

ST Benefits To New Communities This Year: LG

Assures Inclusion Of Pahari Community In Tribal Plan Schemes



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with the 120-member delegation of Pahari Community at Raj Bhawan today.

The LG reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration to ensure that the benefits of Scheduled Tribes reservation is extended to Pahari, Padari, Koli and Gadda Brahmin this year and they are included in the Tribal plan schemes.

The prominent Pahari leaders conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for empowering the Pahari community while safeguarding the interest of Gujjar, Bakarwals and other listed tribes.



AFTER 75 YEAR OF POLITICAL and social slavery, justice has been delivered. Today we are feeling empowered and free."

"We are all brothers and working with the aim of nation-building," the Pahari community members said.

Muzaffar Hussain Baig, former Deputy Chief Minister lauded the Central Government and the UT Administration for fulfilling the long pending demands of the Paharis and other communities. | More on P6



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his government has given 1.5 times more jobs in its 10 years than the previous dispensation did in the same duration.

Handing over recruitment letters to government jobs to more than one lakh youngsters via video conference during a Rozgar Mela programme, Modi castigated the previous government for taking an inordinately "long time" to complete recruitment exercises and said it bred bribery. | More on P10

Have Given 1.5 Times More Jobs Than Previous Govt In 10 Yrs: PM

Distributes Over 1 Lakh Recruitment Letters At Rozgar Mela

A Diplomatic Victory?

Qatar Releases 8 Jailed Indians

Centre Credits PM, Says He Was In Charge

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Qatar has released eight jailed former Indian Navy personnel and seven of them returned home on Monday, in

what is seen as a major diplomatic victory for India that came nearly three-and-half months after a Qatari court handed them death sentence that was subsequently commuted to varying jail terms. Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said



PM To Visit Doha On Feb 14

Press Trust Of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Qatari capital Doha on February 14 after concluding his two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, an announcement that came hours after Qatar released eight jailed former Indian Navy personnel. Modi is embarking on a two-day visit to | More on P10

PM Likely To Visit J&K On Feb 20

BJP Prepares For Mega Rally
KO Web Desk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir on Feb 20 to inaugurate various developmental projects in the union territory during his visit, sources said. If sources are to be believed, PM Modi will visit both Jammu and Srinagar with the itinerary of the high profile visit to be released in the next couple of days. The PM is likely to address a rally in Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir and distribute over one lakh appointment letters among the youth. Sources said that PM Modi will also inaugurate various developmental projects worth thousands of crores during his upcoming visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Notable among the projects is the ambitious Kashmir train project to connect the valley with the rest of the country. The ambitious Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is likely to be thrown open in coming weeks | More on P10

JKCA Money Laundering Case

ED Summons Farooq Abdullah For Questioning

Agencies

Srinagar: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoned National Conference president and former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah for questioning in connection with alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

Sources that the summons have asked Abdullah to depose at the ED office in Srinagar today.

The 86-year-old, who represents Srinagar in the Lok Sabha, was summoned in the same case last month. But citing health reasons, he did not appear at the offices of the agency in Srinagar. | More on P6

Kashmir Sees Increased Day Temp

Highest Since Jan 14

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Day temperatures across Kashmir valley saw an improvement on Sunday with the mercury rising 4 to 5 degrees above normal, as reported by the meteorological centre in Srinagar. Srinagar witnessed a sunny day with the maximum temperature reaching 14.5 degrees Celsius, approximately 5 degrees above the usual.

This marked the highest day temperature in the city since January 14. Despite the warm days, nights remain extremely cold with the minimum temperature being | More on P10

Empowering Tribes

WELFARE INITIATIVES FOR THE TRIBAL POPULATION OF J&K IN LAST 4 YEARS

Building a Future of Equality and Prosperity



Seasonal Teachers

1500 teachers hired for more than 33,000 tribal children studying in seasonal schools during migration period. Salary of seasonal teachers enhanced by 2.5 times in 2021.



Forest Rights Act

Implemented in rest of Country in 2006, was extended to J&K in 2021.



Tribal Hostels

Only 26 hostels were constructed till 2019
8 new hostels for 1200 students opened in 2022
26 hostels also modernized at the cost of ₹10.50 cr.
25 new hostels being constructed for 3750 students with an estimated cost of ₹100 cr.



Smart Schools for Tribal population

First time in the history of J&K, more than 200 tribal schools upgraded to Smart Schools at a cost of more than ₹40 cr.



Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)

For the first time, 6 EMRS made operational in various districts.



Skill Development for Tribal Youth

2000 tribal youth trained in various trades in 2023 as compared to only 549 in 2019.



Pre and Post Matric Scholarships

2,02,000 scholarships amounting to ₹32 cr disbursed in 2022 as compared to 1,40,000 scholarships amounting to ₹15 cr in 2019.



Technology enabled education scheme

For the first time, 1000 tribal hostel students provided with computer tablets.



Coaching Programmes for Competitive Exams

For the first time, TOP 50, HOST 50, STARS 100 and LAW 20 coaching programmes for competitive exams like NEET, JEE, UPSC, launched.



National Tribal Festival

For the first time, National Level Tribal Festival organised for cultural exchanges and economic opportunities for tribal artisans at Srinagar in 2023.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
 Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
 No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

**Office Of The Deputy Commissioner/
 District Election Officer, Baramulla**
Greater Participation For A Stronger Democracy

Subject: Draft Proposal For Delimitation Of Wards Of Municipal Committee Watergam

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Housing and Urban development Department UT of Jammu & Kashmir has issued instructions for delimitations of Municipal Wards vide No:PS/PS/HUDD/2023/53 DT:16-12-2023.
 Whereas a committee has been constituted vide this office order No: - 02/DCB/2024 Dated 18-01-2024 for preparation of draft delimitation purpose of Municipal Councils I Committees of District Baramulla.
 Whereas a draft proposal for delimitation of wards has been prepared with reference to Municipal Committee Watergam. The committee submitted draft proposal vide NO. - MC/Wtg/2023-24/7074-76 Dated 07-02-2024.
 Whereas the said draft proposal of Municipal Committee Watergam is notified as Annexure's to this public notice for inviting objection and suggestions.
 The objections I suggestions shall reach to this office as well as office of the Executive officer Municipal Committee Watergam within Seven days (07) from issuance of notification. The objections /suggestions can also be submitted through mail on entbaramulla@nic.in within seven working days.
 No objections shall be accepted/ entertained after the cutoff date.
 No: Dcb/2024/1181-90
 Dated: 10-02-2024

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla

**Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar
 Office Of The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Watergam**

The Deputy Commissioner,
 Baramulla.
 No: - MC/Wtg/2023-24/7071-76

Dated: - 07-02-2024

Subject: Draft Proposal of ward Delimitation of Municipal Committee Watergam.
 Ref: -1. Director Urban Local Bodies Kashmir's Letter No:- DULBK/G/1136/2023-24/701-51 dated: -08-01-2024.
 2. ADDC Baramulla's letter No:- ADDC/Bla/2023-24/1281-87 dated:- 09-01-2024.
 3. Your order No: - 02/DCB/2024 dated: - 18-01-2024.
 4. Minutes of Meeting No: - DCB/SQ/6628-31 Dated: - 19-01-2024.

Sr,
 With regard to the above captioned subject and references, kindly find enclosed herewith the following documents for favour of information & further necessary action:

01. Draft Proposal/Report on Delimitation of Municipal Committee Watergam as Annexure A.
02. Information regarding survey No's & population on the format provided as Annexure B.
03. Map showing draft ward boundaries and Municipal boundaries of Municipal Committee Watergam as Annexure C.

Yours faithfully,
 Executive Officer
 Municipal Committee Watergam

**Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
 Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar
 Office Of The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Watergam
 Annexure A**

Draft Proposal/Report on Delimitation of Municipal Committee Watergam

In compliance with the order No: 02/DCB/2024 dated: 18/01/2024, we, the constituted members after field survey of 13 wards of Municipal Committee Watergam, present this draft report regarding the delimitation of Municipal Committee Watergam. The report contains our rationale for the rationalization of the wards within the Municipal Committee Watergam for delimitation.

Rationalization of Wards: -

After carefully examining the population distribution and considering various factors viz demography and natural barriers, we propose that rationalization of the wards could not be made for the delimitation of Municipal Committee Watergam on the following grounds:

- Rehmatnagar, Ward No: 10 has a population of 841 souls which is highest among the wards, while Gundmura Ward No: 11 is adjacent to the said ward with a population of 610 souls. However, no proportionate rationalization can be made for the reason that there is natural barrier of Nallah Hamal between these two wards.
- In respect of least populated ward viz Ward No: - 04 Syedkiran, the population cannot be rationalized as the ward has natural barrier of Nallah Hamal separating it from nearby ward No: - 05 Dangerpora "A" and Ward No: - 06 Malpora.
- No rationalization of other wards seems required as of now. Hence the report is submitted for your kind perusal and further necessary action at your end ANNEXURE B

S.No	Name of the Proposed Ward	Area Covered	Survey No. Starting	Survey No. end	Total survey No's falling in Ward	Project population 2024 falling in ward	House holds falling in Ward
1	1. Putpora B	1. Maqbool Abad, 2. Bilal Colony	1 881	470, 895	(Watergam Bala) (Watergam Bala)	485	511
2	2. Putpora A	1. Tulbagh 2. Owasi Mohalla	896	929	(Watergam Bala)	34	405
3	3. Dangerpora B	1. New Colony 2. Umer Colony	1	408	(Watergam Payeen)	408	400
4	4. Syedkiran	1. Eidgah Mohalla 2. Syed Kirman	471 733	732 880	(Watergam Bala) (Watergam Bala)	410	323
5	5. Dangerpora A	1. Ahmadabad 2. Jammia Mohalla	930 409	968 552	(Watergam Bala) (Watergam Payeen)	183	357
6	6. Malpora	1. Mamin Abad 2. Muslimabad	969 1051 553 1831	1034 1079 620 2100	(Watergam Bala) (Watergam Payeen) (Watergam Payeen)	433	341
7	7. Anwarabad	1. Urmaan Abad 2. Assad sahib 3. Sadiq Abad	1035 1080	1050 1379	(Watergam Bala) (Watergam Bala)	316	668
8	8. Gundakarimkhan B	1. Lone Mohalla 2. Rafter Mohalla 3. Babo Mohalla	1097	1320	(Gundakarimkhan)	224	526
9	9. Gundakarimkhan A	1. Umar Colony 2. Asthan Mohalla 3. Halal Buzah	1	1096	(Gundakarimkhan)	1096	563
10	10. Rehmatnagar	1. Lone Mohalla 2. Burpora 3. Jammia Mohalla	2101	2633	(Watergam Payeen)	533	841
11	11. Gundmura	1. Gundmura 2. Chanpora	1	530	(Gundmura)	530	610
12	12. Marazgund B	1. Rafter Colony 2. Pethpora	621	1399	(Watergam Payeen)	779	675
13	13. Marazgund A	1. Jammia Qadeem 2. Burpora 3. Aamadpora	1400	1830	(Watergam Payeen)	431	791

Signature
 Additional Deputy Commissioner
 Watergam (A)
 DIPK-16255/23 dated: 12-02-2024

Signature
 Additional Deputy Commissioner
 Watergam
 Sopore - 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the DOB certificate of my ward. Now I am applying for its duplicate. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Syed Mehraj Ud Din Masoodi
 F/o Syed Shahzaib Masoodi (DOB: 01-10-2013)
 R/o Surasyar Chadoora Budgam nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name from Mohd Maqbool Rather, S/o Mohd Akbar Rather to Mohammad Maqbool Rather, S/o Mohammad Akbar Rather in my service records, If anybody having any objection regarding the same may communicate to the concerned authorities within a week time from the publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection will be entertained. inf

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate in favour of my Son Ikhtlaq Hussain Malla (dob 06-06-2011). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Fida Hussain Malla
 F/o Ikhtlaq Hussain Malla nj
 R/o Malpora Khumani Chowk Bemina Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate in favour of my Son Amir Ali Rather (dob 02-11-2012). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Altaf Hussain Rather F/o Amir Ali Rather nj
 R/o Khosa Mohalla Khumani Chowk Bemina Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB Certificate in favour of my Daughter Farwah Fatima (dob 03-12-2014). If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Altaf Hussain Rather F/o Farwah Fatima nj
 R/o Khosa Mohalla Khumani Chowk Bemina Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name on Electricity Bill bearing Consumer ID No: 0206050001691 from M. Sultan Khan S/o M. Subhan Khan R/o Arath to Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Khan Adopted son of M. Sultan Khan S/o Ab. Raheem Khan R/o Aarth Narbal Budgam. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Sub. Division PDD Narbal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. M. Sultan Khan S/o M. Subhan Khan R/o Arath bmg

**Before The Hon'ble Court Of
 Pr. District Judge Budgam**

In the case of: 1. Khazir Mohd wani s/o Gh Ahmad wani
 2. Fazil Ahmad wani s/o Khazir Mohd wani
 3. Rafiq Bano W/o Khazir Mohd wani
 All Residents of soibugh, Bonpora Tehsil and district Budgam (Caveators)

V/S

Public at large

(Non-caveators)

In the matter of:-
 Caveat petition under section 148-A CPC.
 May it please your Honour:-
 The Caveators humbly submit as under:-

1. That the Caveators are the permanent resident UT of J&K, thus have every right to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court for the protection and enforcement of their legal rights.

2. That the caveators have every apprehension that the non-caveators may institute, prefer or make a suit, application or any other like proceedings against the caveators and may succeed in getting an ex-parte order in their favour and the same will work harsh against the caveators.

3. That this Hon'ble court before passing any ex-parte order in the eventuality of any institution by the non-caveators against the caveators, may hear the Caveators, so that the Caveators are not condemned unheard.

4. That the caveators submits this caveat petition for securing the rights and pray that they may be put to notice before passing any order in the event of institution, preferred or make of any suit, application or other like proceedings against the caveators.
 Accordingly in the premises it is therefore humbly prayed that this hon'ble court may put this petition on registry and may be pleased to afford a chance of being heard to the caveators before passing any order in favour of the non-caveators in the eventuality of institution of a suit, application or other like proceedings against the caveators before this Hon'ble Court, so as to secure the ends of justice.

Caveators
 Through Counsel

NJ

Pulic Notice

My name has been wrongly written in my DOB certificate as Muhammad Saim Khan S/o Dilawar Ahmad Khan R/o Palhallaan Pattan while my correct name is Imraan Khan S/o Dilawar Ahmad Khan R/o Palhallaan Pattan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Municipal Committee Pattan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. Imraan Khan S/o Dilawar Ahmad Khan FKO
 R/o Palhallaan Pattan

Pulic Notice

I informed to general public that my wife namely KHATIJ BEGEM W/O GH AHMAD MIR R/O KREERI has died on 06/04/2022. Now I am applying for her death certificate. If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his /her objection in the BDO office WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: GH AHMAD MIR
 H/O: KHATIJ BEGEM
 R/O: KREERI
 Block: WAGOORA
 Distt: BARAMULLA kri

از عدالت ایجوکیٹیو مجسٹریٹ درج اول نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام

عنوان: درخواست منجانب غلام احمد وانی ولد غلام غلام احمد وانی ساکنہ چٹہ بگ تحصیل نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام بمراد عطائی اجرائی ایم پیدائش سند عشیر السلام 10-04-2011

اشتہار بمراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں دفتر بڈگام ایک درخواست بابت حصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہے۔ سائل اساتذہ ایم پیدائش سند حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے۔ سائل اساتذہ دعویٰ کرتی کرتا ہے کہ عصیرہ جاوید دختر جاوید احمد دار ساکنہ چٹہ بگ نارہ بل کی تاریخ پیدائش 10-04-2011 ہے اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض سات ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار bmg

از عدالت ایجوکیٹیو مجسٹریٹ درج اول نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام

عنوان: درخواست منجانب غلام احمد وانی ولد غلام غلام احمد وانی ساکنہ چٹہ بگ تحصیل نارہ بل ضلع بڈگام بمراد عطائی اجرائی ایم پیدائش سند عشیر السلام 10-04-2011

اشتہار بمراد گاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں دفتر بڈگام ایک درخواست بابت حصول تاریخ پیدائش سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہے۔ سائل اساتذہ ایم پیدائش سند حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے۔ سائل اساتذہ دعویٰ کرتی کرتا ہے کہ عصیرہ جاوید دختر جاوید احمد دار ساکنہ چٹہ بگ نارہ بل کی تاریخ پیدائش 10-04-2011 ہے اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض سات ایم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار bmg

**In The Court Of Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Kanjiullar**

Subject: Application of Ab Gani Mir S/o Gh Ahmad Mir R/o Ramnagri Tehsil and District Shoplan for registration of event of death (delayed entry) of his Father namely Gh Ahmad Mir

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
 Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for Issuance of death certificate of his father with date of death as 04-03-2000

As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of death record of applicant's father with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths)/Block Development Officer Ramnagri then he / she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law.

Issued under seal and signature of this court today on 18-01-2024

Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Kanjiullar
 FKO

**In The Court Of Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Kanjiullar**

Subject: Application of Ab Gani Mir S/o Gh Ahmad Mir R/o Ramnagri Tehsil and District Shoplan for registration of event of death (delayed entry) of his Mother namely Fazal Begum

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
 Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for Issuance of death certificate of his Mother _ with date of death as 01-06-1980

As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of death record of applicant's mother with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths)/Block Development Officer Ramnagri then he / she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law.

Issued under seal and signature of this court today on 18-01-2024

Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Kanjiullar
 FKO

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ

درخواست از جانب شوکت علی ذوالدغلام حسین ڈار ساکنہ نوری پورہ تحصیل پٹن بارمولہ بمراد حصول ایگل بائرنرٹیفکیٹ D.O.B حاصل کیا گیا۔

اشتہار بمراد گاہی خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد کے نسبت رپورٹ بنیاتی سکری ڈیپارٹمنٹ پٹن پورہ پٹن بارمولہ و آٹھ ماہ سے موصول ہوئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ عملہ ٹیلے سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کی دختر فاطمہ فاروق کی پیدائش مورخہ 05-04-2015 کو ہوئی ہے اور سائل مذکورہ سے تعلق رکھتی ہیں۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار منتشر کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکیٹ ہو تو دفتر خذ میں اندر سات ایم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

fko

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت گوم احمد پورہ

درخواست از جانب شوکت علی ذوالدغلام حسین ڈار ساکنہ نوری پورہ تحصیل پٹن بارمولہ بمراد حصول ایگل بائرنرٹیفکیٹ D.O.B حاصل کیا گیا۔

اشتہار بمراد گاہی خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد کے نسبت اول رپورٹ بنیاتی سکری ڈیپارٹمنٹ پٹن پورہ پٹن بارمولہ و آٹھ ماہ سے موصول ہوئی۔ مطابق رپورٹ عملہ ٹیلے سے عیاں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل کا پ غلام حسین ڈار مورخہ 19-11-1996 کو متولد ہوا ہے اور غلام حسین ڈار ولد محمد ایاز بھیم ڈار کے داروان بڑیل ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام	رشتہ	پیشہ	عمر
1	شفیقہ بیگم	زویہ	مردہ	75 سال
2	مظفر حسین ڈار	پہر	//	54 سال
3	شوکت علی ڈار	//	مزدوری	53 سال
4	حیدر بانو	دختر	گھریلو کام	44 سال
5	صدیقہ جان	//	//	40 سال
6	طاہرہ زویہ	//	//	37 سال
7	شہیر حسین ڈار	پہر	مزدور	36 سال

اسطور سے متوفی کے داروان کی تعداد سات افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اس بارے میں بذریعہ اخبار اشتہار منتشر کیا جاتا ہے اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض نسبت اجراء سرٹیفکیٹ ہو تو دفتر خذ میں اندر سات ایم پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

fko

نائب تحصیلدار

انتقال بمرطال

تیر نہایت ہی دکھ کے ساتھ ہی جاتی ہے کہ لایہ مرحوم علی محمد آخون ولد محمد کاظم آخون ساکنہ پکھدرہ بل حضرت علی سرینگر حضرت عالت کے بعد اس دار فانی سے رخصت ہوئی مرحوم ایک نیک سیرت اور ملسا خاتون محی اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کو جو رشتہ میں جگہ گناہ فرمایا اور سوگواران کو یہ عظیم صدمہ برداشت کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے مرحومہ کی فاتح خوانی 14 فروری بروز بدھوار ان کے آبائی مقبرہ جسٹن پورہ سنگھ میں منع سائے سات بجے انجام پڑی جوگی بعد از ان کے گھر چلے صدرہ بل حضرت علی میں منبر کھنکس وغیرہ پر ہی جاری رہے۔ صاحب چلے حضرت۔ غلام محمد آخون ولد محمد سوگواران۔

فون نمبر- 7006857498

inf

Srinagar Couple Hails Modern Technology For Successful Trout Farming

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A husband-wife duo from Srinagar has achieved success in managing a trout fish farm in the Harwan area.

Founded by Sadia Imam, an MSc graduate in organic chemistry from Bangalore, alongside her husband Adil Akram Wani, who holds an engineering degree, they have successfully produced an impressive twenty tons of 'Trout Fishes' over the past four years, building a loyal customer base.

Sharing their journey, Sadia said, "I got married in Kashmir and now live in Harwan, Srinagar with my in-laws. While searching for jobs, it was always in my mind to be an entrepreneur. I thought of this idea about establishing a trout farm here in the Harwan area, and my husband and in-laws helped me in doing that."

We saw an advertisement from the Department of Fisheries, and with the help of the Blue Revolution scheme and PMSSY schemes, we started with two units, she said. "Alhamdulillah, we now have a big fish farm today."

The couple named it the 'Mountain Trout Farm' as it is situated on the left side of the mountain in the Harwan area. Sadia said they are using modern technology to grow the farm.

"When we established the farm in 2019, it was a challenging time, especially with marketing and other aspects. Initially, we did not have much knowledge, which was a drawback. However, after researching and gaining knowledge, we are Alhamdulillah successful today," she said.

Today, after four to five years, we have produced about twenty tonnes of trout, and we have also built a loyal customer base, she added.

Sadia said they received a very good response from people. "Being from Bangalore and getting married here in Kashmir, I don't know anyone else except my in-laws, but the people here are very helpful and supportive," she said, adding that there is great creativity in young minds.

"Go out, work hard, and achieve your goals," she said in her message to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Delay In Culvert Construction At Shalimar Prolongs Motorists' Ordeal

Traffic To Be Restored By Feb 25, Say Officials

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The inordinate delay in constructing a ten-meter-long culvert next to the shrine of Syed Meerak Shah Kashani (R.A.) on Shalimar road has caused inconvenience to pilgrims and motorists alike for about two months.

The work on the ten-meter-long culvert near the shrine, according to the residents, began in December of last year. Nevertheless, the executing agency has not been able to finish the small project, causing immense hardships to motorists and pilgrims.

They urged the authorities to expedite the construction work so that the residents do not face difficulties, asserting that the busy road stand closed for about two months as a result of the executing agency's inordinate delay.

"We have to take another route to reach Lal Chowk from Shalimar as the construction of a small culvert measuring ten meters near the shrine has resulted in inconvenience to both commuters and the pil-



grims visiting the shrine," Mohammad Maqbool, a local resident told Kashmir Observer.

Although acknowledging the delay, Tariq Ahmad, the contractor tasked with constructing the culvert, said that traffic will resume on the route by February 25.

"We are working to reopen the section of road as soon as possible. The work began in January only and we acknowledge the fact that people might have experienced difficulties. We are waiting for the culvert to completely dry as vehicles cannot pass over it until the necessary condition is

We are working to reopen the section of road as soon as possible. The work began in January only and we acknowledge the fact that people might have experienced difficulties. We are waiting for the culvert to completely dry as vehicles cannot pass over it until the necessary condition is satisfied"

satisfied," the contractor told Kashmir Observer.

The road was frequently filled with water, creating problems for the people, he added, which is why a pipe culvert was constructed next to the shrine to facilitate the water flow.

"We will expedite the work and ensure the culvert is completed before 25th of this month. The traffic will be restored at the earliest," an official of the Roads and Bridges Department told Kashmir Observer.

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI CALENDAR

02 Shaban
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5: 54
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4: 33
Magrib	6:15
ISHA	7: 37

House, Cowsheds Guttled In Separate Fire Incidents In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Twin fire incidents in Srinagar district damaged seven shanties, four cowsheds, and a three-storey residential house partially in Zonimar, Soura, and Nowhatta areas of Srinagar, officials said.

Officials said two fire incidents in the last 24 hours damaged one room of a three-storey residential house partially, along with seven shanties and four cowsheds at different locations in Srinagar.

Sharing details about the first incident, an official from F&ES told KNO that four cowsheds, single-storey house, and seven shanties were damaged in a fire incident, adding that the roofing, ceiling, and dry grass stored in attics of all cowsheds were damaged, while all shanties were severely damaged in the blaze at Zonimar.

About the second incident, the official added that one room on the ground floor of a three-storey residential house was damaged while the rest of the structure was saved.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.

Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE No: 02 of 2024
Dated: - 12-02-2024

Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir invites online applications from the eligible candidates of domiciles of UT of J&K for the post of Manager (CIED), Assistant Manager (CIED), Training & Placement Officer, Legal Assistant, Accounts Assistant, Junior Technical Assistant (DIC), Junior Technical Assistant (Architecture), Junior Technical Assistant (Planning), Junior Technical Assistant (Geomatics) Junior Technical Assistant (CIED), IT Assistant, Draftsman, Junior Assistant, Sports Assistant, Medical Assistant, Works Supervisor and Workshop Mechanic.

Important dates:
Date of availability of Online Application Form : 13-02-2024
Last date of submission of Online Application Form : 05-03-2024 (4:00 PM)
Last date of submission of hardcopies of the Application Form : 12-03-2024 (4:30 PM)

The detailed advertisement notice is available on the University website www.iust.ac.in.
No: IUST/Reg/Adm/ADV/24/56
Dated: 12-02-2024

Sd/-
Registrar

DIPK-NB-5640/23 dated: 12-02-2024

Govt. of UT of J&K
Department of Labour & Employment
Directorate of Employment (J&K)



DE&CC/MCC Budgam

JOB FAIR

17th February 2024

Venue : Town Hall Municipal Committee, Beerwah, Budgam

Time 11.00AM

POSITIONS/VACANCIES (MORE THAN 200)

- Chief Insurance Manager
- Life Insurance Manager
- Teachers
- Cabin crew
- Electricians
- Accounts Assistant
- Machine Operator
- Technicians
- Welders
- Marketing executives
- Motion graphics
- Sales Executives
- Financial consultant
- Business development managers
- Graphic Designers
- Bag Machine Operator
- Flex Machine operator
- Laser operator
- sales managers
- medical representatives
- Plumbers
- Civil engineer
- General nurse
- pharmacist

For Registration, please scan the QR code



Contact :
call : 01951 351030
Email : deccbudgam@gmail.com

DIPK-16307/23 dated: 12-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the NOC of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK05 7974 Model 510. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name: AJAZ AHMAD LONE
S/O: GHULAM MOHI- UD- DIN LONE
R/O: DARDPORA KREERI KRI

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization USBRL Project

PRESS NOTIFICATION

CRS INSPECTION OF NEW LINE FROM KHARI-SUMBER AND SUMBER-SANGALDAN SECTIONS OF FIROZPUR DIVISION

Newly constructed line in Khari-Sumber (13.656 Km) and Sumber-Sangaldan (19.504 Km) sections of Frozpur Division will be opened with electric train operation shortly. High speed trial of the section by special train will be conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety on 16.02.2024 after trolley inspection on 15.02.2024. Thereafter, train operation will start between Khari to Sangaldan Stations of USBRL Project.

General public is informed to stay away from Railway lines in above section. Crossing the track at any location is trespassing and is a punishable offence and liable for prosecution under Railway Act.

No.: 101-W/81/W-I/USBRL/CRS/Khari-Sumber Dated: 11.02.2024 455/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Office Of The Principal
Government Polytechnic College Kupwara
Karihama, Kupwara – 193222

Website: www.govtpolytechnickupwara.in Email : gpcollegekup@gmail.com

Subject: Engagement of Guest Faculty for Academic Session May-June 2024.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement of Guest Faculty for the academic session May-June 2024 in Government Polytechnic College Kupwara, purely on temporary basis as per details given below.

S.No	Branch/Subject	No. of Positions	Minimum Qualification
01.	Automobile Engineering	02	B.E./B.Tech in Automobile Engineering
02.	Mechanical Engineering	03	B.E./B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering
03.	Civil Engineering	01	B.E./B.Tech in Civil Engineering
04.	Mathematics	01	M.Sc in Mathematics

The Curriculum Vitae (CV) mandatorily including qualification (with Marks / CGPA) and relevant experience should be mailed on gpcollegekup@gmail.com by or before 22nd February 2024

Terms & Conditions

- The engagement of Guest Faculty is purely on temporary basis for a period of one Academic session May-June 2024 or till the post is filled by regular faculty, which ever may happen earlier.
- The selected Guest Faculty will be paid remuneration @ Rs 750 per hour - lecture subject to the ceiling of Rs 20000/-per month as per Govt order no 89-JK (DSD) of 2021 dated 18/11/2021.
- Selected Candidates shall submit undertaking/Affidavit duly authenticated by the First Class Magistrate before joining wherein clearly the conditions are stipulated that he/she shall not claim for continuation of his/ her services and the agreement can be terminated at any point of time without any notice period.

Principal
Government Polytechnic College
Kupwara

DIPK-16264/23
Dated: 12 /02/2024

No: GPCK/81/Academics/2024/649-54

This Day In History

- 1916 - Germany and Austria-Hungary notify the US that they will sink any armed merchant ships starting on 1 March
- 1922 - US intervention army leaves Honduras
- 1943 - US General Eisenhower selected to command the allied armies in Europe; British General Montgomery not best pleased.
- 1944 - German troops reconquer Aprilia, Italy
- 1945 - 1st gas turbine propeller-driven airplane flight tested, Downey, CA.
- 1945 - Yalta agreement signed by FDR, Churchill & Stalin
- 1946 - World War II: Operation Deadlight ends after scuttling 116 of 156 captured U-boats.
- 1953 - USSR breaks diplomatic relations with Israel
- 1956 - British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean deny working as spies for Soviet Russia after reappearing in the Soviet Union after going missing 5 years earlier
- 1964 - Greek & Turks begin fighting in Limassol, Cyprus
- 1964 - Taiwan drops diplomatic relations with France
- 1968 - Israeli-Jordan border fight
- 1970 - Japan becomes 4th nation to put a satellite (Osuni) in orbit.
- 1971 - US, UK, USSR, others sign Seabed Treaty outlawing nuclear weapons
- 1973 - 1st one-day international for Pakistan & NZ
- 1974 - Titan-Centaur rocket test launch fails.
- 1974 - Henry Kissinger unveils Nixon Administration's seven-point "Project Independence" plan to make the U.S. energy independent
- 1974 - Libya nationalizes three US oil companies that had not agreed to 51 percent nationalization in September
- 1975 - Margaret Thatcher defeats Edward Heath for leadership of the British Conservative Party
- 1978 - China lifts a ban on Aristotle, Shakespeare,

From KO Archives

Cabinet Gives Nod To Qazigund-Baramulla Rail Project

Observer News Service

New Delhi- The Centre today decided to take up work on war footing on Qazigund-Baramulla rail project, while the work on Udhampur- Qazigund railway project has been abandoned for the time being for financial reasons.

The decision to this effect was taken at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) which was chaired by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Railway Minister Nitish Kumar, who briefed newsmen after the CCEA, said the prestigious project has been handed over to the IRCON International and is expected to be completed by the year 2003 year.

However, the government decided to abandon for the time being Udhampur-Qazigund Rail Project due to rough terrain and financial constraints.

He said the funds for the project will be made available by the centre so that the work is executed expeditiously. The Railway Ministry had already allocated Rs 75 crores for the preliminary work of the project. Nitish Kumar said the Jammu and Kashmir government has already completed acquisition of land for laying the track.

In fact work has already begun for the construction of Srinagar Railway Station.

The Project will help in transportation of goods in the Valley and ease pressure on the choked roads of the Kashmir Division.

While the IRCON International will be the main contractors for the project, small works will be allocated to local contractors. The Minister said that it was felt that the Udhampur-Qazigund Project would take a long period to complete as it involves huge amount and technical expertise. So the Cabinet was of the view that the work on the Qazigund sector should be taken up immediately. The Minister said funds will not come in the way of the completion of the project.

The much-publicised project, Udhampur-Qazigund-Baramulla, which will cost Rs 2500 crores, was announced by Prime Minister I.K. Gujral in 1997.

Nitish Kumar said that special incentives will be given to employees, who will be deputed for the execution of the project. This include insurance cover for Rs 15 lakhs each and free boarding and lodging.

(Kashmir Observer, 13 February, 1999)

PM Narendra Modi To Visit Qatar After Concluding His Two-Day Visit To United Arab Emirates



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Qatar capital Doha on February 14 after concluding his two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The announcement about Modi's visit to Qatar came a day after the Gulf nation released eight jailed former Indian naval personnel. Seven of them returned to India on Monday morning.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said Prime Minister Modi had personally supervised developments in the case.

"We are gratified by Qatar's decision to release the Indians," he said.

The foreign secretary said Modi and Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, will hold wide-ranging talks to further expand bilateral ties.

The Indians returned 46 days after their death sentences handed last October were commuted to jail terms of varying duration.

The eight apparently faced charges of espionage but neither Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against them public.

Rahul Gandhi Cuts Short Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra In UP Due To State Board Exams



Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has decided to reduce the duration of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Uttar Pradesh in view of the state board examinations for Classes 10 and 12, party members said on Monday.

"Setting an example of sensitivity, Rahul Gandhi ji has given public interest a priority on many occasions. Keeping in mind the UP Board examinations starting from February 22, the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will remain in Uttar Pradesh from February 16 to February 21," state Congress spokesperson Anshu Awasthi said in a statement issued here.

The yatra was earlier scheduled to remain in Uttar Pradesh till February 26.

"Earlier, Rahul Gandhi had cancelled his rallies in Bengal out of concern for the people during the COVID-19 period," the spokesperson said.

Elaborating on the schedule of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Uttar Pradesh, Awasthi said it will enter the state through Varanasi on February 16, and then reach Amethi on February 19 via Bhado-

"EARLIER, RAHUL GANDHI HAD CANCELLED HIS RALLIES IN BENGAL out of concern for the people during the COVID-19 period," the spokesperson said.

hi, Prayagraj and Pratapgarh.

On February 19, Mr Gandhi will address a public meeting in Gauriganj in Amethi Lok Sabha constituency and the yatra will reach Rae Bareilly the next day from where it will proceed for Lucknow and participants of the march, including Mr Gandhi are likely to make a night halt there, he said.

The spokesperson said the yatra will reach Unnao from Lucknow on February 21. It will enter Kanpur via Unnao city and Shuklaganj.

Subsequently, it will reach Jhansi via Kanpur and Hamirpur, after which it would enter Madhya Pradesh the same day.

"Hell Falling Down On Civilians": Fear In Gaza's Rafah After Deadly Israeli Raid

Agencies

RAFAH, GAZA: Majed al-Afifi was just 40 days old when he was killed, his uncle told AFP in Rafah where Israeli forces bombed multiple homes while rescuing two Gaza hostages.

"We heard the bombing without warning," said Said al-Hams, 26, in Rafah refugee camp. His nephew, a twin, "was born exactly 40 days ago and was killed", while their mother was wounded.

The newborn is among around 100 people killed by Israeli forces overnight in Rafah, according to the health ministry in Gaza.

Dozens of Israeli strikes pounded Rafah, where some 1.4 million people have sought refuge during four months of war between Israel and Hamas. While there was jubilation in Israel over the liberation of the two hostages, in Rafah people recounted a fearful night.

"The situation was hell," said Abu Suhaib, who was sleeping dozens of metres from where Israeli forces struck.

"We heard the sound of explosions, like hell falling down on civilians," he told AFP.

The 28-year-old said he heard warplanes firing, shooting and a helicopter landing.

A massive pile of rubble stands where multiple buildings were flattened by Israeli strikes, beside the remains of a four-storey house.

Witnesses said the residents of the house fled two months



A MASSIVE PILE OF RUBBLE STANDS where multiple buildings were flattened by Israeli strikes, beside the remains of a four-storey house.

ago, after the Israeli military warned them it would be bombed.

The aerial bombardment also left five vast craters, at least 10 metres wide and five metres deep, an AFP journalist said. "I can't tell you how we survived the night," said Abu Abdullah al-Qadi, who was woken by the sound of shooting.

"They killed my cousin, they killed a lot of people with strikes," he told AFP, as doz-

ens gathered by the destroyed buildings.

"They stormed this building and it appears that they freed prisoners -- and then they bombed it," said Qadi.

"They bombed all the houses next to it," he added.

'A terrifying night' The refugee camp sits in the heart of Rafah, where vast crowds have gathered after following Israeli orders to flee other parts of Gaza.

Despite mounting international alarm at a possible ground invasion of the city, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Monday that "continued military pressure" is the only way to free all hostages.

Palestinian fighters seized about 250 hostages during their October 7 attack on southern Israel, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Israel says around 130 are still in Gaza, though 29 are thought to be dead.

Rejected Ballots Exceed Victory Margin In 24 National Assembly Constituencies In Pak

Agencies

The number of rejected ballots was greater than the margin of victory in at least 24 National Assembly constituencies, according to an interesting statistical nugget from Pakistan's recent general elections. The difference potentially opens doors for legal battles as several losing candidates have flooded the courts with petitions to review the results.

According to a report in the Dawn newspaper, 22 constituencies with a greater number of rejected votes than the margin of victory fell in Punjab, with one each in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh province.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won the electoral race in 13 of these constituencies, five were claimed by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), four by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-backed independents and two by other independents.

Going by their numerical strength, both the PML-N and the PPP are in a position to form a coalition government in the Centre. However, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif announced that all parties except



PTI should join hands in the upcoming coalition set-up.

According to the results announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) till Sunday, of the total 265 National Assembly seats, PTI-backed independents bagged 93 seats, followed by PML-N at 73, PPP at 54, MQM at 17 and others at 19.

The highest number of rejected votes was in the NA-59 (Talagang-cum-Chakwal) area of Punjab where Sardar Ghulam Abbas of PML-N secured 141,680 votes against his closest rival PTI-backed Muhammad Ruman Ahmad, who got 129,716 votes.

The margin of victory was

11,964 while the number of ballot papers rejected was 24,547. It was followed by NA-213 Umerkot (17,571 ballots). The lowest number of ballots excluded are reported from NA-236 Karachi East-II (51 ballots).

In total, around two million ballot papers have been excluded from the count from the 265 National Assembly constituencies.

As many as four constituencies have more than 15,000 excluded ballots each. Another 21 constituencies have excluded 10,000 to 15,000 ballots. A large number of constituencies (137) reported excluded votes in the range of 5,000 to 10,000.

FARMERS' MARCH



Petition In Court Against Sealing Of Borders, Internet Suspension

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: A petition was filed in the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Monday against the sealing of borders and suspension of mobile internet services by the Haryana government in the wake of farmer outfits calling for a protest march to Delhi on February 13.

The petitioner, Uday Partap Singh, sought directions from the court to stay all "obstructive" actions by the governments of Haryana and Punjab and the Centre against the farmers' protest, alleging that they infringe on the fundamental rights and are "unconstitutional".

The matter is expected to come up for a hearing on Tuesday.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have announced that they would head to Delhi on February 13 to press the Centre to accept several demands, including the enactment of a law to guarantee a minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

In the plea, Mr Singh, who is from Haryana's Panchkula, alleged "unlawful" sealing of the border between Haryana and Punjab, particularly at Shambhu near Ambala, by the Haryana authorities with an "apparent objective of preventing farmers from exercising their constitutional right to assemble and protest peacefully".

The petitioner contended that the actions of the Haryana authorities, including the suspension of mobile internet services and bulk SMS in Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad, and Sirsa, further exacerbates the situation, depriving the citizens of their right to information and communication.

"The road blockade not only inconveniences residents but also hampers the movement of ambulances, school buses, pedestrians, and other vehicles.

"This obstruction has resulted in increased traffic on alternative routes, causing delays and difficulties for including professionals like advocates, doctors and emergency services who are unable to reach their workplaces and attend promptly," according to the plea.

The imposition of Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) in Ambala and Kaithal districts, along with the placement of cemented barricades, spike strips, and other obstacles on various roads, demonstrates a concerted effort by the state authorities to "suppress dissent and stifle democratic expression", not only infringing upon the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 19(1)(a) and 21 of the Constitution of India but also undermine the principles of democracy and the rule of law, said the plea.

Hemant Soren's Probe Agency Custody Extended By 3 Days

Press Trust of India

A special PMLA court on Monday extended the ED remand of former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren by three days in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam, lawyers said.

The Enforcement Directorate prayed for four days of remand of the JMM leader.

"They (ED) were asking for a four-day remand...They have no ground left for any further remand. They (ED) just want to buy time...They didn't have any new ground. They just want the case to be alive and stretch the remand period," Advocate General Rajeev Ranjan, Hemant Soren's counsel, told reporters.

Hemant Soren, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha executive president, was on February 7 remanded to five days of ED custody by the special PMLA (the Prevention of Money Laundering Act) court.

On February 2, the court granted 5 days of ED custody to Hemant Soren.

Rajan, Hemant Soren's counsel, said, "We objected to the



ED's request because no further remand is required".

He had on February 7, said that the central agency had already interrogated Hemant Soren for 120 hours.

Hemant Soren on reaching the PMLA court, waved at his supporters, who raised slogans such as "Hemant Soren Zindabad".

He was arrested on January 31 after a seven-hour grilling by the central agency in the money laundering case.

He resigned as the chief minister before that.

Britain's King Charles Attends Church In First Public Outing Since Cancer Diagnosis Announced

Agencies

SANDRINGHAM, ENGLAND: Britain's King Charles attended church on Sunday in his first public outing since announcing last week he had been diagnosed with cancer and would postpone some engagements to undergo treatment.

The king, wearing a brown overcoat and carrying an umbrella, waved as he arrived with his wife, Camilla, at St Mary Magdalene church in Sandringham in eastern England.

Buckingham Palace announced on Monday that Charles, 75, had been diagnosed with an unspecified form of cancer. The king has been on the throne for less than 18 months following the death of his mother Queen



Elizabeth.

Charles, who is spending time at his rural Sandringham estate, issued a message on Saturday expressing gratitude to well-wishers following his diagnosis.

While undergoing treatment, Charles has postponed public engagements but is planning to continue with much of his private work as monarch including having his weekly audience with the prime minister and dealing with state papers.

The cancer was discovered when Charles stayed three nights in hospital last month, undergoing a corrective procedure for a benign enlarged prostate. Beyond confirming it was not prostate cancer, the palace has not given any further details.

Retired IAF Officer Accuses Army Officer Husband Of Forging Papers, Passing Benefits To Live-In Partner

Agencies

KANPUR: A retired woman officer of the Indian Air Force has filed a complaint at Kanpur Cantt police station against her husband, a lieutenant colonel, accusing him of staying with another woman and giving her the benefits reserved for an army man's wife.

The woman, a resident of Lucknow's Rajajipuram, told police that she married the army officer in 2001, and they have a son and a daughter who live with her.

The husband is currently posted as Additional Officer in Kanpur Headquarters of the Army and resides in Kanpur Cantonment.

The complainant said that on May 7, 2023, when she reached

her husband's official residence, she found a woman, a resident of Dwarka, Delhi, staying with him. It came to light that she had even forged documents to establish her identity as the army officer's wife to avail of all benefits which army wives were entitled to.

The retired IAF officer accused her husband of supporting his female friend to forge certain documents. She said that when she protested, her husband's female friend threatened her with dire consequences.

Cantt police station in-charge Braj Mohan Singh said a case had been registered.

"The matter is being investigated and action will be taken on the basis of evidence and other findings," he said.

THE JAMMU, & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appealed in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th/11th/12th) under Roll No. 908256 Session: November Year: 1996 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the School/Parent/Board against my name as Syed Abul Qasim instead of Syed Abul Qasim.

Now I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after, the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars be recorded as under :-

Name: Syed Abul Qasim
Father's Name: Syed Hussain
Mother's Name: Maryam
Date of Birth: 20/03/1979
Residence: Tambis Kargil Ladakh



JM

Gupta Stresses Public Awareness of J&K's Rich Heritage



KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Principal Secretary Culture, Suresh Kumar Gupta, chaired a meeting to review the operations of the Archives, Archaeology, and Museums (AAM) Department in Jammu.

Director AAM, J&K, Raj Kumar Katoch; Director Finance in Culture Department, S. Satnam Singh; Special Secretary Culture, Trishala Kumari; Assistant Director, AAM Jammu, Dr. Sangeeta Sharma; Assistant Director AAM Kashmir, Mush-taq Ahmad Beigh and other concerned attended the meeting in person and via online mode.

During the meeting, Director AAM, RK Katoch delivered a comprehensive presentation, outlining the department's activities and various operational facets, including archives repository, archival records, reference libraries, and museums.

A significant focus of the meeting was dedicated to the status of protected monuments across Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing their numbers and the ongoing conservation efforts.

Principal Secretary highlighted that out of the 495 heritage monuments listed by the Government of India, 56 have been undertaken for preservation by the Archaeological

Survey of India through Central Act notification.

Additionally, 54 monuments have been identified under JK Act notification, with a total of 110 monuments currently undergoing preservation work.

Specialized schemes aimed at the conservation and preservation of monumental structures were discussed, with specific attention to the Scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation, and Maintenance and Heritage Jammu and Kashmir.

Principal Secretary Gupta emphasized the importance of public awareness regarding the rich heritage and cultural legacy of Jammu and Kashmir. He directed officers to disseminate information about JK heritage monuments to the public to foster greater appreciation and understanding.

Furthermore, it was noted that Additional District Development Commissioners (AD-DCs) in all districts have been appointed as nodal officers, tasked with expediting restoration efforts within their respective jurisdictions.

Suresh Kumar conducted an on-site inspection of various sections of the AAM office at Old Secretariat Mubarak Mandi, including the Archives Reference Section, Historic Documents Section, and State Archives Repository Jammu.

JAKFAS, JKAEA Condone Demise Of S. Kubir Singh

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Finance & Accounts Society (JAKFAS) and J&K Accounts Employees Association (JKAEA) on Monday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of S. Kubir Singh, AAO Department of Disaster Management, Relief Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR).

A condolence meeting was held at Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar which was also attended by members of J&K Accounts Services & Secretariat Service. The meeting participants remembered S. Kubir Singh as an honest and upright

officer who worked diligently all along his life.

The meeting also prayed for strength to the bereaved family.

It was also reiterated that JAKFAS/JKAEA will extend every possible to the bereaved family and requested the concerned authorities for early settlement of dues of the deceased.

The officers who participated in the condolence meet included DG Budget, DGAT, DG Audit & Inspection/Resource, President JAKFAS/JKAEA, former president Secretariat Union and other officers and officials of various services of J&K Civil Secretariat.

95-Yr-Old Lady Dies In Forest Fire Incident At Bholderwah

KO NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH: An elderly woman was charred to death in a forest fire incident that broke out in Thingna village of Diggi Panchayat in Bholderwah area.

The elderly woman was grazing her sheep when the incident took place. Superintendent of Police (SP) Bholderwah, Vinod Sharma told the news agency, that in an unfortunate incident, an elderly lady died in a fire incident that broke out in the forest area of Village Thingna of Panchayat Diggi Bholderwah.

"In preliminary investigation, it came to the fore that about 95-year-old Sheela Devi,

wife of Salka Ram of Village Thingna Bholderwah was burnt alive in the fire incident while grazing her sheep in the forest and died on the spot," SP added.

"In preliminary investigation, there is nothing mysterious in the case," SP informed.

After getting information, the public of the area rushed to spot and took the body of the deceased lady to her house. It has also been reported that the public has douse the flames.

After legal formalities, the last rites were performed at Druddhu area of Bholderwah, in which large number of people participated—(KNO)

Fake Computer Engineer Targeting People In Handwara District Arrested

Agencies

HANDWARA: The Handwara Police in north Kashmir's Kupwara district have apprehended a man who was posing as a fake computer engineer and targeting people through social media platforms.

An official told News Agency Kashmir Scroll, the accused, identified as Atif Qureshi, had been falsely personifying himself as a computer engineer and exploiting individuals' fear of leaked data.

The official said that the accused initially contacted victims through social media platforms, claiming that their

personal data had been compromised.

Presenting himself as a helpful professional, he offered to remove their data from the internet for a fee. Unfortunately, some victims, fearful of exposure, fell into the trap and succumbed to his extortion demands.

The official said that a case has been registered against him under relevant sections of the law, and he has been taken into custody.

Initial investigations reveal that the accused systematically targeted numerous individuals, exploiting their fears to carry out his nefarious activities. (KS)

Over 1.6 Million Tree Saplings Planted Across 4,775 Hectares in J&K

Union MoS visits Jammu; Reviews working of J&K Forest Department

KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ashwani Kumar Choubey, who is on a two day tour to the Union Territory, on Monday reviewed the working of J&K Forest Department in a high level meeting held here.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Roshan Jaggi and other senior officers participated in the meeting.

The Union Minister emphasized to promote the concept of Nagar Vans in Jammu and Kashmir aimed to enhance the tree cover outside forests besides extension of biodiversity and ecological benefits to urban and pre-urban areas.

He appreciated the involvement of PRI representatives, local people, NGOs, school children, NCC and NSS cadets, Paryavaran/Van Mitras, eco guides, paramilitary forces and other stakeholders around all the Gram Panchayats and villages besides Urban Local Bodies in afforestation and other activities.

During the meeting, different issues concerning the projects supported by Central Ministry (MoEFCC) were brought to the notice of the Union Minister by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. These included release of funds under Nagar van scheme, Green India Mission and Forest fire Protection and Management scheme.

The PCCF (HoFF) also apprised the Union MoS of the progress, made so far, to



achieve the targets under different deliverables assigned by the government especially under the flagship programs like Green J&K Drive, Har Gaon Hariyali, Ped Lagayen Beti Ke Naam, One Village One Beat Guard Program, Van Se Jal, Jal Se Jeevan, Demarcation and Strengthening of Forest Boundaries in J&K.

It was informed that, presently, a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) are operational in J&K with 100 per cent support from Centre government like Green India Mission (GIM), which is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with an aim of protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

Besides, a total of 4775 hectare of identified landscape has been covered and planted with 16.94 lakh tree saplings

at a cost of Rs 29.61 crore, so far. It was further informed that, J&K Forest Department has decided to develop at least one Nagar Van/Nagar Vatika in each ULB of the UT under the Nagar Van Yojna J&K.

Besides, there are 80 ULBs which include 02 Municipal Corporations, out of these, 43 ULBs have been covered under the NVY scheme and the work on remaining 37 is under progress.

During the current financial year, Rs 98.3 lakh have also been released to combat forest fires under "Forest Fire Prevention and Management" scheme.

Later, the Union MoS also inspected one of the Nagar Vans in Roop Nagar area of Jammu City and planted a sapling there.

Pertinently, the Forest department has been given the highest target of planting 175 lakh plants during 2023-24 both on forest and non-forest land with the active involvement of local people and PRI representatives.

3 Siblings Charred To Death In Ramban Blaze

Press Trust of India

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Three teenage sisters were burnt to death on Monday when a fire broke out at their home in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

The three-storey house in Dhanmasta-Tajnihal village, in Ukhral block, caught fire in the early hours of the day, they said.

The victims Bisma (18), Saika (14) and Saniya (11) were sleeping on the top floor and

were unable to evacuate as the fire engulfed the entire house.

Their bodies were found by personnel of the fire and emergency services, the officials said, adding that the cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained.

DC Bandipora Reviews Functioning Of Health Sector

KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel UI Rehman on Monday chaired a comprehensive review meeting aimed at assessing the working of the health sector and strategizing for its improvement.

The meeting discussed various critical issues of the health sector, including infrastructure, staff rationalization, availability of medical equipment and service delivery.

During the review, the DC emphasized the importance of enhancing healthcare services to meet the evolving needs of the public.

He stressed upon the concerned officers to identify areas of improvement to ensure quality healthcare services for all.

Shakeel ul Rehman emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration and innovation to address the challenges facing the health sector.

He underscored the need for proactive measures to enhance healthcare delivery and ensure the well-being of all citizens.

The DC further asked the concerned to ensure 100 per cent saturation of online services of Health Sector for ser-

vice improvement.

He directed, to conduct camps in schools and colleges for successful implementation of the tuberculosis elimination program.

The DC also directed to ensure 100 percent coverage of Ayushman Bharat and ABHA cards.

CMO Bandipora informed the chair that Health Department Bandipora has attended 526831 patients through OPD and 70233 patients through IPD service besides conducting 1722 major surgeries and 6747 minor surgeries from April last year to January this year.

It was informed that Bandipora has achieved 100% target for registration of families under AB-PMJAY by covering all 73390 families and has achieved 81.46% target for beneficiaries registered under AB-PMJAY and SEHAT.

He apprised during the meeting that in the last 3 years, 7233 patients have been treated under AB-PMJAY, and 7219 claims have been approved, amounting to a total of Rs. 70551801.

He said that in district Bandipora, 102 health institutions including DH, PHCs, NTPHCs, and AAM SCs are functional.

Dr. Rafi said that 4864 institution deliveries were carried out in the district, including 833 C-section deliveries from April 2023 to Jan 2024.

The meeting also discussed programmes carried out by the Health Department including Anemia Mukht Bharat, National programme for control of blindness and visual impairment, National programme for Healthcare of elderly, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, National Leprosy Eradication Programme beside other key programmes.

Dr. Rafi also apprised the chair regarding various issues faced by the health department, including the shortage of staff.

The DC asked the concerned officers of the Health Department to explore the possibility of utilizing the services of trained professionals on a voluntary basis to temporarily compensate staff deficiency, if any, in healthcare institutions.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Umar Shafi Pandit; CMO Bandipora, Rafi Ahmad Salati; MS DH Bandipora, BMOs besides officials, administrators, and representatives from various healthcare facilities.

Secretary Health Holds Public Darbar At Baramulla



KO NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, on Monday presided over a public darbar here under the ambitious public outreach cum grievances redressal programme of the government.

The participating delegations and general public projected several demands and grievances pertaining to the region encompassing both developmental and administrative concerns that necessitate immediate attention.

These included establishment of a mini secretariat at Baramulla to provide space for various offices, creation of an IT park, implementation of water transportation from Sopore to Baramulla, macadamization of roads, installation of a fully-fledged MRI scan at GMC Baramulla, provision of portable water supply at various places, office accommodation for media persons and other related issues.

The Secretary had an exclusive interaction with the participants during the darbar, listening to their grievances and demands. He promptly resolved many of the issues on the spot while providing clear directions to the concerned officers to address the remaining concerns raised by the attendees.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abid Rasheed assured the attendees that the administration is committed towards working in cohesion with the public to implement better

governance practices and ensure timely resolution of their issues. He emphasized the primary objective of holding public darbars, emphasizing its role in facilitating direct engagement between the administration and the people at their doorsteps ensuring easier access for citizens to voice their concerns and engage with governmental authorities.

Dr. Abid Rasheed asked the officers to prepare a comprehensive action taken format to record all grievances raised during the public darbar, along with the progress made towards their resolution. Furthermore, he instructed the officers to keep follow up of action on all grievances raised during the event for redressal within a 15-day timeframe as per feasibility.

Earlier, Dr. Abid Rasheed inspected stalls set up by various departments, including Education, Agriculture, Health, ICDS, Food Supplies among others. These stalls showcased a wide range of government schemes and services aimed at benefiting the public.

Later, the Secretary distributed sanction letters, golden cards and other certificates among the eligible beneficiaries.

Among others the event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Chief Planning Officer, Javid Ahmad, district officers of various departments, social activists, delegations and locals from across the district.

Secretary Revenue Chairs Public Darbar At Shopian

KO NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN: Secretary, Revenue, Prassana Ramaswamy G, on Monday chaired a mega public darbar here to assess the public grievances and demands besides reviewing development works being executed in the district.

The participants apprised the Administrative Secretary of their development issues, seeking timely intervention for redressal of the same.

Prominent issues and concerns raised during the event included, protection wall for fruit Mandi Aglar Shopian, upgradation of Animal Husbandry, Zainapora, marriage hall and parking space in the town, providing of maternity and children hospital for Shopian, playfield for Kaprin, improvement in condition of roads, water facility in Chitragam and adjacent villages, power supply challenges, augmentation of public health infrastructure, road Connectivity, construction of incomplete roads, dilapidated condition of roads, repair of irrigation canals, upgraded facilities in SDH, availability of veterinary facilities and dispensaries for the local population.

Secretary, responding to issues raised during the programme, assured the public that all their grievances and demands would be addressed in a timely manner.

DDC, Chairperson, Bilqees Jan, SSP, Shopian, Tanushree, Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, SDM Zainapora,

DDC, members, besides other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Secretary exhorted upon the officers to ensure strict adherence to guidelines while extending benefits of government services to the common masses. He gave specific instructions to the concerned officers to come up with the expectations of the general public for redressing their genuine issues on priority.

Reaffirming administration's commitment towards addressing every grievance promptly, Secretary said, "it has always been our endeavour to assess and address the public grievances and demands in priority to provide a good governance to the public.

Secretary commended the awareness of locals on the welfare and development issues besides responsiveness of officers in redressing public issues. He reassured that genuine matters would be addressed through the concerned departments, reiterating the government's steadfast commitment towards development of the district. He also emphasized collaborate efforts of all stakeholders for good of the community and development of the district and the UT as well.

DDC, member, Raja Waheed highlighted some issues of public importance including the inclusion of deserving ration card holders and other issues.

Secretary sought feedback about the dug de-addiction and was apprised that health functionaries are on it's toes and also close vigil is being kept on it to eradicate this menace from the society.

Handwara Villagers Lack High-Speed Internet Connectivity

Agencies

HANDWARA: Residents of several villages in Mawer Handwara Monday voiced their concern over inadequate internet service facility from Jio and Airtel telecom operators.

Hamlets including Umar Abad Lam Audoora, Warpora,

Checki Audoora, Drugnsoo, and adjoining areas have been grappling with sluggish internet services for a very long time, causing inconvenience to the local population.

Nissar Ahmad, a local lamented that the ongoing

issue of low-speed internet has made it nearly impossible for them to access essential online services. "Despite reaching out to Jio and Airtel customer care services multiple times, the complaints are yet to be answered, leaving

locals in hardships," he said. In light of mounting grievances, the consumers of these villages have urged authorities to intervene and direct the internet service providers to restore high-speed internet services in the locality.

"The lack of adequate internet connectivity not only

hampers access to information but also impedes their ability to engage in online education, work remotely, and stay connected with the wider digital world," another local told.

The residents hoped that their grievance will be heard at the earliest, and high speed internet will be restored. (KNS)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Tuesday | 13-02-2024

Imploding INDIA Alliance

When INDIA Alliance was formed in June 2023, it held the promise of offering a tough political challenge to the dominance of the ruling BJP led by the overarching figure of the prime minister Narendra Modi. Apart from Rahul Gandhi's Congress Party which continues to enjoy a national footprint - albeit drastically shrunken in the last decade - the regional parties with their committed support bases made the alliance a force to reckon with. But with the exit of Nitish Kumar, one of the alliance's key architects, and the growing rumblings over pre-election seat-sharing the alliance has started unraveling.

The AAP's decision to contest all 14 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab and Haryana independently signals a further rupture in the INDIA Alliance. The fragmentation of the alliance in this crucial region raises questions about its ability to present a united front against the BJP. While the alliance's unraveling in Punjab and Chandigarh may not be representative of its overall status, it underlines the challenges it faces in maintaining cohesion across diverse regional landscapes. As it has turned out, the internal discord and disagreements over seat allocations have further strained the alliance's unity, threatening to weaken its collective strength in the face of a formidable opponent like the BJP.

Recent opinion polls, such as the Mood of the Nation survey conducted by the India Today Group, paint a contrasting picture of the alliance's fortunes in different regions. In Tamil Nadu, the poll predicts a resounding victory for the DMK-Congress combine, projecting a clean sweep with all 39 Lok Sabha seats. The alliance is estimated to secure an impressive 47% vote share, leaving the BJP-led NDA trailing with only a 15% share. This substantial lead shows the alliance's potential to make significant gains in the southern state, further reinforcing its position as a force to be reckoned with. But not so in most other states, particularly in north India.

As the Lok Sabha elections approach, the INDIA Alliance finds itself at a crossroads. The initial optimism surrounding its formation has given way to internal discord, with the departure of key figure like Nitish Kumar and disputes over seat-sharing threatening to undermine its collective strength. The regional variations in the Mood of the Nation poll hint at a complex political landscape, where success in one state does not guarantee triumph in others.

The coming months will be crucial for the alliance as it navigates internal tensions, seeks to address regional concerns, and strives to present a united front against the BJP. The challenges ahead will test the resilience of the INDIA Alliance and determine whether it can overcome internal strife to emerge as a potent political force in the upcoming elections.

OTHER OPINION

Prudence prevails

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has prudently opted to persist with its objective of 'ensuring that inflation progressively aligns to the target' by keeping benchmark interest rates unchanged, and sticking with its stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation'. With a 5-1 majority, it has committed to keeping monetary policy unambiguously disinflationary so as to anchor inflation expectations, especially at a time when 'large and repetitive price shocks are interrupting the pace of disinflation'. On the rationale to leave the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for a sixth straight meeting, Governor Shaktikanta Das observed that while domestic economic momentum remained strong, uncertainties in food prices continued to impinge on the headline inflation trajectory. The tangible risk that food price pressures could become more generalised and impact broader headline inflation was the main consideration, he explained. That the majority of the MPC was aligned in prioritising the battle against inflation needs to be seen in the backdrop of the recent trends in retail inflation. Headline retail inflation, which had eased from July's 15-month peak of 7.4% to 4.87% in October, however, rebounded to a four-month high of 5.69% in December, with food price gains gauged by the Consumer Food Price Index racing ahead to 9.53%, a sizeable 292 basis points faster than October's 6.61%.

That the uncertainty surrounding food price gains has begun to vex policymakers is reflected in a recent RBI Bulletin article that pointedly sought to find an answer to the question, 'Are Food Prices the "True" Core of India's Inflation?'. Concluding that there is enough empirical evidence to support an assertion that 'there are times when food inflation mimics core inflation', the officials caution that given food's substantial share in the consumption basket, large and repeated food price shocks have the potential to ripple outward and undermine the goal of price stability by de-anchoring inflation expectations. The MPC's downward revision of its projection for average retail inflation in the January-March quarter to 5.0%, 20 basis points lower than its December forecast, reflects the small comfort policymakers have taken from the improvement in rabi sowing as well as a seasonal correction in vegetable prices. Still, the Department of Consumer Affairs' daily price monitoring dashboard shows the average retail price of more than two-thirds of the key food items it tracks remained higher on a year-on-year basis as on February 8. Policymakers need to stay steadfast in their resolve to durably slow price gains towards the 4% target or risk dampening consumption and thereby undermining the growth momentum.

The Hindu

The Moloch Dilemma

Intersection Between Technology and Education

Prof. Manoj Kumar Saxena and
Showkat Ahmad Mir

The process of education in the 21st century has seen dramatic shifts and repositions in the delivery of education. The thinking of educational thinkers shifted towards the pros and cons of digitization of education. The Pedagogues and educationists started thinking about the impact of new technology on the teaching and learning process. They find this new change cultural, social, and political as well. The significant questions that arose due to the advent of technology were mainly concerned with digital inequalities. However, the impact of information and communication technology can be seen in wide spectrums of education. In the 21st century, technology has already changed various dimensions of one's culture and society. Moreover, the idea of technological integration into education was much debated in the context of providing education to the masses. On one side, digital inequality was considered as one of the major hindrances that could hamper the purpose of the integration of technology in education, on the other, thinking about education without technology in the 21st century cannot be a rational approach towards addressing the modern needs of students.

The Idea of de-schooling seems to become real in the context of the digitization of education, however, though arguable. Policymakers seem to prescribe and recommend the inculcation of technological culture within the schools. The recommendations seem pertinent because the methods of accessing information and knowledge have changed to a great extent in the 21st century. However, the emerging focus on digital technology poses a challenge to educationists about socio-economical landscapes. In the aforementioned context, Saettler's (1968) argument seems interesting, that "Books will soon be obsolete in the schools. Scholars will soon be instructed through the eye. It is possible to teach every branch of human knowledge with the motion picture. Our school system will be completely changed in ten years". The importance of books and teachers can never be sidelined however technology could emerge. In current times we have seen drastic technological shifts in engaging with learners, which make us skeptical of the idea that If integration of digital technology could truly serve the purpose of conscientization of young minds with little role of teachers.

The transactions of knowledge within modern schools have found new methods with multiple ways of accessing knowledge across newly created digital resources. Accessing digital resources needs some prerequisite conditions. There must be very good infrastructure for digital classrooms. Teachers must be well acquainted with modern technology. However, there are certain lapses in these indicators in India. Different studies like, Ramachandran (2006), Bano and Hoda (2018), Hota, (2023) have made known the apathy of school infrastruc-



Kashmir Observer

“The experiences that children have due to their cultural capital affect the learning performances within schools. A family which is well acquainted with digital technology can facilitate their children smoothly in accessing digital resources, which may later, help these children in schools as well. On the other side, there may be hindrances for the poor children who lack the capital

to exploit provisionality, the user must know how to save load and edit work in progress.” They further add that “if learners do not have sufficient skills in using ICT, they experience the ICT interference factor”. Similarly, teachers' digital inadequacy could also contribute to the interference factor.

The process does not stop here, as there are other stakeholders in the process of education. What about the society, culture, and more importantly family of a child? The experiences that children have due to their cultural capital affect the learning performances within schools. A family which is well acquainted with digital technology can facilitate their children smoothly in accessing digital resources, which may later, help these children in schools as well. On the other side, there may be hindrances for the poor children who lack the capital. There is always the possibility that those schools that have more material resources shall have more access to digital platforms than the schools with fewer resources and located in far-flung areas. Infusing technology in the classroom can be one of the ebullient steps but there is the possibility of utilizing technology by have's strengthening already existing inequalities. That problem will again strengthen what Kahn and Kellner (2007) call 'techno-capitalism'. In this way, there are chances of technology impeding the desired ends instead of achieving them. This factor must be taken into consideration by the authorities.

In India, there are 14.89 lacks schools, out of which 10.12 lacks are Govt. schools. The total number of students reaches 26.52 crores and that of the total teachers is 95 lakh. Looking at this huge education structure, the integration of technology needs an epimethean approach keeping the digital inequalities into consideration. Indian Inequality Report (2022) highlights that “The proportion of students having access to a computer with internet was higher in urban area (21 percent) than rural (4 percent) in India. Furthermore, access to the internet was much better in urban India (44 percent)

than in rural (17 percent) India”. The report further highlights that “The currently enrolled students from advantaged socio-economic groups have relatively better access to digital infrastructure”. The scenario becomes even worse after looking at caste and gender dimensions into consideration. The inequality in digital infrastructure was also highlighted by UDISE (2021-22), it highlights that “the overall percentage of schools in India with digital library availability is relatively low... there are about 14,89,115 schools in India, and only 32,762 schools have had a digital library in 2021-22.” The variations were also found in different categories of schools, government schools were found to have only 1.2 percent of digital libraries availability in India. This percentage is lower compared to government-aided schools and Private unaided schools, which are 3.2 percent and 5.1 percent respectively. Besides this, the intention of turning modern schools into techno-hubs seems progressive but not viable simultaneously. The cut-throat competition, inadequate textbooks, and syllabi guided by ideological dogmas are a few other concerns of our education system in India. The question arises, is the new technology only the means for infotainment which is guided by 'techno-capitalism' or does it have epimethean character? This way technology can be said to have an ambivalent nature, which may swing both ways of the line and may lead to the Moloch dilemma.

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

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Work Life Imbalance

Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's recent suggestion for "70-hours-work-a-week" among Indian youngsters will no doubt boost productivity, but it will certainly affect the balance of work-life approach, which is equally important. Unsurprisingly Mr. Murthy's comments have evoked a nationwide controversy, with many have

criticised his idea. In fact, a Bengaluru-based Cardiologist wrote in his X (formerly Twitter) account saying, "such an inhumane working hours can create a whole generation with a host of heart-related comorbidities." The Cardiologist's comment gains prominence, as WHO says that India accounts for at least one-fifth of the 17.9 million cardiovascular disease-

related deaths globally, especially in the younger generation. Currently, India's labour codes mandate that workers put in 8-hours of work a day, capping the weekly work hours at 48. Despite this, global data shows that India ranks fifth in the world among countries with long working hours. Research has revealed that productivity falls sharply after 50 hours per

week, and drops off a cliff after 55 hours. Rather than extended working hours, a streamlined approach with set working hours will work for large enterprises that have plentiful resources.

Ranganathan Sivakumar

FROM AIRWAVES
TO PODCASTSThe Evolution of **Radio**
in the 21st Century

Faria Bhat

Radio has been the most powerful mass media that has shaped societies in every corner of the world ever since its invention. World Radio Day is a perfect platform to think about how this traditional medium has undergone an unbelievable metamorphosis through podcasts in the digital era.

Radio first appeared in the late 19th century thanks to innovators including Nikola Tesla and Guglielmo Marconi. Marconi's first successful wireless signal transmission across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901 made radio an established means of communication.

Radio gave real-time data which made it an effective tool for dispatching news, emergency alerts, and live data. Broadcasters had the advantage of immediacy, which allowed them to respond relatively fast to the unfolding events, making it a reliable source of current information. Radios were portable and could be taken anywhere, providing listeners with a sense of connectivity while moving.

Radio provided access to information from one instance without concern for literacy. Radio's crucial role during crises saw it become a significant force mobiliser and supporter, a lifesaver for millions of civilians and military soldiers dur-

ing World Wars I and II.

In the 21st century, there was considerable progress in the way audio content is consumed, moving from classical radio broadcasting to the rise and popularity of podcasts. Traditional radio is based on analogue symptoms sent through the airwaves, but the advent of the internet brought about the digitalisation of audio content, which led to a movement of audio content to online platforms. The digital transformation opened the path to internet radio and podcasts, providing more freedom and accessibility.

Growth of Podcasting

In 2005, big companies started recognising the potential of turning podcasts into successful businesses. Apple led the way with iTunes 4.9, the first update with out-of-the-box support for podcasts. In the same year, the New Oxford American Dictionary named "podcasts" the word of the year. Meanwhile, George W. Bush was the 1st President to deliver his weekly address in a podcast format.

Podcasts are becoming popular in the 21st century, and because of this, the radio revolution sees a new chapter. Podcasts are the inceptors of content creation, presenting a variety of views and on-demand listening experiences. This transition from the conventional airwaves to the vibrant sphere of podcasts signals a revolution in how people receive and interact with audio content, making it more ac-

cessible and interesting than ever.

Content in Podcasting

Podcasting enables everyone with stories to speak, regardless of their backgrounds, who used to struggle to find a place in the traditional media.

Podcasting permits creators to play with many formats, styles, and durations with the aim of delivering high-quality and authentic content that captivates and connects directly with listeners.

Podcasting has many advantages, including on-demand content, which means people can listen to them at their convenience, unlike old-fashioned radio.

People can now select what they listen to at the time they listen to it, and they can also pick how they consume it. This on-demand style of content consumption best suits the fast-paced, multitasking lifestyle of today, giving them the possibility to easily insert such entertaining and informative content into their everyday life.

Podcasts are being used by almost everybody due to the advances in smartphones and other portable devices; therefore, they are being listened to always and at all places.

Global Reach and Accessibility

Radio broadcasting is limited by physical reach, but this isn't the case with podcasting. Podcasts provide a global audience, as anyone from any country can access them at any time using any adaptive device such as a laptop. With the internet, listeners can indulge in good content from creators worldwide.

Audience Engagement

Podcasting offers more dynamic interaction relative to radio programs, which have limited response and listener contribution.

Podcasting has completely revolutionised the relationships between creators and their audiences. This technology facilitates personal relations, amplifying the sense of homeliness and warmth between the broadcasters and the audience.

The emergence of streaming platforms and dedicated podcast apps simplified the consumption of podcasts. Services like Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and others provide platforms to help discover, subscribe to, and share audio content, contributing to the medium's growth.

The audio industry has experienced a profound sea change, moving from radio to podcasts. The medium has been revamped and ushered in new artists and followers.

Therefore, the shift from classic radio to internet radio and podcasting is just a dynamic response to new technological achievements, changing consumers' tastes and need for more personalised and varied content. This revolution has changed the pattern and trend of audio content production and consumption and brought on the table a democratic platform whereby not only the big and commercial players but also individuals and communities can share their voices globally.

As we celebrate World Radio Day, let us embrace the diversity and dynamism that podcasts bring to the airwaves, ushering in a new era of audio storytelling.

The author is a journalism student pursuing B. A Honors in Mass Communication and Journalism from Cluster University, Srinagar



Podcasts are the inceptors of content creation, presenting a variety of views and on-demand listening experiences. This transition from the conventional airwaves to the vibrant sphere of podcasts signals a revolution in how people receive and interact with audio content, making it more accessible and interesting than ever

How Radio Is Tuning
Into The Metaverse

AFP Relaxnews

Few centenarians follow trends quite as much as radio. After moving into podcasts, the medium is now turning to the metaverse. The goal: to reach new audiences while helping to shape the musical experience in this virtual universe.

'Metaverse' is the word on the lips of all Silicon Valley's tech giants, ever since the Facebook boss, Mark Zuckerberg, announced plans to rename his company Meta. For its most avid supporters, this concept is destined to replace the internet as we know it. Used to technological revolutions, music professionals are increasingly wondering about the place that music will occupy in this virtual universe.

The streaming service Audius has taken the lead by launching the first FM radio tower in DeFi Land, a farming simulation game that aims to teach gamers the principles of decentralized finance. This facility allows Audius subscribers to listen to a variety of music while cultivating their land and tending to their farms. They currently have access to six different radio stations: hip-hop, rock, electronic music, jazz, LoFi and one dedicated exclusively to the most popular songs on Audius.

For now, only a few testers are able to use DeFi Land to acquaint themselves with decentralized finance, the concept that offers an ecosystem of financial services without intermediaries. The game



will be available to more gamers and amateur traders in the coming weeks, as

DeFi Land announced via its Twitter account.

Rethinking the musical experience for the metaverse Audius is not the only mu-

sic industry player to invest in the metaverse. French startup Stage11 recently raised €5 million in funding to re-imagine how people listen to music in virtual worlds. The company led by Jonathan Belolo has already partnered with artists such as Garrix, David Guetta and Snoop Dogg to offer music lovers new ways of experiencing the art.

"Stage11 will harness gaming technology to deliver music experiences that are cinematic, playable and social. Audiences will be able to explore the creative minds of their favorite artists and live inside their favorite songs, to get closer than ever to the musicians they love," the firm explains on the company blog. "They will discover interactive NFT collectibles which they can use to create unique content-alone or collaboratively with friends-reimagining iconic performances and even placing themselves onstage alongside their favorite artists."

Universal Music Group is betting on avatars of big names in music to make its mark in the metaverse. The company has partnered with Genies, "the world's largest avatar technology company," to create virtual characters of its artists. The US startup had already forged a similar partnership with Warner Music Group in April, proving just how integral music will be to the metaverse.

The article was originally published by Forbes India

Implementation Of Credit Linked Schemes Of APD Reviewed

Pr. Secy APD Asks To Minimize Rejections, Facilitate Hand Holding Of Aspiring Borrowers



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, Monday chaired a meeting to review implementation of credit linked schemes of Agriculture Production Department in Jammu and Kashmir. Threadbare discussion was held on various credit linked schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) loan Product, Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme (AIF), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, High Density Plantation (HDP) scheme, Kissan Credit Card (KCC) and Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).

The Principal Secretary stressed upon the bankers and the concerned officers to develop synergy for effective implementation of credit related schemes of APD to ensure that all the eligible farmers across the UT are benefited. He said that sanctioning and subsequent disbursement process has to be simple. "Rejections need to be minimized and hand-holding of aspiring borrowers need to be done so that benefits of all these schemes

reach to the eligible farmers," he added.

He impressed upon the Banks and line departments alike for disposal of pendency on urgent basis besides calling for viable and quality Detailed Projects Reports (DPRs) of loan projects by availing services of technically qualified resources. He directed the concerned officers to redouble their efforts in further raising the number of PM Fasal Yojana beneficiaries so that the set targets are achieved in full.

The Principal Secretary directed the agriculture department of both the divisions to educate the farmers regarding the benefits of Fasal Bima Yojana and related schemes tailored for their socio-economic empowerment. He also asked the officers to ensure that all the pending cases lying with their different departmental units are sorted out within the shortest possible time. He asked them to ensure coverage of all eligible farmers under these schemes in a mission mode.

Expressing concern over poor performance by certain districts, the Principal Secretary issued strict instructions to the concerned to step up efforts and streamline their functioning further to achieve the set targets.

Market Benchmarks Tumble On Profit Booking

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty closed sharply lower on Monday amid a rush for profit taking and mixed trends in global markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex settled 523 points or 0.73 per cent lower at 71,072.49. The benchmark touched the lowest level of 70,922.57 during intraday trade.

The broader NSE Nifty also closed 170.05 points or 0.78 per cent at 21,612.45.

As many as 22 stocks of the 30-share index settled in red while 34 constituents of Nifty50 closed the session with losses.

In the Sensex pack, NTPC, Tata Steel, SBI and IndusInd Bank were among the major laggards. In contrast, Wipro, HCL Tech, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nestle were among the nine stocks that defied the trend.

BSE smallcap index fell 3.16 per cent while midcap lost 2.62 per cent and largecap closed 0.90 per cent lower.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 closed 0.9 per cent higher and China's Shanghai Composite went



up 1.28 per cent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.83 per cent.

European markets were trading on a mixed note with CAC 40 of France and DAX of Germany rising, while London's FTSE 100 in the negative.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.50 per cent to USD 81.78 a barrel on Monday.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) purchased shares worth Rs 141.95 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

On Friday, Sensex climbed 167.06 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 71,595.49 points while the Nifty gained 64.55 points or 0.30 per cent to close at 21,782.50 points.

Inflation Falls To Three-Month Low Of 5.1% In January On Subdued Food Prices

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation declined to a three-month low of 5.1 per cent in January, mainly due to subdued prices of vegetables, fruits and other food items, according to government data released on Monday.

The fall indicates that retail inflation is inching towards the Reserve Bank's comfort level of 4 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was on the rise for two straight months after touching a trough of 4.9 per cent in October 2023. In December, it stood at 5.69 per cent.

In January, inflation in the food basket eased to 8.3 per cent from 9.53 per cent in the preceding month. It was at 6 per cent in January 2023, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Food inflation was lower in rural areas at 7.91 per cent compared to 9.02 per cent in the urban centres of the country.

The latest data showed that inflation in 'oils and fats', 'pulses and products', spices, fruits, and vegetables segments was lower in January 2024 compared to December 2023.

However, inflation was marginally higher in the 'fuel and light', 'clothing and footwear', 'cereals and products',



'meat and fish', and eggs segments on a month-on-month basis.

As per the data, inflation was more than the national average of 5.1 per cent in Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

The lowest retail inflation in January this year was in Delhi at 2.56 per cent.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at rating agency Icmr, said while rabi sowing has caught up with last year's level, reservoir storage remains well below the year-ago levels in most regions, continuing to imbue caution in terms of the outlook for the rabi harvest.

"We project the CPI inflation to ease below 5 per cent in February-March 2024, and average at 5.3 per cent in FY2024.

"Thereafter, we estimate the CPI inflation at 4.6 per cent in FY2025, broadly in line with that of the MPC (Monetary Policy Committee), based on the assumption of a normal monsoon," she said.

The government has mandated the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ensure CPI remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

Last week, RBI projected a lower inflation of 4.5 per cent in the next financial year, compared to 5.4 per cent in 2023-24, provided there is normal monsoon.

NSO collects price data from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all States/UTs on a weekly basis.

In January 2024, NSO collected prices from 99.8 per cent villages and 98.5 per cent urban markets.

Industrial Production Growth Slows To 3.8 Pc In December 2023: Govt Data

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's industrial production growth slowed to 3.8 per cent in December 2023, mainly due to poor performance of mining and power generation segments, according to official data released on Monday.

The factory output growth measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was at 5.1 per cent in December 2022.

In November last year, IIP growth stood at 2.4 per cent.

During April-December period of this fiscal, IIP growth touched 6.1 per cent, up from 5.5 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago.

"India's Index of Industrial Production grows by 3.8 per cent in December 2023," Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said in a release.

As per the latest data, the manufacturing sector's output growth accelerated to 3.9 per cent in December 2023 as against 3.6 per cent a year ago.

However, the power generation growth slowed to 1.2 per cent in December 2023 from 10.4 per cent growth in the year-ago period.

The mining output growth also declined to 5.1 per cent in the month under review from 10.1 per cent in the same period a year ago.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at rating agency Icmr,



said that in contrast to the slowdown in the core sector growth, the year-on-year growth in IIP rose to 3.8 per cent in December 2023 from 2.4 per cent in November 2023, led by an improvement in the performance of manufacturing sector.

"In terms of the use-based categories, only primary goods reported a sequential moderation in December 2023, with all five other categories reporting an improvement," she said.

With the available high frequency data for January 2024 appearing promising,

Nayar said, "we anticipate a modest rise in the IIP growth to 4-6 per cent in that month".

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth decelerated to 3.2 per cent in December 2023 compared to a growth of 7.8 per cent in the year-ago period.

In December last year, consumer durables output expanded 4.8 per cent. It had contracted 11.2 per cent in December 2022.

Consumer non-durable goods output slowed to 2.1 per cent compared to 7.9 per cent expansion in December 2022.

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods too reported a deceleration at 4.1 per cent in December 2023 compared to 11 per cent expansion in the same period a year ago.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged 4.6 per cent growth in December last year, down from 8.5 per cent in the year-ago period.

The expansion in intermediate goods segment was 3.4 per cent in the latest month under review, higher than 1.5 per cent recorded in the same period a year ago.

RBI Rules Out Review Of Action Taken Against Paytm Payments Bank

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday ruled out any review of the central bank's action against Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL), saying that its decisions are well thought out.

RBI, he said, is not against any fintech but its prime objective is to protect the interest of customers and depositors.

Observing that RBI is always supportive of the fintech sector, Das said it is the endeavour of the central bank to ensure rapid growth of the sector.

With regard to action taken against PPBL, he said directives against any regulated entities are taken whenever it finds that they don't take any action even after they are told to comply with the regulations.

"We have taken action against PPBL after due consideration and soon FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) will be issued for the benefit of its customers," Das said after the 606th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of RBI.

The meeting was addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

In a major action against PPBL, the central bank, on January 31, directed it to stop accepting deposits or top-ups in any customer accounts, wallets, FASTags and other instruments after February 29.

Ruling out any relaxations, Das on Monday said, "at the



moment, let me say very clearly, there is no review of this (PPBL) decision. If you are expecting a review of the decision, let me very clearly say there is (going to be) no review of the decision".

"FAQs which we are proposing to issue is targeting the inconvenience or issues faced by the depositors and customers wallet users, FASTag holders. Whatever is in the customers' interest that we are dealing in FAQs. Regarding review of decision, there is nothing on the table," he said.

While announcing the action against PPBL, RBI had said the direction follows persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns.

On March 11, 2022, RBI had barred PPBL from onboarding new customers with immediate effect.

In its latest action, RBI has asked the PPBL not to take deposits/ credit transactions/top-ups in any customer accounts, prepaid instruments, wallets, FASTags, and NCMC cards, among others, after February 29.

DGCA Issues Circular To Prevent Runway Incursions After Haneda Airport Incident

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: To prevent instances of runway incursions at airports, aviation watchdog DGCA has asked stakeholders to put in place a runway safety team at all airports and adopt technologies to improve situational awareness, among other measures.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a circular in view of the collision of planes due to runway incursion at the Haneda airport in Japan last month.

Apart from establishing a runway safety team at all aerodromes and ensuring their effective functioning, the

Further, the watchdog said that aerodromes, ATCs and airlines should implement contingency measures to cater to unseizable stop bars.

Another recommendation is adoption of technological interventions to improve situational awareness, thereby assisting Air Traffic Control (ATC) and other stakeholders to identify the traffic within the manoeuvring area.

Other recommendations include ensuring adherence to standard procedures by all involved personnel/stakeholders, and recognising the influence of human factors on performance, which may contribute to runway incursions.



regulator has emphasised on comprehensive training for pilots, air traffic controllers, aircraft maintenance engineers, and drivers operating inside an airport.

Air Traffic Controllers (ATCs) should ensure that stop bars are switched on to signal a stop and switched off to indicate traffic may proceed. In no case, aircraft or vehicles be instructed to cross illuminated red stop bars, DGCA said in a release on Monday.

The rate of runway incursions are decreasing and by ensuring a proactive approach among all stakeholders, the risk of such incidents can be reduced further, according to DGCA.

In a fatal incident on January 2, a large passenger plane and a Japanese coast guard aircraft collided on the runway at the Haneda airport and burst into flames. Five people onboard the plane of the coast guard were killed.

Unemployment Rate Declines To 6.5% In Oct-Dec: PLFS

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged 15 years and above decreased during October-December 2023 to 6.5 per cent from 7.2 per cent in the year-ago period, as per government data released on Monday.

Considering the importance of the availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, the NSSO launched the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.

"For male, UR (Unemployment Rate) decreased from 6.5 per cent in October-December 2022 to 5.8 per cent in October-December 2023, while for female UR decreased from 9.6 per cent in October-December 2022 to 8.6 per cent in October-December 2023," the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) quarterly bulletin stated.

PLFS further said the Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas increased from 44.7 per cent in Octo-



ber-December 2022 to 46.6 per cent in October-December 2023.

For male, it increased from 68.6 per cent to 69.8 per cent during this period and for female, it increased from 20.2 per cent to 22.9 per cent during this period.

Labour Force Participation Rate in urban areas increased from 48.2 per cent in October-December 2022 to 49.9 per cent during the period under review for persons aged 15 years and above.

MFIs Seek More Penetration In Terms Of Household Coverage

Press Trust Of India

KOLKATA: Micro-finance Institutions (MFIs) have sought more penetration in terms of household coverage to increase their portfolio of disbursements, an official said on Monday.

CEO and director of Micro-finance Institutions Network (MFIN) Alok Misra said there are 7.3 crore low-income borrowers in the country at present with an outstanding portfolio of Rs four lakh crore.

Misra told reporters here that the potential for the MFI sector is to have an outstanding of Rs 13 lakh crore, adding that there is a huge scope for growth.

In West Bengal, the total outstanding of the MFIs is around Rs 35,000 crore covering 65 lakh borrowers.

Nine per cent of the overall outstanding portfolio is from West Bengal, he said.

MD of Arohan Financial Ser-

vices Manoj Nambiar said that there is under-penetration of MFI coverage in the country at present.

This penetration needs to grow, he said.

Kuldip Maity, MD of VFS Capital, said that historically the average levels of NPAs in the MFI sector is less than one per cent.

Maity said MFIs will play an important role in the sustainable growth of the economy.

Misra said the MFI sector is seeking a guarantee scheme for the loans for which the individual entities will pay a small premium.

The sector is also looking for a financial institution to be dedicated only for refinancing small MFIs.

The 8th Eastern India Micro-finance Summit to be organised by the West Bengal chapter of the Association of Microfinance Institutions (AMFI) will be held on February 22.

SpiceJet To Lay Off 1,400 Employees, Save \$12 Million Annually: Report



Reuters

BENGALURU: Low-cost carrier SpiceJet said on Monday that it has started adopting measures to reduce its workforce, aiming to save 1 billion rupees (\$12 million) annually. Local business daily Economic Times reported earlier in the day that the cash-strapped airline would lay off 1,400 staff or around 15% of its 9,000-strong work-

force.

The carrier, however, did not confirm the number of jobs being cut.

SpiceJet said it took the measures as part of its turnaround and cost-cutting strategy following fund infusion to help in the revival of its grounded planes.

The airline, once India's second-largest, has so far raised 7.44 billion rupees as part of a 22.50 billion rupees fundraising effort by selling shares and warrants.

VC JU Visits Reasi Campus

Jammu: Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof. Umesh Rai, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the newly constructed infrastructure at the Reasi Campus and discussed key issues for the seamless functioning of the campus.

During the visit, Prof. S.K Pandey, Director Reasi Campus provided a detailed overview, emphasizing the infrastructural requirements essential for smooth functioning of academic programs and hostels at the new campus site. Prof. Umesh Rai directed officials to address various campus issues, ensuring optimal functionality.

The Vice Chancellor was joined by Vishesh Mahajan, DC Reasi, who assured full support from the District Administration, particularly in providing basic facilities like road connectivity, water, and electric supply to the campus. Prof. Rai, in alignment with the Hon'ble Chancellor's vision of a green campus, instructed officials to explore renewable energy sources at Reasi Campus.



Prof. Umesh Rai also engaged with the staff and students at Reasi Campus, instructing the Director to identify contemporary certificate and skill development courses, especially catering to the needs of the students of District Reasi. He further urged the establishment of Smart classrooms to facilitate interaction between Reasi Campus students and senior faculty from the Main Campus of the University of Jammu and other prestigious institutes nationwide.

During discussions with Prof Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, JU and Prof Pandey, Prof. Rai proposed the introduction of PG programs in Political Science and Tourism, taking into consideration the topography and tourism potential of the area. He also advocated for exploring courses on lithium exploration, extraction, and its applications.

DC Reasi also pledged support for short-term Skill Development programs at Reasi Campus, reinforcing the commitment to fostering

a well-rounded educational environment. He further urged the University to organize training programmes for capacity building in collaboration with District Administration. Dignitaries also planted the saplings within the campus premises.

Expressing gratitude, the Dean Planning and Director of Reasi Campus expressed gratitude to DC Reasi for the unwavering support provided to Reasi Campus in spite of his busy schedule. Prof Meena Sharma assured the DC that collective efforts of the University and Government underscore Jammu University's commitment to the excellence, sustainability, and holistic education. Among others who accompanied the Vice-Chancellor include Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Special Secretary to Vice Chancellor, Er. Rahat Gupta, Xen UWD, Irfan Goni, Campuses Development Officer, Er. Akash Bhola and Er. Jevan Singh AEE's of UWD. Besides, locals of village Jadh, other Officers of the University and District Administration were also present on the occasion.

Regional Textile Strengths to Celebrate India's Booming Textile Industry at Bharat Tex 2024

Delhi\ Bharat Tex 2024, India's premier global textile event, is set to witness a grand confluence of iconic handloom and handicraft traditions from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. Five Indian states are set to captivate the spotlight as they present a shared narrative of artistic excellence, featuring handloom craftsmanship, and unveiling distinctive textile innovations.

With Uttar Pradesh & Maharashtra coming onboard as the 'Partner State', Bharat Tex 2024 announces Gujarat, Telangana and Madhya Pradesh joining as the 'Supporting Partner States'. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Assam will be setting up state pavilions at the premier global textile event. From Madhya Pradesh's iconic Batik printing, hand-block printing, Chanderi and Maheshwari silk, Gujarat's Bandhani, Patola silk, hand-painting, Uttar Pradesh's Chikankari, Zari-Zardozi, Maharashtra's Paithani saree, Warli Art, Mashru & Himroo to Andhra Pradesh's much-admired-Jute, hand-drawn Kalamkari, lavish handwoven Dharmavaram sarees and fine Mangalagiri cotton weaves, Bharat Tex 2024 will

boast globally acclaimed states' handicraft & handloom traditions and state's progressive initiatives in terms of policies, innovative technologies and initiatives like the upcoming textiles parks.

Commenting on the state partnership, Shri Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra said, "I am proud to announce Maharashtra's participation as Partner State at Bharat Tex 2024. As the largest international exposition in India, the event is shaping up to be the largest platform for industry collaboration and innovation. Maharashtra has been a significant part of the growth story of the textile and apparel sector in India; be it the rich cultural tradition of the Paithani saree or the advancement of Smart Textiles by a few aspiring start-ups. The textile and technical textile sector plays a significant role in shaping Maharashtra's economic landscape, and we are committed to nurturing its continued success. Maharashtra will ensure that every thread spun adds to the rich tapestry of our nation's progress, towards a Viksit Bharat in 2047".

On Madhya Pradesh joining as a 'Supporting Partner State', Shri Dr. Mohan Yadav, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, said

"Prosperity of Madhya Pradesh lies in the progress of its industries. Establishment of industries results in the growth of employment opportunities. The state government is committed to achieve comprehensive development fostering good governance and implementing an effective system".

With Gujarat coming on board as a 'Supporting Partner State', Shri Bhupendra Patel, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat said "For Gujarat, Textile is not just an industry, but also a tradition and a legacy which we present to the world through the magic of our handicrafts and machines. The growth of the textiles sector lies in the growth of India and the growth of job opportunities. Our textile industry stands as a beacon that realizes 5F (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign), the concept presented by our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Today, Gujarat has become a centre of attraction for the importers of garments across the globe. Gujarat is the highest contributing state in woven fibre production across the Nation, reflecting our ambition to become a leader in 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World'".

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

ST Benefits To

Rafiq Shah, a Pahari leader, said that after 75 year of political and social slavery, justice has been delivered. He said, today we are feeling empowered and free.

Senior leader Vibodh Gupta said that Gujjar, Bakarwal and Pahari communities will work together for the development of J&K. He said Scheduled Tribes Community will play a major role in the developmental journey of UT.

Dinesh Sharma lauded the historic decision of the government to grant scheduled tribe status to Paharis, Padari Tribes, Koli and Gadda Brahmin. It has removed the developmental imbalance and strengthened the vision of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas, he said.

This is a dawn of new prosperity for the Pahari community and the bright future of our young generation, Flail Singh said.

Raja Ajaz said the present government under the guidance of Prime Minister and Home Minister has created a conducive atmosphere for the Pahari community and the entire border belt.

Anjum, Pradeep Sharma, Iqbal Malik and Murtaza Khan thanked the UT Administration for working as a bridge between the Pahari community and the Government of India and ensuring justice for the community.

The LG assured the delegation that the issues projected by them will be implemented in letter and spirit.

He further asked the community elders to constitute a Samiti of prominent members for seamless coordination with Government Officials on the issues concerning the community.

Safina Baig, Chairperson, District Development Council Baramulla; senior political leaders, former PRI members, retired government officials, community elders and youth leaders were present during the interaction.

Have Given 1.5

The prime minister said his government has brought transparency and is working to ensure that recruitment is done in a time-bound manner.

Youngsters now believe that they all have equal opportunity and can find a place for themselves in the government system through hard work and talent,

he said.

The prime minister asserted that the measures taken by his government, be it a scheme for rooftop solar power for one crore homes or the massive investment in infrastructure, have been creating a lot of employment opportunities.

With over 1.25 lakh start-ups, India is the third largest eco-system in the sector, and youngsters are launching new firms in even smaller cities, he said, adding that it is creating lakhs of jobs.

Modi said 40,000 modern coaches like those used in the Vande Bharat trains will be manufactured and included in normal trains to increase convenience and comfort for passengers.

Accusing previous governments of not paying due attention to the railways, he said the entire sector is transforming now.

"They neglected the common people's expectations," Modi said, attacking the previous governments.

The prime minister said his government has extended tax rebates to start-ups and has announced a fund of Rs 1 lakh crore for research and innovation.

Highlighting the far-reaching impact of connectivity, Modi spoke of new markets, expansion of tourism, new businesses and the creation of lakhs of jobs due to this.

"Investment in infrastructure is being ramped up to accelerate development," he said, adding that Rs 11 lakh crore has been earmarked for investment in infrastructure in the recent budget.

'Rozgar Melas' have played a crucial role in enhancing the contribution of the country's young population in nation-building, the prime minister said, adding that a sizeable number of recruits will join the Central Armed Police Forces.

Recruitment examinations in the forces have now begun to be conducted in 13 Indian languages apart from Hindi and English, he said, adding that this will give equal opportunity to candidates.

On the occasion, he also laid the foundation stone of phase I of the integrated complex "Karmayogi Bhavan" here. This complex will promote collaboration and synergy among various pillars of 'Mission Karmayogi'.

The recruits will be joining the government in various ministries and

departments, according to a statement issued earlier.

Qatar Releases

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself constantly supervised all the developments in the case and has never shied away from any initiatives that would ensure the return of the Indians. The seven Indian nationals reached Delhi by a private airline at around 2:35 am.

The foreign secretary, without elaborating, said New Delhi continues to work with the Qatari government to ensure the return of the eighth Indian quickly.

In an early morning statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India appreciates the decision by the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani for enabling the release and home-coming of the Indians. It is learnt that the Emir ordered the release of the eight Indians.

The Navy veterans apparently faced charges of espionage, but neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against them public.

"The Government of India welcomes the release of eight Indian nationals working for the Dahra Global company who were detained in Qatar," the MEA said.

"Seven out of the eight of them have returned to India. We appreciate the decision by the Emir of the State of Qatar to enable the release and home-coming of these nationals," it said in a brief statement.

The eight nationals are: Captains Navtej Gill and Saurabh Vasisht, Commanders Purnendu Tiwari, Amit Nagpal, SK Gupta, BK Verma, and Sugunakar Pakala, and sailor Ragesh. Commander Tiwari could not return due to some pending paper work, people familiar with the matter said.

"We are grateful to the government and the prime minister Narendra Modi as it would not have been possible without his intervention," said one of the returnees.

The Navy veterans were on October 26 given death sentences by Qatar's Court of First Instance. The Court of Appeal in the Gulf nation on December 28 commuted the capital punishment and sentenced them to jail terms for varying durations. The Court of Appeal had also given 60 days time to appeal against the prison terms.

In December, Prime Minister Modi

had met the Qatari Emir on the sidelines of the COP28 Summit in Dubai and discussed the "well-being of the Indian community" in Qatar.

It is learnt that National Security Adviser Ajit Doval played a key role in the negotiations with the Qatari authorities in securing the release of the Indians as he paid a number of quiet visits to Doha.

The Indian nationals, who worked with private company Al Dahra, were arrested in August 2022 reportedly in an alleged case of espionage. The charges were filed against the eight Indian navy veterans on March 25 last year and they were tried under Qatari law. In May last year Al-Dhara Global closed its operations in Doha and all those working there (primarily Indians) have since returned home.

The foreign secretary said India is grateful to Qatar for the return of the Indians. "We are gratified on their return. We deeply appreciate the decision of Qatar's government and the Emir to release them," Kwatra said.

"We are happy to have seven of those Indian nationals back. Eighth Indian national has also been released and we continue to work with the Qatar government to see how quickly his return to India would be possible."

"The prime minister has himself personally supervised all the developments in this case and has never shied away from any initiatives that would ensure the return of the Indian nationals back to home," he said.

The foreign secretary declined to comment when asked whether the Qatari Emir granted a royal pardon to the Indians.

"We can talk about different terminology etc., whether it is a release or pardon...but I think we should see the facts of what they are. Seven of the eight Indian nationals in the Al Dahra case are back in India, back to their homes," he said.

PM To Visit Doha

the UAE on Monday with an aim to expand overall bilateral ties in a range of areas including trade and investment, energy and digital domain.

"After completing his visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the prime minister will travel to Doha, Qatar on February 14 afternoon," Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a media briefing.

The foreign secretary said Modi will

hold bilateral talks with Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and other high dignitaries.

The announcement on Modi's visit to Doha came hours after seven out of eight jailed former Indian Navy personnel returned home on Monday morning, nearly three-and-half months after a Qatari court handed them a death sentence that was subsequently commuted to jail terms ranging from three to 25 years.

PM Likely To Visit J&K after the completion of the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab river in Reasi district.

During his upcoming visit to the union territory, the PM is scheduled to address a Rozgar Mela in Jammu where he will distribute over one lakh appointment letters among the youth. While union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra is expected to coordinate the Rozgar Mela from Delhi, three other union ministers will distribute the appointment letters among the youth in Srinagar, Jammu and Leh, sources said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's state unit has begun preparations for a mega rally in Jammu on February 20.

According to the sources, besides Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Ashwini Kumar Choubey is scheduled to attend the job distribution mela at BSF Headquarters Paloura in Jammu. Likewise, Union Minister of State for AYUSH, Women and Child Development Mahendra Munjpara will attend the Rozgar Mela at Srinagar while Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farm Welfare Kailash Choudhary will distribute the appointment letters among the youth at the Rozgar Mela at Leh, added the sources.

ED Summons

He is the latest Opposition leader -- after Jharkhand's former Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal -- to be called in for questioning ahead of the national elections due in summer. Mr Soren has now been arrested after repeated no-show.

The case involves alleged siphoning of funds belonging to the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association or JKCA, which were apparently being transferred to personal bank accounts

of various people, including the office bearers of the association.

Between 2001 and 2012, the BCCI (Board of Cricket Control, India) had given 112 crore to JKCA for the development of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir.

The money laundering probe started in 2018 after the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a chargesheet against the office-bearers.

Mr Abdullah, who was the chairman of the cricket association at the time, was chargesheeted by the Central agency in 2022.

The chargesheet against him claims that during his tenure as the cricket association chief, Mr Abdullah diverted the funds received by the officials and others in the name of development of the game and used it for personal gains.

The funds were first sent to many private bank accounts and were later divided among the accused, the chargesheet alleged.

Kashmir Sees

-4.7 degree Celsius, a deviation of 5 degrees below normal.

"This was the highest day temperature in the city since January 14 when the mercury had climbed to 14.6 degrees Celsius owing to dry weather conditions in January," a Met Department official said.

South Kashmir's Qazigund and north Kashmir's district of Kupwara also experienced above normal temperatures with maximums of 14.4 degrees Celsius and 13.7 degrees Celsius respectively. The minimum temperatures in these regions were -4.4 and -4.3 degree Celsius respectively.

The southern town of Pahalgam was the coldest during the night at -7.9 degrees Celsius, and recorded a maximum of 10.2 degrees Celsius in the day, 3.8 degrees above normal. The ski resort town of Gulmarg recorded a minimum temperature of -6.5 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 6.5 degrees Celsius.

The weather is predicted to remain dry till February 17, with a possible spell of snow from February 18 to 20.

After a long dry and warm winter, the valley saw widespread snowfall and rain last week. The valley is currently in the moderate phase of winter, Chillai Khurd, following the end of the harshest 40-day period on January 29.

Aes Kaeshir

Kashmir Observer in collaboration with King's College London Radio brings you a series of Podcasts on Life and Times of Kashmiri Disapora in the West.

KASHMIR OBSERVER



KO PODCAST



KL Rahul Ruled Out Of 3rd England Test

Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: Senior India batter KL Rahul was on Monday ruled out of the third Test against England after failing to fully recover from his quadriceps strain that forced him to miss the second match in Visakhapatnam.

Devdutt Padikkal, the talented Karnataka left-hander who is enjoying a great first class season, replaced Rahul in the squad.

"KL Rahul, whose availability for the remaining three Tests was subject to fitness, has been ruled out of the third Test against England in Rajkot. Rahul has reached 90 per cent of match fitness and is progressing well under the supervision of the BCCI Medical Team," the BCCI said in a press release.

KL Rahul will continue his recovery at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru as he looks to return for the fourth and fifth Test. The series is currently locked 1-1.

The selectors had earlier named both Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja in the squad



subject to clearance from the BCCI's medical team.

"KL Rahul hasn't yet reported in Rajkot. Ravindra Jadeja, the local boy has linked up with the team. It was always a case of subject to fitness and BCCI medical team is still not confident that he is match fit," a senior

BCCI source told PTI on the condition of anonymity.

In his most recent Ranji Trophy match, the 23-year-old Padikkal scored 151 with the chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar watching his knock from the stands.

Padikkal has been in excellent form this season.

Having started with a 193 against Punjab in the opening game, he struck 103 against Goa.

Besides his exploits in Ranji, Padikkal also scored 105, 65 and 21 in his three innings for India A in the two unofficial Tests against England Lions.

Brilliant Work Lads: Pat Cummins To U-19 WC Winning Australian Side



Agencies

BENONI: Australian skipper Pat Cummins extended his congratulations to the young Aussie side which won the ICC U19 World Cup by defeating India in the final at Benoni on Sunday. Australia broke their winless streak against India in the U19 title clashes as its pace attack helped defend 254 against Men in Blue, winning their first title since 2010 and overall their fourth title on Sunday.

Cummins himself had an incredible 2023, securing the ICC World Test Championship and ICC Cricket World Cup, both by India in the final. Cummins' win over India is perhaps the highest point of his career as a skipper. The fast bowler has himself

played in three youth-level ODIs, scoring 67 runs with a fifty and taking five wickets.

Recapping the match, while chasing a target of 254, two maiden overs from Australia foreshadowed the chain of events that were about to unfold in the next 43.5 overs. Arshin Kulkarni and Musheer Khan were the two casualties in the first powerplay, which handed Australia early control in the final. During the run chase of 254, Mahli Beardman dismissed India's skipper Uday Saharan in single digits for the first time in the tournament, which indicated that the chase was not going to be a walk in the park for the Indian team.

Adarsh Singh (47) and Murugan Abhishek (42) waged a battle during their time on the crease;

however, it wasn't enough to get India across the finishing line. India was bundled out for 174. Besides Beardman, Raf MacMillan also took 3/43 while Calium Vidler took 2/35. Tom Straker and Charlie Anderson got one wicket each. Mahli was the star for Australia, taking 3/15 in his seven overs, getting key wickets of Adarsh, Indian skipper Uday and Musheer.

Earlier in the innings, after winning the toss, Hugh Weibgen's Australia skipper decided to bat first and set a target of 254 runs in the final match. Harjas Singh (55), skipper Hugh Weibgen (48) and Oliver Peake (46) delivered notable contributions for Aussies. Raj Limbani (3/38) and Naman Tiwari (2/63) were the pick of the bowlers for India. (ANI)

Snowfall Transforms Gurez Fields Into Winter Cricket Haven

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As heavy snowfall blankets the picturesque landscapes of Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora, a creative endeavour to promote winter tourism and the spirit of winter sports turned the frozen fields into cricket pitches, with the mesmerizing scenes of cricketers clad in winter gear garnering widespread attention and praise.

The unique visuals of snow cricket in Gurez have become a viral sensation, with the images and videos of cricket enthusiasts on the snow-covered fields flooding social media. The majestic visuals of snow-cricket are being shared widely by sports enthusiasts and travel lovers and are contributing to the promotion of Gurez as a winter destination.

"Gurez holds immense potential for winter sports activities, however, what is crucial to unlock this potential is the government's



attention. From skiing to the unique snow cricket, Gurez can be transformed into a vibrant winter hub," Aijaz Ahmed, a social activist said.

Snow Cricket Premier League initiative is fantastic and highly appreciable, with Gurez — located some 50 km away from Bandipora headquarters and close to Line of Control (LoC) often remain cut off due to heavy snow, activities like

snow cricket are keeping people especially our youth engaged and excited, commentator Ilyas Ahmad said.

The tournament launched at Dawar in Gurez last week had around 16 participatory teams across the sub-division. "This is not just a game, but a shield against negativity, as it keeps our youth away from anti-social activities," another local from Dawar Gurez said. (KNO)

DC Bandipora Reviews Status Of Works At SK Stadium



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Shakeel Ul Rehman on Monday convened a meeting to review the status of sports infrastructure development, indoor hall and pavilion construction initiative at S.K Stadium here.

Addressing the meeting, DC underscored the importance of investing in sports infrastructure development to promote physical activity, talent development and community engagement.

He emphasized that the construction of an indoor hall and pavilion in S.K Stadium besides providing a venue for sporting events will also serve as a catalyst for involving more youth towards sports.

The meeting discussed existing sports facilities and identification

of areas requiring improvement or expansion to meet the growing demand for sporting activities.

Discussion on the design of the proposed indoor hall, pavilion and considerations for seating capacity besides amenities and accessibility features were also held during the meeting.

The DC highlighted the need for collaboration between government agencies, and the sports associations and sports enthusiasts to ensure the success of sports infrastructure projects and asked the concerned agencies to start the work on proposed infrastructures without any further delay.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer J&K Sports Council, sports administrators, R&B Engineers, and representatives of various sports associations.

Khelo India Winter Games Gulmarg: Executive Level Meeting Held



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Union Secretary Sports Sujata Chaturvedi and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Monday co-chaired an Executive Committee-level meeting to review preparations for the forthcoming Khelo India Winter Games 2024 scheduled to be held from February 21 to 25 at Gulmarg.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Culture, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commission Secretary Tourism, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Secretary Public Works department, Secretary Health and Medical Education, IG Traffic J&K, Director Fire and Emergency Services, Director Information, J&K, Director Tourism Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Director Youth Services and Sports, MD KPDC, Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association, National Sports Federations, Hoteliers Association J&K, Winter Sports As-

sociation J&K and other concerned officers.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Union Secretary emphasized on the importance of meticulous planning and seamless coordination in executing various facets of the Khelo India Winter Games.

The meeting deliberated on several key aspects of the games like venue preparation, infrastructure development, participant registration, promotional activities, media planning and other related issues concerning smooth execution of games.

The Chief Secretary remarked that Gulmarg is emerging as Winter Sports capital of India and we need to follow all the technical protocols related to these games so as to professionalise it.

During the meeting, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, gave a detailed presentation on preparations of this event.

During the meeting, representatives of SAI, Indian Olympic Association and other agencies gave their valuable inputs for the smooth conduct of games.

After Thrilling Weekend, Some Talking Points From European Soccer

Agencies

Talking points from the weekend in European soccer leagues:

ITALY MILAN ITALY'S SECOND-BEST IN 2024

Milan earned a narrow 1-0 win at home over champions Napoli on Sunday to remain unbeaten in Serie A in the calendar year, becoming Italian top flight's second best-scoring side in 2024.

Amid speculations that coach Stefano Pioli will leave in the summer, Milan have turned their good form at the end of the year into an unbeaten Serie A run of six games across January and February, winning five and drawing one. Only leaders Inter Milan, who have won five out of five with a game in hand, have a better balance so far this year.

With 52 points after their first 24 games of the season, Milan only did better in 1995-96 (53) and 2003-04 (61) in the three-points-per-win era.

FRANCE PSG CONSOLIDATE TOP SPOT

Paris St Germain showed their power at the top of the Ligue 1 standings after destroying Lille 3-1 on Saturday, a victory that Luis Enrique said gives them confidence ahead of Wednesday's Champions League last 16 clash with Real Sociedad.



"Playing in the Champions League is not like playing for our lives. We will face the competition with calm, without pressure... We are ready and we have proved it," the coach said. Although PSG were without striker Kylian Mbappe, Luis Enrique added that the forward "is physically fine and will be available for Wednesday's game".

PSG, who have 50 points in the table, extended their lead to 11 over second-placed Nice, who were beaten 3-2 by AS Monaco, that climbed to third on 38 points after Brest drew 1-1 with Clermont Foot on Sunday.

SPAIN

UNBREAKABLE REAL

Real Madrid were at their best on Saturday as they beat second-placed Girona 4-0 to gain a five-point lead over Spain's surprise package that could prove decisive in the race for the LaLiga title.

While the 14-time European champions' usual rivals Atletico Madrid and Barcelona have lacklustre form, Carlo Ancelotti's side seem little affected by the number of injuries to key players, including all their starting centre-backs. As the Champions League knockout stages get underway and Real find their best form, winning without LaLiga's top scorer Jude Bellingham, whose sprained ankle was the only bad news for Madrid this weekend, will be their new challenge.

Argentina Beats Brazil To Secure Paris Olympics Spot, Eliminate Archrival

Agencies

CARACAS: Brazil will not defend its Olympic men's soccer title in Paris after losing 1-0 to its regional rival Argentina on Sunday.

In the decisive South American Olympic qualifier, Luciano Gondou scored the winner for the Argentina under-23 team coached by Javier Mascherano. He headed a cross from Valentin Barco past goalkeeper Mycael in the 78th minute at the Brigidio Iriarte Stadium in Caracas.

Brazil won gold at men's soccer in the Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo Olympics.

South America's Olympic qualifying for men's soccer offered two spots in Paris, where the men's tournament starts July 24. Paraguay ended on the top of the table of the final group stage with seven points in three matches after its 2-0 win on Sunday against host Venezuela.

The Paraguayan team, which didn't have star players like its two bigger continental rivals, also beat Brazil to secure its spot for France.

Argentina finished the tournament with five

points, two more than Brazil, which only managed to beat Venezuela in the final stage.

Argentina had the upper hand in the first half but the defensive stance of Brazil, coached by Ramon Menezes, didn't help bring much emotion to the match. World Cup winner Thiago Almada hit the post in the 16th minute.

Argentina's Leandro Brey made the best save of the game in the 61st, when substitute Gabriel Pec struck hard from close range. Brazil did not keep up the pressure, with striker Endrick once more playing below par. And then Gondou's header made the difference between the two teams.

Argentina won the gold at men's soccer at the games in Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008, with Lionel Messi leading the team in Beijing.

Paraguay's surprising spot in Paris came after Diego Gomez scored from the spot early in the second half and Marcelo Perez pushed the ball with his head to an empty goal in the 75th minute after a bizarre mistake of the Venezuelan defense.

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th) under Roll No. 27812 Session: Apr-May Year: 1980 through The Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error committed by the School/Parent/Board against my DOB as 01-04-1964 instead of 14-04-1964.

Now I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu A Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Deputy Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of publication of th/s notice, after the expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.

This is published for the information of the general public.

The correct particulars be recorded as under:-

Name: Hameeda Banoo

Father's Name: Gh Qadir Lone

Mother's Name: Saja Bagum

Date of Birth: 14-04-1964

Residence: Sonar Wani



Footballer dies after hit by lightning strike during match in Indonesia; video captures tragic incident



Agenceis

A football match in Indonesia on Sunday, January 11, turned tragic when a player from FLO FC Bandung was struck by lightning. The devastating incident resulted in the player's immediate and unfortunate demise on the spot.

In a widely circulated video, the footballer can be seen leisurely walking on the field, anticipating the ball's arrival. Out of nowhere, lightning strikes, and the player collapses on the field, leaving fellow players in utter disbelief.

The player was swiftly taken to the hospital, but unfortunately, he did not survive and

was declared brought dead, reports say.

According to local reports, the incident happened at at Siliwangi Stadium in Bandung, West Java, during a friendly football match between FLO FC Bandung and FBI Subang. The tragic incident unfolded on the field.

This incident is not the first of its kind during a football match. In December of last year, another tragic event unfolded when a lightning bolt struck a football pitch in Brazil. The outcome was fatal for one player, and six others sustained injuries. The 21-year-old footballer, who collapsed on the field, was immediately brought to the hospital but succumbed to the injuries later.

"PTI-Backed Candidate Real Winner": Jamaat-i-Islami Leader Forfeits Sindh Seat



Agenceis

Karachi: A senior leader of Pakistan's Jamaat-i-Islami Party on Monday forfeited the seat he won in Thursday's election in the Sindh province, saying it was not him but the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party-backed candidate who won from the constituency.

According to the provisional results released by the Election Commission of Pakistan for the February 8 general elections, Naem won from the PS-129 constituency (Karachi Central VIII) with 26,296 votes.

Addressing a press conference, Hafiz Naemur Rehman said that he took the unusual step to highlight the alleged rigging in many constituencies during the February 8 polls.

"A PTI-backed independent candidate has won and I will not avail this seat," he said.

"When I estimated that there was a difference of a few hundred votes, I asked my team for each and every Form [45]. When we checked, we found out that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had shown fewer votes for us but as I did not succeed, I forfeit this seat," he said.

He went on to claim that jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed Independent candidate Saif Bari won according to his team's calculations, stating that his votes were "reduced to 11,000 from 31,000".

In a separate post on X, he said, "According to my conscience and the moral traditions of my party, I vacate my provincial assembly seat and demand that all seats we won be returned to us."

The decision of Mr Rehman, the chief of the Jamaat-i-Islami party's Karachi unit, came on the heels of two days of protests, some of them violent, by different parties in several parts of

Sindh province over the alleged rigging in the polls.

Since the General Elections on February 8, the PTI, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) party, Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TL), and Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI) have been claiming their candidates were robbed of their wins in many National Assembly and provincial constituencies and they don't accept these results.

The fact that the Muttahida Qaumi Movement ended up with 17 of the 22 National Assembly seats from Karachi and several provincial assembly seats has only angered the protesting parties.

The PTI, JI, TL, and JUI have been leading the protests and on Monday workers of these parties blocked the highways leading into the city.

Heavy contingents of the police and rangers were called in to clear the roads as the traffic got disrupted.

In some cases where protesters have tried to march towards the ECP's provincial office in the Saddar area. Heavy contingents of police have used tear gas shells, water canons, and even batons to charge the heavy crowds to disperse them.

The police also arrested some workers who were later released.

The protests began one day after the provisional election results started being announced by the ECP.

Since the provincial results started coming out the courts have been flooded with legal petitions and several candidates have challenged the provisional results in their constituencies in a bid to win the seat.

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According to the details, the PTI-backed independents have filed the highest number of petitions in the courts against the results.



FARMERS' MARCH

Section 144 Imposed In Delhi; Traffic Restrictions In Place At Borders, Security Beefed Up



Agenceis

New Delhi: Delhi Police have imposed Section 144 across the national capital in view of widespread tension and "social unrest" due to the farmers' Delhi Chalo March on Tuesday. The order will be in place for a month.

The order issued by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora on Monday prohibited any type of rally or procession and blocking of roads and passages.

Delhi Police order has imposed a ban on tractor rallies trying to cross the borders of the national capital.

Meanwhile, traffic restrictions have been put in place and security arrangements intensified at the Singhu, Ghazipur and Tikri

borders in the national capital.

The borders have been fortified with concrete blocks and iron nails to prevent vehicles carrying protesters from entering the city.

The measures affected traffic movement in the border areas of Delhi on Monday morning, causing inconvenience to commuters.

Several farmer associations, mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, have called for the march on February 13 to demand a law guaranteeing MSP for their produce, one of the conditions they had set when they agreed to withdraw their agitation in 2021.

Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora visited the city's borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on Sunday to check the

security arrangements.

According to an advisory issued here, traffic restrictions have been imposed for commercial vehicles at the Singhu border since Monday. Tuesday onwards, the restrictions apply to all types of vehicles, it said.

Police have deployed more than 5,000 security personnel while cranes and earthmovers carrying large containers to block the road were also at work.

Multiple security barricades have already been installed at the borders to stop the farmers from entering the national capital. Nails have been erected on roads so that if the protesting farmers try to enter the city on vehicles, their tyres can be punctured, the officials said.

Mild Heat Waves Prove Deadlier Over Time In India, Study Reveals Urgent Need For Revised Heat Warnings

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: While the most extreme heat waves have the greatest short-term impact on mortality, it is the mildest ones that kill most over time because they are more common, according to a study conducted in India.

As heat waves are projected to become more common as the Earth's climate warms, the health risks of temporarily elevated temperatures must be investigated further, the researchers said.

"We wanted to find out how much the risk of death increases during heat waves," said study first author Jeroen de Bont from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.

The study, published in the journal Environment International, examined excess mortality in ten cities in different parts of India with different climate zones between 2008 and 2019.

By selecting the days that were hotter than 95, 97 or 99 per cent of all days in the different regions, the researchers were able to create different definitions of heat



waves and examine the health risks associated with them.

The hottest and longest heat waves, those that were hotter than 99 per cent of days and lasted at least five days, increased mortality the most—by over 33 per cent, they said.

The study found that heat waves that were hotter than 95 percent of all days and lasted only one day increased mortality the least—by just over 10 per cent.

The mildest heat waves were surprisingly the deadliest and the number of deaths was more

or less inversely proportional to the intensity and duration of the heat waves, the researchers said.

"This is because the milder heat waves were so much more common than the hotter ones. In the end, the most extreme heat waves turned out to cause the lowest number of deaths because they were so infrequent," said de Bont.

"One consequence of this may be that heat warnings may need to be triggered at lower temperature thresholds to protect more people," the researcher said.

'All Aboard' app helps blind and visually impaired commuters find bus stops



Agenceis

A team of researchers from Mass Eye and Ear has developed a smartphone app called "All_Aboard" to assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired (BVI) in finding their bus stops. The app focuses on improving micro-navigation, which involves finding the exact locations of bus stops and destinations. It aims to complement mainstream GPS systems, which provide macro-navigation for planning routes using public transportation.

The All_Aboard app utilizes the phone's camera to detect street signs from a distance of 30 to 50 feet. It then provides auditory cues to guide the user towards their destination, with the frequency of the sounds changing as they approach the bus stop. The app is powered by artificial intelligence, using a deep learning neural network trained on approximately 10,000 images of bus stops collected in various cities and regions around the world.

A recent study evaluated the effectiveness of the All_Aboard app compared to Google Maps in helping BVI individuals navigate a set route with 10 bus stops in both urban (Boston) and suburban (Newton, Mass.) locations. The study measured the localization error (gap dis-

ta) and the rate of successful localisation. The researchers found that the All_Aboard app had a success rate of 93 percent, while Google Maps had a success rate of 52 percent. Additionally, the average gap distance with Google Maps was 6.62 meters, compared to 1.54 meters with All_Aboard.

"Our findings suggest that the All_Aboard app could help travelers with visual impairments in navigation by accurately detecting the bus stop, and therefore greatly reducing their chance of missing buses due to standing too far from the bus stops," said Gang Luo, of the Schepens Eye Research Institute of Mass Eye and Ear. "This study indicates that computer vision-based object recognition capabilities can be used in a complementary way and provide added benefit to purely mapping-based, macro-navigation services in real-world settings.

The study's findings suggest that the All_Aboard app could greatly assist travellers with visual impairments in accurately detecting bus stops, reducing the chance of missing buses due to standing too far away from the stops. The app's computer vision-based object recognition capabilities provide added benefits to mapping-based macro-navigation services in real-world settings.

AI Model Could Predict Onset Of Psychosis Using Brain Scans

Agenceis

Researchers have developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) model that can predict the onset of psychosis in people using brain scans.

They said that the model, trained on brain scans from people globally, could be helpful in clinical settings, as earlier intervention typically leads to better outcomes with less negative impact on people's lives, even as most experiencing psychosis recover fully.

Psychosis is a mental state characterised by being out of touch with reality and symptoms can include delusions, hallucinations or radical changes in behaviour and thinking. The condition has no single cause, but can be triggered by trauma, drug or alcohol use, or a genetic predisposition.

"At most only 30 per cent of clinical high-risk individuals later have overt psychotic symptoms, while the remaining 70 per cent do not," said

associate professor Shinsuke Koike from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tokyo, Japan, and the corresponding author of the study published in the journal Molecular Psychiatry.

"Therefore, clinicians need help to identify those who will go on to have psychotic symptoms using not only subclinical signs, such as changes in thinking, behaviour and emotions, but also some biological markers," said Koike.

For developing the model, the international team of researchers enrolled close to 2,200 adolescent and young adult participants, over half of whom were clinically identified to be at high risk of developing psychosis.

Recruited from 21 locations worldwide, the "diverse" group was divided into four groups - those who later developed psychosis, those who didn't develop psychosis and people with uncertain follow-up status, and healthy controls.

J&K Housing and Urban Development Department
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Achabal

PUBLIC NOTICE DELIMITATION OF MUNICIPAL WARDS

Public representations are invited on delimitation of wards of Municipal Committee Achabal. The objections/suggestions/representations should reach the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag/Executive Officer Achabal by or before 17-02-2024. The objections/suggestions/representations can also be submitted through mail on eomcachabal@gmail.com.

Cut off date for submission of representations:
17th February, 2024

For further clarification and to check the revised ward boundaries please contact the office of Executive Officer Municipal Committee Achabal.

