestinian armed groups to release hostages captured in the Oct. 7 attacks that precipitated the conflict.

Palestinian officials largely hailed the decision. The Palestinian Foreign Ministry said it was a welcome reminder "no state is above the law". Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official told Reuters the decision would contribute to "isolating the occupation and exposing its crimes in Gaza."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the court had | More on P6

31,830 Appointments Made Post August 2019: LG

After Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually launched E-Bus Services for Jammu Smart City on Thursday, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in his address, expressed gratitude to the Union Minister for prioritising the development of Jammu and Kashmir. During the event, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised the UT Administration's initiatives for socio-economic empowerment, especially among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. "The entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities provided to 94,680 youth in a single day on 24th January has scripted a golden chapter in the history of JK," he said. Furthermore, LG Sinha said that since August 2019, 31,830 appointments have been made, with recruitments for 12,264 posts currently underway. Today, 885 compassionate appointment | More on P6

A Whimsical Return! While Plains Shiver, Snow Graces Higher Reaches

Agencies

Srinagar: Light rain and snow lashed a few higher reaches including Gulmarg on Friday. The weatherman has forecast more precipitation in coming days to end an extended dry spell in Jammu and Kashmir.



and Kangan in Ganderbal. Srinagar had traces of rain early in the morning.

"As expected, light rain/snow occurred at a few higher reaches," a meteorological department official here told GNS.

He said partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain and snow at isolated higher | More on P6



1000's Join Republic Day Functions In Srinagar, Jammu

Agencies

Srinagar: The 75th Republic Day celebrations passed off peacefully across Jammu and Kashmir while the authorities stated that the main venues witnessed the participation of more than 40,000 people. Large queues of people were seen outside the main venues of the Republic Day function in Srinagar as well as in Jammu.

Pertinently, the

government had invited the people to attend the R-Day functions in Jammu & Kashmir while there was no special invitation or pass for anyone to participate in the events.

The main function in Srinagar was held at Bakshi Stadium here where the Advisor to LG Governor, R R Bhatnagar took salute at the March Past where he unfurled the National flag. Officials said that nearly

25,000 to 30,000 people have participated in the main function at Bakshi Stadium.

Notably, the Republic Day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the country's transition to a Republic on January 26, 1950.

In Srinagar, the commercial hub Lal Chowk witnessed enthusiasm as for the first time, the Republic Day event was hosted a live telecast of the celebrations.

A large number of people including the locals as well as the tourists were seen witnessing the celebrations live on the large screen near the newly re-designed Clock Tower.

Furthermore, in a first of its kind, the rooftops of 120 shikaras in Dal Lake were decorated in the colours of the National Flag.

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin said that the rooftops of | More on P6

ICF To Roll Out Vande Bharat Train for J&K Soon

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the largest railway passenger coach maker in the world, will soon roll out Vande Bharat Express rake for Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the employees after unfurling the Tricolor on the 75th Republic Day BG Malya, General Manager was quoted by IANS as saying, "ICF has two important projects in hand. The first one is the Vande Metro project which will be a fully air-conditioned inter-city train

service. ICF is planning to roll out the prototype of Vande Metro by March this year."

The next project is the Vande Bharat Express rake for Jammu and Kashmir, with suitable modifications to suit the challenging climatic conditions that prevail therein.

"We hope to turn out this rake shortly," Malya said. According to him, last year ICF turned the 50th Vande Bharat rakes a big achievement, despite various challenges on the supply front.

"The Amrit Bharat push-pull | More on P6



THE AMRIT BHARAT PUSH-PULL TRAIN WAS ALSO TURNED OUT LAST OCTOBER in collaboration with CLW (Chittaranjan Locomotive Works) which is a boon to the common man and provides with a travel experience much better than what he has today.

For Existing as 'Not for Profit' Company KCCI Directed To Furnish License Copy

Agencies

Srinagar: The Registrar of Companies (RoC) J&K has directed the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) to furnish a copy of the licence to function as a "Not for Profit" company.

As per a local news agency, KCCI was ordered to submit a copy of the licence by the RoC J&K as required under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 after the same licence was not found in the records.

Jammu & Kashmir-190001, India. The company needs to get a license under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 issued by the Competent Authority viz Regional Director (Northern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs," reads an official communique issued to the KCCI.

"It is further observed

by this office from the database of the company that License No./ copy of the licence is not available in the "D" File/e-record of the company," it added.

Therefore, the Chamber is directed to furnish the licence copy within a week without fail, the communique concluded.



THE KASHMIR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

Kashmir Woodcarver's Arduous Journey From Penury To Padma Recognition

Zehra Shafi

Srinagar: Ghulam Nabi Dar, a 72-year-old master craftsman from Srinagar honoured with the Padma Shri for his contribution to wood carving, feels government recognition and support are very important in preserving traditional arts.

His unwavering dedication to his craft for over six decades has earned him numerous accolades, culminating in this national recognition announced on the eve of the country's 75th Republic Day.

Many feel the award to Dar will serve as a catalyst for the revival of the craft steeped in the history of Kashmir and a

testament to the resilience of traditions that have withstood the test of time.

In an interview to PTI video Friday, Dar spoke about his arduous journey.

Born into adversity, Dar was introduced to a wood carving unit at a young age. Despite initial rejections from craftsmen unwilling to teach the trade, his perseverance eventually led him to a mentor Nooruddin Tikoo, who imparted his knowledge through intricate designs on paper.

"I was 10 years old when my father suffered losses in his business and was broke. As he could not pay the fees, I was expelled from school. My maternal uncle took me and my younger brother to | More on P6



J&K Govt Announces Awards For 36 People

Thirty-six people, including para archer and Arjuna Awardee Sheetal Devi, were selected for government awards in Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Republic Day. Late Head Constable Abdul Majeed has been awarded posthumously in the category of award for achievements in the field of bravery that carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh and a citation to the awardee, according to

an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) Commissioner-Secretary Sanjeev Verma. The government also conferred the award to Dogri writers Mohan Singh, Indereet Kesar, Gojri writer Mansha Khaki and broadcaster and writer Brij Nath Pandit Bebb in the category of achievements in the field of literature. For their contribution to performing arts, film and | More on P6

Justice Sreedharan Hoists Tricolor At HC Wing Of Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The 75th Republic Day was today celebrated in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Srinagar Wing with immense enthusiasm and full patriotic zeal & fervor.

The event commenced with the unfurling of the National Flag by Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who took salute at the March Past followed by the playing of the National Anthem/patriotic tunes by the Band.

The event was also graced by the presence of Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Besides, Mohammad Yousuf Wani, Member, J&K Special Tribunal, Srinagar; Jawad Ahmad, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar; Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Registrar Judicial Srinagar Wing, officers of police and administration, Senior Additional Advocate Generals and other law officers as well as the officers/officials of the Srinagar Wing of the Hon'ble High Court, also attended the event.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Yousuf Wani, District & Sessions Judge, Member (Judicial) of the Tribunal at Srinagar, who was also chief guest hoisted and unfurled the National Flag within the premises of the Tribunal at Srinagar.

The function was attended to by the officers, officials and the CRPF personnel of B-28 BN.

The chief guest while speaking on the occasion highlighted the importance of the day. He spoke that it was on this day in 1950 that our Country India became a Republic and adopted its own Constitution guaranteeing democracy, fundamental rights and directive principles of State Policy.



PICT: Abid Bhat/KO

Republic-Day Live Screening At Lal Chowk Inspires Patriotism

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Republic Day Celebrations in 2024 soared to unprecedented heights as the iconic Clock Tower at Lal Chowk in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, played host to a spectacular live telecast of the momentous event.

This groundbreaking move not only showcased unity, diversity, and resilience but also garnered an overwhelming response from the enthusiastic crowd.

The live telecast from the historic Lal Chowk Clock Tower was a dazzling display of India's rich cultural heritage, capturing the essence of the Republic Day celebrations in all its glory. The event drew a massive gathering, comprising both locals and tourists, who wholeheartedly welcomed this bold initiative by the government.

The atmosphere was charged with patriotic fervor as the audience revealed in the live telecast, symbolizing a collective sense of pride and unity. The decision to project the Republic Day celebrations on a large screen at Lal Chowk resonated deeply with the general public. It became a powerful symbol of inclusivity and diversity, evoking positive reactions from the onlookers who appreciated the government's commitment to fostering national unity.

Lal Chowk's selection as the venue for this grand spectacle underscored the government's dedication to inclusivity. The positive reaction from the people served as a reaffirmation of the nation's collective spirit and a celebration of its diverse cultural mosaic.

The live telecast from Lal Chowk during the Republic Day celebrations in 2024 not only showcased the nation's grandeur but also triggered a wave of positive sentiments among the people. It became a historic moment that not only strengthened national bonds but also fostered a sense of optimism, pride, and unity among the citizens.

Div Com Kashmir Unfurls National Flag

Srinagar: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri Friday unfurled the National Flag and took the salute from CRPF contingent at the office premises today to celebrate 75th Republic Day, here. The unfurling of tricolor was followed by the National Anthem.

Divisional Administration and security who were present on the occasion.

Among others present on the occasion were Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohid ud Din, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, ADDC Srinagar, ACR Central, ACR Srinagar, staff of Divisional Commissioner's Office besides, security officials were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Div Com extended Republic Day greetings to the officers of

NOTICE

The Number Plate of my vehicle bearing No JK01 AG 1114 has been lost somewhere. Now I am applying for new Number Plate. In this regard if any body have any objection may convey to RTO Srinagar Kashmir within a period of seven days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Farooq Ahmad Pampori
Abdul Razak Pampori
R/o: Guru Bazar Karan Nagar

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old Name) Ashna to (New Name) Ashna Peer. In future I will be known as (New Name) Ashna Peer. If any body is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Ashna Peer
D/o: Ghulam Nabi Peer
R/o: Mandar Bagh Baghat Srinagar

SMC Celebrates 75th Republic Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Today, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) celebrated the 75th Republic Day with great Patriotism and Enthusiasm at its Central office in Karan Nagar, Srinagar. The ceremony was marked by the Unfurling of the National Flag by the Commissioner SMC/CEO, SSCL, Dr. Owais Ahmed (IAS), amidst a gathering of Distinguished Guests, Officials, Community Leaders, Senior Citizens and Youth.

The event commenced with

the arrival of the Worthy Commissioner SMC and other Notable Dignitaries, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem, which echoed through the premises, evoking a sense of Pride and Unity among all present. The atmosphere was imbued with the spirit of patriotism and reverence for the historic occasion.

Dr. Owais Ahmed (IAS) extended warm greetings to all attendees for 75th Republic Day Celebrations, highlighting the rich legacy of India's Democratic Values and the importance of upholding the Country's Unity in diversity. He underscored the pivotal role of SMC in delivering Citizen Centric Services among the residents of Srinagar City.

The flag hoisting ceremony, a poignant symbol of National Pride & Sovereignty, was conducted with meticulous precision, symbolizing the unwavering commitment to the ideals enshrined in the Indian Constitution. As the tricolor unfurled majestically against the azure sky, it elicited a surge of emotions, signifying the collective aspirations of the people and the relentless pursuit of progress and prosperity.

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Impaired Assets Recovery Branch
Corporate Headquarters
M.A.Road, Srinagar - 190 001.
Tel: +91(0)194-2481930-35, Extn.1070/1071/1072 Email: iarb.chq@jkbank.com

'e-AUCTION NOTICE'
[Rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules]

The undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with Rule 8 to 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 notify the Sale of the secured assets detailed herein-below for realization of dues of the Bank on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatsoever there is" and "no complaint" basis.

Description of the mortgaged properties (Put on sale)	Lease hold rights of land measuring 10 kanals leased out by SIDCO situated at IGC Lassipora Pulwama, Kashmir along with civil works - RCC columns, walling.
Name of the Borrower Firm.	M/S Say Infra and Storage Pvt Ltd. 1. Mr. Mohammad Yaseen Mir, Director. 2. Mr. Mohammad Hanif Mir, Director.
Reserve Price	Rs.129.00 Lakh (Rupees one hundred twenty nine lakh).
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	10% of reserve/bid amount. (Rs.12.90 Lakh).
Bid Increase Amount	Rs.1.00 Lakh.
Name of the Branch	Impaired Assets Recovery Branch, J&K Bank, Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar (J&K).
Last Date & Time of submission of Bid	12.02.2024 (4PM)
Date and Time of e-Auction	13.02.2024 (3PM to 4PM)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Other Remittance's details by RTGS to Account Number	THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED Business Unit: Impaired Assets Recovery Branch, IFSC CODE: JAKA01MIRP Account no.049007070000003 in the name of 'Sundry Pointing IMPIRD'.

The interested bidders shall submit their offer along with EMD details through website <https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net> and can obtain user ID and password free of cost by registering on the website. The detailed notice containing all the terms and conditions are available at Bank's website <https://www.jkbank.com/pdfs/eauction>. For any query related to the said auction, the interested bidders may contact Branch Manager, Impaired Assets Recovery Branch on cell no.8826117693.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of the time available to redeem the secured assets.
Date: 26.01.2024

(Authorized Officer)

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.
IAPM Department,
Zonal Office Budgam,
Industrial Complex Zainakote
Srinagar 190012, Kashmir.
Tel: 0194-2497735, Ext.:218; amid.zoktwo@jkmail.com

Possession Notice

Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 12.09.2023 thereby calling upon Sajad Ahmad Ganie S/o Wali Mohammad Ganie R/o Wagoora B.K Pora Prop: M/S Star World (Borrower cum Mortgagor) , Farooq Ahmad Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Wagoora B.K Pora , Muzaffar Ahmad Dar S/O Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Checkpora Kalan B.K Pora , Shakeel Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/O Gousia Colony Kanipora & Shiraz Ahmad Lone S/o Gh Mohammad Lone R/o Wagoora Budgam (Guarantors) an amount of Rs.36,88,284.10 (Rupees. Thirty Six Lacs Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Four & Paise Ten Only) being the balance outstanding as on 31.08.2023 in the accounts of the Borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrower having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrower in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J & K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on this the 25th day of January of the year 2024.

The said borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.38,38,126.10 (Thirty Eight Lacs Thirty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six & Paise Ten Only) together with future interest thereon from 01.01.2024 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

Description of the Immovable Property

"Residential House along with land underneath and appurtenant thereto measuring 19 Marlas falling under Khasra no. 1564, Khata no. 145(old 112) & Khewat no. 26 situated at mouza Wagoora, Tehsil B.K Pora District Budgam standing in the name of Mr. Sajad Ahmad Ganie S/o Wali Mohammad Ganie R/o Wagoora B.K.Pora."

(Authorized Officer)

Dated: 25.01.2024
Place:Wagoora

Your FINANCIAL FIX

Rising Threat Of Ponzi Schemes

A Call For Vigilance And Financial Literacy

Irshad Mushtaq

In recent times, there has been a significant rise in financial frauds associated with Ponzi schemes, especially in small towns and cities. These schemes entice investors with promises of low risk and high returns, but in reality, they are nothing but fraudulent scams.

Operating out of small, high-profile offices, these schemes initially attract investors with the allure of high returns. As more people invest, the scams gain confidence and continue to attract more money. However, there is no actual investment taking place, and it is important to question how these schemes can continue to provide returns without investing the money they receive.

As unsuspecting investors deposit large sums of money, the schemes disappear overnight, leaving behind only a rented office space. It is a devastating reality, and those who fall victim to these schemes are left with substantial financial losses.

What makes these schemes particularly dangerous is the fact that they are not registered with regulatory bodies such as SEBI, RBI, or IRDA. This means that the government cannot compensate for any losses incurred as a result of these fraudulent schemes.

In India, the prevalence of Ponzi schemes is particularly high in regions with low financial market knowledge, such as Kashmir. These scammers are adept at exploiting the lack of financial literacy in these areas and can easily ensnare innocent individuals through the sale of goods, apps, websites, and decorum.

It is crucial for individuals to exercise caution when approached with investment opportunities that seem too good to be true. It is vital to conduct thorough research and due diligence before committing to any investment. Additionally, seeking advice from financial professionals and staying informed about potential investment scams can help protect against falling victim to fraudulent schemes.

In conclusion, Ponzi schemes are a serious threat to the financial well-being of individuals, particularly in regions with low financial market knowledge. It is imperative to remain vigilant and informed to prevent falling prey to these fraudulent scams. The consequences of investing in such schemes can be devastating, and it is essential to spread awareness about the dangers of Ponzi schemes to protect ourselves and the community from financial exploitation.

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

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
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- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPOR: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
15 Rajab
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	6 : 05
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4:18
Magrib	5:59
ISHA	7:22

Are Consultants Ripping Off Students?

Peer Mohammad Amir Qureshi

“The Kashmiri couple was aghast, stunned by this unfortunate turn of events. Frantic calls to the consultant went unanswered, leaving them in disarray. Fortuitously, the woman's impending exams were deferred, and the aid of a consultant named Zakir sir (Zakir Kashmiri) ultimately secured her rightful admission

Under the searing sun, I found myself outside the Dean's office alongside my companion, racing against the clock to tick off exam requirements just days away. Amid this arduous endeavor, a Kashmiri couple arrived on campus, the sun's radiance reflecting off their visages. The woman's mission: snag an admit card from the Dean. But guess what? It's not as simple as it sounds. Her admission hangs in limbo, to her profound disappointment, what awaited her was nothing short of a staggering revelation—her admission remained unverified. The origins of this predicament stemmed from the fact that her admission had been orchestrated by a duplicitous consultant, one who habitually ensnares unsuspecting students, capitalizing on their vulnerabilities and offering a comprehensive array of deceptive services. Aided by the innate innocence of students, these cunning operators exploit their aspirations.

The Kashmiri couple was aghast, stunned by this unfortunate turn of events. Frantic calls to the consultant went unanswered, leaving them in disarray. Fortuitously, the woman's impending exams were deferred, and the aid of a consultant named Zakir sir (Zakir Kashmiri) ultimately secured her rightful admission. Cautionary voices in the academic realm advocate for a prudent reduction in reliance on consultants, emphasizing the need for aspirants to undertake their procedural responsibilities autonomously. Education consultants, those folks hired by colleges or universities to handle registrations, can be a lifeline. But here's the twist – some are like wolves in sheep's clothing, an ominous shift has taken place, with an insidious cabal of fraudulent advisors exploiting the unwavering trust of impressionable students, weaving tantalizing narratives of overseas or interstate educational pursuits. Their audacious demands for exorbitant fees, coupled with the peddling of spurious degrees, are indicative of a burgeoning crisis.

In the city of Hyderabad, India, a syndicate of malefactors was apprehended, their malevolent activities centering around the fabrication of counterfeit educational credentials, ostensibly to satiate the stringent visa requirements for overseas education and employment. The in-



tricate web of this operation encompassed an educational consultancy, a software engineer, and their intermediary associates. It becomes evident, however, that the culpability isn't solely borne by consultants; students themselves sometimes fall prey to their own misguided choices.

To navigate this labyrinthine landscape, experts underscore the imperative of minimizing dependence on consultants. Aspiring scholars should proactively gather exhaustive information before committing to any institution. The digital age's global village enables Kashmiris worldwide to harness the power of the internet and social media, extracting invaluable insights and reviews from their digital cohorts. Prior to making any commitments, diligent perusal of online resources, coupled with consultation of university-issued lists and alumni endorsements, is judicious. The wisdom of connecting with former attendees of a prospective institution cannot be overstated. Equally, the allure of postgraduate studies should be tempered with the pursuit of esteemed universities over mere colleges, as the former is likelier to host accomplished faculty with exceptional pedagogical acumen. The allure of consultants must be resisted—a clandestine network of brokers, akin to a secretive cabal, is ceaselessly scheming to ensnare unwitting candidates. This shadowy realm extends to the production of counterfeit degrees, allegedly attributed to a plethora of universities across states. The

Students Association of Jammu and Kashmir, as stakeholders, are well-positioned to ameliorate this conundrum. Initiatives to catalog unscrupulous entities through blacklisting and disseminating advisories on social media can be a potent tool to counter this consultancy menace. The psychological toll on vulnerable students ensnared by the consultancy mafia underscores the necessity of mental health support. During undergraduate studies, counseling sessions facilitated by seasoned professors should guide students contemplating further education. Government intervention in the form of a dedicated committee or council is pivotal to oversee consultancy operations, imposing penalties on deceptive agencies and compensating victims of their machinations. The current climate mandates astute vigilance—remain alert and prudent. Allow neither gullibility nor naiveté to undermine your journey. Utilize smartphones judiciously, lest they become instruments of your undoing. May divine providence guide us steadfastly along the righteous path.

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 Ganderbal based columnist and is pursuing an MSc in zoology.

Breaking The Chains Of Exam Anxiety

Zia Darakshan

Yet another game changing edition, 7th in series, of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) is scheduled on January 29, 2024, from 11 AM onwards in a town hall format. Over a period of time, Pariksha Pe Charcha has emerged as a unique programme in which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi directly interacts with school students.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) invited participation from school students from Class 6 to 12 along with teachers and parents and recorded a massive 2.26 crore registration on the MyGov portal at mygov.in. The huge number itself speaks about the extraordinary enthusiasm among students, teachers and parents across the geographies of the country, to interact with the Prime Minister and seek his guidance on the matters concerning their education.

Remarkably, this time, the programme will also have parents and teachers. Thereby, it is a golden opportunity for them to ask the Prime Minister for tips and seek his advice on education matters concerning their wards.

It is worth mentioning that Pariksha Pe Charcha is part of the larger movement - 'Exam Warriors' - driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to bring together students, parents, teachers and the society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully.

'Exam Warriors' is a path-breaking, best-selling book of Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlining a refreshing approach to education and urging everyone to put exams in the right perspective, rather than making it a life-and-death situation punctuated by undue stress and pressure. The book, in nutshell, carries the message - Learning should be an enjoyable, fulfilling and endless journey.

In the breakneck technologically advanced society of the present, the challenges faced by

children and students are countless. The unabated flow of information and the rapid pace of life have created an environment that is not only complex but highly competitive, particularly affecting the holistic growth of the younger generation. At the nucleus of these challenges lies the permeating issue of exam-related fear and anxiety, acting as a significant hurdle to the well-being and confidence of students.

The deluge of information, coupled with the intensification of the competitive nature of education, has given rise to a race where students are compelled to outshine each other continually. While healthy competition has always been

“It is worth mentioning that Pariksha Pe Charcha is part of the larger movement - 'Exam Warriors' - driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to bring together students, parents, teachers and the society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully.

a part of academic life, the advent of information technology has elevated it to cutthroat levels. Peer pressure, parental expectations, and societal standards have created an atmosphere where success is not just a personal achievement but a benchmark set by others.

This competition, which was once confined to senior classes, has now permeated even junior levels. Parents take pride in comparing their children's academic achievements with those of their peers, inadvertently fostering jealousy among the younger generation. Introducing a competitive mindset at such a young age predisposes children to anxiety, depression, frustration, and a desperate need to stand out from the crowd.

The relentless pursuit of excellence places an immense burden on children. Family, teachers, and society at large harbor high expectations, pushing them to be the best without fully under-

standing the pressure they endure. The fear and anxiety associated with exams do not vanish; they persist into adulthood, affecting individuals even after achieving success in their personal and professional lives. Success, measured solely by societal standards, becomes the sole determinant of a good life, overshadowing the importance of happiness.

Our education system, though modernized, seems to inadvertently foster stress and frustration rather than instilling physical, mental, and spiritual confidence in our young learners. Parents, in particular, contribute significantly to the mental strain on students with their re-

lentless pursuit of academic excellence. The pressure for children to excel academically and in extracurricular activities often leads to immense stress, with some as young as six years old thrust into competitions where failure is deemed unacceptable.

Delving into our examination system reveals a breeding ground for fear among students. The teaching community instills the fear of exams from the primary grades onward, perpetuating a culture of continuous testing that permeates the entire school curriculum. Private schools, in particular, resort to punitive measures to ensure teachers focus on pushing students to improve their scores, creating an environment that induces competitiveness but at the cost of extinguishing the natural joy of learning in children.

The prevailing attitude in our system is clear: "Focus on the examinations." This mindset has led children to believe that marks, and marks

alone, determine their worth. Even colleges and universities rely heavily on previous exam scores rather than evaluating a student's potential. The relentless pursuit of high aggregate marks, driven by parental expectations, erodes the confidence of students and undermines their individual abilities and potential.

In the midst of these challenges, the National Education Policy (NEP), loaded with a host of reforms, was rolled out in 2020, it came into effect during the 2023-2024 academic year. Aiming to bring radical changes in the way Indian Educational System works, the NEP brings the whole system under one umbrella in line with one nation, one policy agenda. This comprehensive framework, encompassing elementary to higher education and vocational training, aims to revolutionize the education sector and pave the way for transformative changes by 2030.

The NEP 2020 encourages a shift from rote memorization to fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative skills. It promotes multidisciplinary learning to nurture well-rounded individuals capable of adapting to a rapidly changing world. The integration of skill development programs into mainstream education empowers students with practical expertise for the job market.

To conclude, the seventh edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha is happening at a time when the target segment of the students are gearing up to appear in their final examinations, mostly beginning in the first week of March. The Prime Minister talking about examination anxiety and tips to break the chains of this stress will go a long way to help the three main stakeholders - students, teachers and parents - to navigate the delicate path to a confident mindset.

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 freelancer

Life's Dynamic Canvas

Mahfooz Ahmad Bakshi

I have been contemplating my high school mindset, and it's the only thing that has been on my mind lately. Everybody has had memorable thoughts back in childhood, I guess. Our dreams, our goals—everything changes, and that's how our perspectives evolve over time. Sometimes my own thoughts would obfuscate me, and sometimes I would have ineffable ideas.

Today, I have become the opposite of what I wanted to be, and it's great. I do not regret it because I have kind of found my hidden skills. Some people dream of specific pursuits in life, but everything else is planned, and it's planned really well. Your job is to realize, to discover that plan. It's not about what you want to be; it's about what humanity needs from you.

So, don't get excited or furious when your students answer the question 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' For instance, my first dream was to become an astronaut. Literally, it was my first wish. Before having that dream, I would just stay silent whenever someone asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up. Then, I started saying I want to become an astronaut. I felt so in love with space and all that I would borrow the smartphone of my relatives just to watch videos related to space. I would only use notebooks that had images of astronauts or celestial bodies on their covers. During lunch breaks, instead of playing, I used to compel my friends to listen to whatever I knew about space technology.

The story of Kalpana Chawla and other crew members, the tale of Apollo 11 and Apollo 15, I even memorised the biography of Yuri Gagarin and all the astronauts. I was so obsessed with all these things that I would often miss meals because I used to be busy reading, listening, watching stuff like that. Every-



one around me was sure that I would be a space scientist, and I was so proud of that, but life had different plans. Steadily, I began to realize that I wasn't good enough in science [especially, physics wasn't my cup of tea]. Then one day, I read about Anne Frank, and that's where I got my Plan B from. It was not enough to get me started, though it did inspire me to write, yet I found it kind of boring! Until I read a play by William Shakespeare, specifically "The Tempest," that compelled me to take a pen and start imagining beyond the stars. The spark is still there.

The reason for writing this is only to let those people who have lost hope, as their life isn't going as planned, know that if Plan A fails, start working on Plan B, and if it fails too, then focus on Plan C. Remember there are 26 alphabets, and you know what that means? That means

you have got to keep planning and keep striving until you move forward.

Today, I asked my students what they want to be when they grow up, and I wasn't impressed because what they want now may be against what they need when they grow up. However, there was a student whose answer was very shocking to everybody. Well, he said he wants to be a singer, he wants to sing! If you are living outside Kashmir, then it may be normal to you, but here in Kashmir, it's really shocking, and it may have angered his parents if he had said this in front of them. Anyway, I encouraged him the way I encouraged all the other students and advised them to always keep Plans B, C, D, and beyond in their pockets because they might need them anytime soon.

You see, life often takes un-

expected turns, so we must have the ability to adapt and discover new passions. You should always encourage your students or children to embrace flexibility in their aspirations. It's not just about what one wants to be but understanding what contribution they can make to society, to the whole world. I personally believe that life's alphabet offers endless possibilities. Our struggles start when we are born and end when we die. Living and struggles always go together.

One more thing that steps us all from achieving our goals is the concept of aging. Let me tell you that age is just a number. We are always young enough to take action unless and until we feel physically weak. It doesn't matter whether you are 30, 40, 50, or beyond. What matters is your strength. I observed many people unwill-

ing to take action just because they are over 25, and I've also witnessed individuals aged 50 and older working hard without complaining. In a nutshell, you are young until you are physically fit and mentally sound. I know the surrounding crowd may suggest you are confused, sometimes wanting to become this and sometimes that, but I'm telling you that you are not lost; you are in the process of self-discovery and uncovering the goal that the Creator has set for you.

Mahfooz Ahmad Bakshi is the youngest writer who has co-authored more than ten books. His columns often appear in the most circulated English newspapers of the valley. He hails from district Ganderbal. He can be mailed at bakshimahfooz@gmail.com

The Great Beauty Of Art Is Its Absence Of Certainty

Scott Davie

It can be surprising when things are not what they seem. Take books, for example.

I recently finished *The Outsider* (aka *The Stranger*) by Albert Camus. I'm told many people read it at a younger age, and to prove the point I was given it by a nephew who'd discovered it as a teenager.

It's not a particularly long book, yet as I turned the pages it seemed to change, revealing something unexpected. To begin with, I thought it slightly dull: a first-person account of a young Frenchman in Algiers, learning his mother had died.

There follows some rather ordinary reports of him eating, sleeping and, for reasons unknown, feeling constantly tired. He finds a girl that he likes, but doesn't love. We read about an old neighbour whose dog goes missing, and a younger man who asks him to write a letter, it's all quite unremarkable.

But after he suddenly shoots a man dead, it's doubtless a very different book. The portrayal of the lengthy prelude to his trial reveals there are many other things the author has in mind. It seems we are engaged with potentially profound reflections: on ethics, liberty, guilt, religion.

Ultimately, the book rests on a sole question: was the murder premeditated? The characters in the book don't know. But from our privileged place as witness to the narrator's inner thoughts from the first page, how could it have been? It's a tricky position for a reader to be in.

One is led to wonder what it is really about. On the final page, Camus suggests that, rather than feeling the love of the deity to which we should aspire, he senses — and is comforted by — the "tender indifference" of the world.

NOT WHAT THEY SEEM

I've thought about this a while, and decided it's a philosophical book.

Yet I'm aware that this might be simply how I'm interpreting these events. Indeed, tracing back through my thoughts, I see that for other readers this is possibly a modest story about a few months in the life of a



man. Entertaining or not, he's not a very appealing man at that!

So things like books can be something other than what they seem; what they are on the surface, and the stories we find within, can be wholly dissimilar. If absolute definitions are problematic, perhaps we can dispense with their application to other things.

Take music, for example. Among my friends who work professionally in the field, some are troubled that what to them is an artform is by others classified as just "entertainment".

I grew up being used to people seeing music as a less-than-serious pursuit. When in my teens I told my grandmother that I wanted to be a musician, she replied that such a thing would be very nice but asked what I would do for a proper job.

(She meant well, she also played piano.)

So in precisely which ways could music be both entertainment and something that is rich and profound? If you take a piece of music with

a beat and play it with conviction, whether it is an Irish jig or a rollicking Baroque gigue by JS Bach, it can make people want to dance. This is a genuine form of entertainment, and perhaps one of music's first utilities.

If you assemble some memorable words, a pleasing melody and suitable chords, it can make people want to sing along. This has long been the case in folksong traditions, and continues in popular entertainment cultures around the world. It's notable that Beethoven found it the best solution when he was searching for an ending to his final symphony.

Yet there is something truly ineffable about music in its metaphysical otherness. Like the effect of certain fragrances but more compelling, it can transport us back through time. And not just in momentary bursts. Rather, immersed through its duration, music can move us to our inner core.

Like great authors, creators of music craft narratives of surprising complexity. This can be through the align-

ment of musical ideas, no matter how small, recurring at pivotal points. Or it can be in the timing of the larger whole, when one encounters a moment of vulnerability where something more exuberant was assumed.

It can be in the ephemeral arc of a melody, or it can be the return to an evocative chord. These things in music that truly speak to us rarely happen by accident. Rather, they reveal the hand of a creative artist, working in one of our most ancient mediums. In the works we hold most highly, it is even believed great music can attain the level of philosophy.

But again, I'm led to ponder how I interpret these events. Tracing back through my thoughts, I see that for other listeners these things might not seem to exist. Could the ears of some be tuned differently to others? Or might these really be just entertaining sounds?

The absence of certainty is the great beauty of it. And sometimes it's wonderful to be surprised when things are not what they seem.

"WHO HAS DIED"?

AN EPITAPH—
in verse & A TRIBUTE

SHABIR SARWAR MALIK

—o—
" Irritate us no longer
You dumb unlettered man
Hurry, others are in the queue.
The waiting Scroll Book,
Cold Black Marble Slab and
"En—grave—r Pen"
All said in unison:
Write the NAME"...//

Journey of the Five Senses
Bestowed by two angelic-faces
[to whom this man owes his
very existence;
... What is there in me?
... on which to claim...
... proprietorship, otherwise.]
Who guided my naive fingers
To scribble the ALPHABET (S)
... between the lines...
On the Exercise Book
Called "phenomenon-a!" life
Bequeathed to this existentialist. //

EPITAPH ?

It is too big a thing for me.
Barely one alphabet,
—That too struggling
... to stand erect
... between the lines
... shall be attempted... "

" ?"
["...alf jaisa?...one jaisa?...
"A'E"?...bolo na...
chheep...koyun ho...
pleeoj...maaa..."]
I ? ... ? ... ? ... //

I
[— I...herein lying asleep
...below the mound of
Cold earth, today...],
Fearing...
This living tongue
will falter:
So today this man
Beseeches YOU
To recite over 'me'
FATEHA*
O 'MOTHER'
(-in unison
With 'Abajaan'):
—YOU ARE ALIVE,
I have died (-actually)... //

(("Was it my voice ? or
that of Ansari brothers?
on the post-burial night of 18 Dec))
—o—

Post Script:
"Spiritual Odyssey ...
A journey of love
And longing
it seemed
When
Akin to that

"Four Score kilometers long Pilgrimage"
The walk to your grave seemed,
As I carried

The Epitaph-slab to the graveyard;
Also
During the two score days:
(-named by my soul as
Arbaeen or Chehloom),

When candles emitted solemn light,
And fragrance-sticks wafted
The aroma of chants,
While

THOSE, who knew you, AAA
Recounted your righteous deeds;
your charity;
your compassionate acts;

In your earthly life
—spent under the tutored-shade of
THE GREAT SVEEDAH
-the belittling mate of the
SHAH E WILAYAT. //

With compassion, your face
has brightened
With the heavenly bliss
rewarded (- to you)

There YOU are
walking gracefully
In thauat eternal,
exalted-abode

of the kingdom of Heaven
Where, he (- M.Mustafa H Ansari sach**)
...busy, as usual, in the Recitation
...(-of Sallawat, & Holy verses ...
Somehat SMILINGLY...),

...-is getting up
with extended arms,
O'MAA*** //

..... * . 0 . *

{ { * = Post burial prayers .

= His year of Demise 2006
*** Date of Demise 17 Dec 2023 } }

Rahul, Jadeja Put India In Box Seat Against England

Agencies

HYDERABAD: Fluent half-centuries by KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja earned India a sizeable first-innings lead of 175 and control of the opening test against England on Friday, India, who have not lost a home test series since 2012, finished day two on a commanding 421-7 in their robust reply to England's modest first innings of 246.

Jadeja was on 81 at stumps having added 63 runs with Axar Patel who was on 35. After India resumed day two on 119-1, England opened with part-time spinner Joe Root who dismissed the dangerous-looking Yashvir Jaiswal (80) in his first over.

Jaiswal hit Root's second ball for a four but, two balls later, offered a high return catch to Root, who leapt to pouch the ball.

Rahul got a reprieve when Ben Foakes grassed a tough chance behind the stumps after the batter, yet to open his account, had edged Root.

Root was unlucky again when Shubman Gill misued a shot but Ben Stokes, stationed at mid-off, lost sight of the ball against the



sun. Root was taken out of the attack after four overs in a move as surprising as England's decision to not bowl him on Thursday when Jaiswal was toying with the England spinners.

Tom Hartley had particularly suffered at the hands of Jaiswal but the left-arm spinner put that pain behind him and dismissed Gill (23) for his first wicket in international cricket. Rahul smacked two sixes in a Rehan Ahmed over to put India ahead and forged half-century partnerships with Shreyas Iyer (35) and Jadeja to consolidate In-

dia's position. Leg-spinner Ahmed removed Iyer with Hartley taking the catch in the deep. The roles were reversed as the English duo combined again to dismiss Rahul, who threw his bat in disgust after pulling a Hartley half-tracker to Ahmed when a hundred seemed there for the taking.

2 Kashmiri Football Prospects Among J&K's 10 Most Outstanding Sportspersons



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two young Kashmiri footballers, Sajad Hussain Faray and Ahmad Salha Gezir, were among 10 athletes from J&K conferred with the Most Outstanding Sportspersons award on 2024 Republic Day.

The two footballers have represented India at the international level. Sajad, a left back from Gund Hasi Bhat, in Indian Super League and was part of the Indian squad that won the Under-20 SAFF Championship in 2023. Ahmad Salha a

midfielder from Khanabal, Anantnag, won the 2023 Under-16 SAFF Championship with Team India.

The J&K Football Association congratulated the two international footballers.

"This incredible achievement is a moment of immense pride for all of us. Sajad Hussain Faray and Ahmad Salha's dedication and hardwork have been an inspiration to all the footballers and football fraternity," the FA said in a statement.

The JKFA also thanked Nuzhat Gul, Secretary J&K Sports Council, for her "unconditional support"

towards football. Both Salha and Sajad were part of the Sports Council Football Academy.

The 10 J&K athletes awarded with the honor, which includes a cash grant of Rs. 51,000 and a citation to each awardee, include: Sheetal Devi (Para Archery), Falaji Singh, HC (Mountaineer), Amir Ahmad Bhat (Para Shooting), Rakshinda Mehak (Judo), Abdul Salha Sher Gujri (Football), Sajad Hussain Paray (Football), Suvitha Hussain (Roll Ball), Villayath Hussain (Kayaking & Canoeing), Kyran Gupta (Roller Skating) and Aneesa Sharma (Rifle Shooting).

Sania Mirza Receives Strong Support In Pakistan After Shoaib Malik Divorce



Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Indian tennis superstar Sania Mirza has received strong support from people in Pakistan after ex-husband Shoaib Malik revealed last week that he was now married to TV actor and model Sana Javed.

People on social media have castigated Shoaib and Sana for breaking up their respective marriages, with many supporting Sana's decision to seek divorce from the Pakistani cricketer.

To add fuel to fire, a podcast on news channel Samaa TV claimed that Shoaib and Sana had been having an affair and intimate relations since last three years despite being married.

The podcast added that Sana had been divorced merely for three months from her former husband Umair Jaswal when she tied the knot with Shoaib.

Whenever Shoaib was invited for any shows on the channel, he would appear only on the condition that Sana should also be called, the podcast added.

"They were having an affair for the last three years and were intimately involved," a producer of the podcast said.

"Umair didn't know about this, but Sana and her family and even Shoaib's family came to know about it last year. Efforts were made to resolve the situation but Shoaib didn't listen to anyone," the producer added.

Shoaib and Sana were married amidst great fanfare in 2010 at Hyderabad (India) while Sana and Umair tied the knot in 2020 in a private ceremony.

That Shoaib and Sana are now separated came to light only after the former cricketer and Sana shared a photograph from their marriage.

Windies Pacemen Ruin Australia's Day In Gripping Pink-Ball Test

Agencies

BRISBANE: The West Indies left batted superbly on Friday and followed up in a commanding fashion with the ball to stun Australia, who trail in the

second test by 35 runs after a top-order collapse necessitated a counter-attack at the Gabba in Brisbane. Leading 1-0 in the two-game series, the home side recovered from 24-4 to boldly declare 22 runs behind at 289-9 in the night session, after fast bowlers Kemar Roach (3-47) and Alzarri Joseph (4-84) inflicted maximum damage.

Having been bowled out earlier in the day after Kevin Sinclair (50) lifted the visitors to 311, the Caribbean batsmen had to tough out 7.3 overs under lights to reach the day's close at 13-1. Opener Teganarine Chanderpaul (4) was caught behind by Alex Carey

off Josh Hazlewood on the last ball before stumps, leaving captain Kraigg Brathwaite unbeaten on three.

New opener Steve Smith, thrust into the role after David Warner's retirement, fell to



Cricket Australia in 2021 stopped referencing "Australia Day" for matches played on Jan. 26 — the 1788 date when the first fleet of British settlers arrived in Sydney — after a recommendation from its Indigenous advisory committee. Earlier, the eighth-ranked tourists antagonised the world test champions with the bat for 18 overs after resuming from 266-8 overnight.

An untimely tumble left Roach (8) exposed to a simple run out, prompting Sinclair to attack spinner Nathan Lyon (2-81) and reach 50 with a majestic six over long-on before being stamped off the next ball to end the first innings.

Roach for six in the first over of Australia's innings when a scaming delivery was adjudged lbw on review. But it was a double-strike by veteran Roach on the stroke of dinner to send Cameron Green (8) and Travis Head (0) on their way that sent shockwaves through the home dressing room and brought about a strategy change.

Mitchell Marsh (21) and Carey (65), who found fortune when his balls were hit but not dislodged, played at better than a run-a-ball before holding out while opener Usman Khawaja (75) set anchor. Off-spinner Sinclair (1-53) brought out a backflip when Khawaja

Tanmay Agarwal Smashes Fastest First Class Triple-Century



Agencies

Hyderabad opener Tanmay Agarwal scripted history on Friday as Hyderabad wrapped up Day One at 529/1 in their 2023-24 Ranji Trophy clash against Arunachal Pradesh, at the NFC Cricket Ground in Secunderabad.

The 28-year-old hammered an unbeaten knock of 323 off 160 balls, packed with 33 fours and 21 sixes, at a strike rate of 201.88, which also became the fourth-best strike rate among all batters with at least 200 runs in an innings. It is also the best by an Indian batter in first-class cricket.

The opener also became the fastest cricketer to reach a triple ton in first-class cricket, going from 200 to 300 in only 28 deliveries, and reaching it in 147 balls.

Hyderabad scored close to 11 runs an over, and Tanmay's opening partner Rahul Singh Gahlot departed for 185 in 105 balls. The pair reached 449 for the first wicket, which is also the fifth-best by an Indian pair in first-class cricket. Tanmay needs only four more maximums, having hit 20, to bag most sixes in a single first-class innings.

The record is currently held by New Zealand's Colin Munro, who got 23 sixes in 2014/15 during his 281-knock for Auckland against Central Districts.

If he reaches 443 on Day 2, he will become the Indian batter with the highest first-class score. Bhausaheb Nimalkar is the current record-holder, registering 443* for Maharashtra in 1948. The overall record is held by Brian Lara (501*) in 1994, which also can be broken.

Liverpool Manager Jurgen Klopp Says It Is Time To Leave

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp, one of Liverpool's most successful managers, is leaving the Merseyside club at the end of the season saying he is running out of energy.

"I love absolutely everything about this club, I love everything about the city, I love everything about our supporters, I love the team, I love the staff," Klopp said in an extended interview on the team's website. "I love everything."

"But that's still take this decision shows you that I am convinced it is the one I have to take. It is that I am... running out of energy. I know that I cannot do the job again and again and again and again."

The 56-year-old's shock announcement comes on the heels of Liverpool reach-



ing the League Cup final on Wednesday and amid a season that has his team in the running for four trophies and sitting atop the Premier League standings.

"After the years we had together and after all the time we spent together and after all the things we went through together, the respect grew for you, the love grew for you and the least I owe you is the truth — and that is the

truth," he said. The German joined Liverpool in October 2015 and has won the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup and Super Cup, as well as the Community Shield during his time in charge.

Klopp has the highest win rate of any manager in Liverpool's history in all competitions at 60.7% and is the only manager

to win each of the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup. He led Liverpool to the Champions League in 2019, and the league title a year later, their first in 30 years and first of the Premier League era.

Sinner Books Medvedev Final As Melbourne Park Gears Up For New King

Agencies

MELBOURNE: The Australian Open will crown a new men's champion after Janmik Sinner shock holder Novak Djokovic to reach the final, where the Italian faces twice runner-up Daniil Medvedev, who came from two sets down to oust Alexander Zverev on a thrilling Friday.

Sinner roared to a 6-1 6-2 6-7(6) 6-3 win that handed top seed Djokovic his first defeat at Melbourne Park in six years to move into his maiden Grand Slam title clash. Later on Rod Laver Arena, Russian third seed Medvedev got past his German opponent 5-7 3-6 7-6(4) 7-6(5) 6-3 for a second comeback win from two sets down in the tournament after he had battled past Emil Ruusuvuori in the second round.

Fourth seed Sinner was far more efficient as he provided a masterclass in tennis in the opening two sets to put the wheels in motion for Djokovic's only defeat in the semifinals of his favourite major. It also made the 22-year-old the only Australian from his nation to reach an Australian Open singles final.



In marking the arrival of a new generation of tennis stars, the Melbourne title clash on Sunday will also be the first since 2005 not to feature Djokovic or fellow "Big Three" members Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal.

Sinner stunned Djokovic twice in three matches at the end of last season and he made a rollicking start on Rod Laver Arena by targeting his 36-year-old opponent's shaky serve and error-prone backhand to comfortably win the opening set. Djokovic had not lost at his favourite stomping ground since the 2018 edition when he crashed to South Ko-

rean Chung Hyeon and there were worrying signs for the 10-times Melbourne champion as the 22-year-old Sinner eased through the next set.

The Sinner tsunami showed no signs of subsiding in the third set but Djokovic raised his game to remain firm until 5-5 in the tiebreak, when a break in play after a fan fell ill threatened to upset the momentum of both players. Djokovic won the game on a net cord to inch closer to taking the set but Sinner showed superb racket control with an overhead smash to force a tiebreak, only to squander a match point at 6-5 by hitting a forehand into the net.