



NAYE BHARAT KA NAYA UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh now with a new identity is playing a key role in nation's development. The benefits of the development work initiated by the double engine government are now reaching villages, the poor, farmers, youngsters, women and all sections of the society

-Yogi Adityanath
 Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is now treading the path of aspirations and expectations and is adding new dimensions to every sector of development. The state is a clear example of increased security and service ensuring prosperity

-Narendra Modi
 Prime Minister

- 5 International Airports**
 4 operational, 1 under construction
- Maximum Airports in the country**
 10 airports operational, 11 under construction
- Express Pradesh**
 6 expressways operational, 7 under construction
- Highest number of Medical Colleges**
 65 operational, 22 under construction
- Metro Rail services** in Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra
- Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor**
 Construction of 6 nodes (Aligarh, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi)



The country's first rapid rail service from Meerut to Delhi



Leader state in the country in the production of milk, sugarcane, sugar, potato, mango, amla and ethanol

- More than 55.83 lakh families given pucca houses under **PM Awas Yojana**
- Rs 64,694 crore directly transferred to 2.63 crore farmers under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana**
- 2,51,607 farmers registered under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana**
- Installation of 51,774 solar pumps under **Pradhan Mantri Kusum Yojana**
- Insurance of 242 lakh hectares of agricultural land of 3.12 crore farmers under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**
- Free ration to 15 crore people under **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**
- Free treatment facility up to Rs 5 lakh per family to more than 9 crore beneficiaries under **Ayushman Bharat and Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya Yojana**
- Tap connections to more than 2.03 crore houses under **Har Ghar Jal Yojana**
- Free LPG connections to 1.75 crore families under **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**
- 54.44 lakh mothers benefited under **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**
- Loan disbursed to 17.62 lakh street vendors under **Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Yojana**
- 2.62 crore toilets (Izzatghar) constructed under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, more than 10 crore people benefited
- Certificates distributed to 56.34 lakh beneficiaries under **Pradhan Mantri Svamitva Yojana (Gharauni)**
- 2,06,952 jobs generated under **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Srijan Karyakram**
- 1.90 crore people benefited under **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana**
- 12,500 km road constructed since 2017 under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**
- Free electricity connections to 1.58 crore houses under **Power for All Scheme**
- 24,461 Amrit Sarovars identified**, construction target of 2 Amrit Sarovars at every Gram Panchayat
- 1000 acre textile parks in Lucknow and Hardoi under the **Pradhan Mantri Mitra Scheme**
- 18 safe cities identified under the **Safe City Project**, heading towards becoming the first state in the country to have a maximum number of safe cities
- 17 cities identified under **Smart City Mission**, 10 centrally funded, 7 state-funded
- First in the country to provide 100 days of employment, 190 crore mandays created under **MNREGA**
- Registration of more than 9 lakh workers under **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana**





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KASHMIR OBSERVER™ 2
Srinagar | Saturday | 17-02-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my ward namely

Name	Parentage	dob
Uzma Fayaz	Fayaz Ahmad Aziz	24-04-2009
Mir Mohammad Aadil	Dr Fayaz Aziz	29-03-2007.

If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Fayaz Ahmad Aziz
F/O Uzma Fayaz Fayaz And
Mir Mohammad Aadil
R/O Ratnipora Tehsil Kakapora

laa

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name has been wrongly written in my service book as Shah Mohd S/o Mohammad Husain while my correct name is Shah Mohd S/o Mohd Husain 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 POLICE HEADQUARTERS SRINAGER within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Shah Mohd
S/o Mohd Husain kri
R/o Chilly Paine Gandoh
District Doda

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal

Address: Mini-Secretariat Duderhama Ganderbal
0 0194-2951904 & rnbganderbal@yahoo.com

SUBJECT :- Construction of Approach roads for Bobsipora Bridge, Watalbagh Side (Balance work).

Reference:- This Office NITNo.219 of 2023-24 issued under endorsement No.16841-46 Dated;14-02-2024.

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The above mentioned NIT floated for tenders, issued under endorsement No. referred to above shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

No: 16857-62 DPK-16526/23 Dated: 16-02-2024 Sd/-
Executive Engineer, (R&B) Division Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

The name and DOB of my son in his adhaar Card has been wrongly written as Abdullah Fayaz S/o Fayaz Ahmad Rashi, DOB 29-08-2018 While his correct name and DOB as per school records is Reshi Ubaidullah S/o Fayaz Ahmad Reshi, DOB 24-06-2020 which needs to be corrected. 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.

Fayaz Ahmad Reshi
F/o Reshi Ubaidullah
R/o Dragger Beerwah Budgam

BMG

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Abu Baker Javeed who was born on 11-11-2013. 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.

Javeed Ahmad Dar
F/o Abu Baker Javeed
R/o Baghat Mandir Bagh Srinagar

nj

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Mohsin Muzafar Dar who was born on 21-02-2020. 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.

Muzafar Ahmad Dar
F/o Mohsin Muzafar Dar
R/o Arihal Pulwama

nj

Public Notice

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my Daughter Muskan Nabi who was born on 06-6-2008. 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.

Gh Nabi Wani F/o Muskan Nabi
R/o Chersoo Awantipora

nj

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

**Jal Shakti Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar**

Subject: - Verification of Character & Antecedents of the candidates Selected for the post of Draftsman advertised vide Notification No. 01 of 2023 dated 11.04.2023 under Item No.05 (Divisional Cadre Jammu) and Item No.06 (Divisional Cadre Kashmir) in the Jal Shakti Department.

Reference:-Letter No. JKSSB-Scry/24/2023-03(E-7336923) dated 02.02.2024 from J&K Services Selection Board.

Consequent upon the recommendations made by the J&K Services Selection Board vide communication No. JKSSB-Scry/24/2023-03(E-7336923) dated 02.02.2024, all the selected candidates listed in Annexure to this notice, who have been recommended for the post of Draftsman (Civil) in Jal Shakti Department

Mobile Numbers before the Nominated Nodal Officer (Mr. Mohammad Yaseen Baqal, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, Civil Secretariat) in person or through (email ID baqalmy@gmail.com Cell No.9419351723) within a period of Seven (07) days, positively from the date of issuance of this notice, for filling up of e-verification rolls for obtaining Character and Antecedents from the Criminal Investigation Department.

The candidate(s) who fail(s) to submit their Personal Verification Roll (PVR) within the period of 21 days, in terms of Govt. Order No.1003-JK (GAD) of 2021 dated 27.09.2021 read with Circular No. 18-JK(GAD) of 2022 dated 20.05.2022 issued by the General Administration Department, shall forego their right to appointment forthwith without any further notice.

NOTICE are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to submit their e-mail IDs and (Rehmatullah) Under Secretary to the Government Jal Shakti Department

No. 7407022-JSD-NGK/25/2024-01-JSD
DIPK-16558/23
Date: 16.02.2024

Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora

Tele/fax: 01933/295537; Email Id: xenphemechsouthawp@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE 5th

Subject: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of electro-mechanical equipments at various water supply schemes of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora.

Reference: This Office ENIT No.: 38 of 2023-24 Dated: 02-12-2023 issued vide No.: JSD/MDSA/5270-91 Dated: 02/12/2023.

Due to poor response of the above subjected works, advertised vide this office eNIT under reference, the date of downloading/uploading of the bids of these works is hereby extended upto 06/03/2024 (06:00 PM) and the opening date of the Technical Bid is 07/03/2024 (2:00 PM).

Other terms and conditions of the ENIT shall remain same.

No:- MDSA/7104-06
DIPK-16528/23 Dated: 16/02/2024 Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division
South Awantipora

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Higher Education Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K**

Subject:- Appointment of Assistant Professor, in Functional English in the Higher Education Department.

Reference: Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP-Functional English/2023 dated 31-10-2023 from, The J&K Public Service Commission, J&K.

**Government Order No. 78 -JK(HE) of 2024
Dated: 16 -02-2024**

On the recommendations of the J&K public Service Commission, sanction is hereby accorded to the appointment of following candidates as Assistant Professor (Functional English) on regular temporary basis in the pay band of Rs. 15600-39100 with AGP Rs. 6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with pay structure of Rs. 57700/-) in the Higher Education Department.

S.No	Name Mr./Mrs.	Parentage	Address	Selection Category
1.	Javid Aziz Bhat	Abdul Aziz Bhat	122 Khiram Srigufwara Bijbehara	OM
2.	Zeeshan Khushboo	Rashid Ahmad Kuthoo	Near Girls Higher Sec. School Kangan	OM

Above mentioned Candidates shall report to the Nodal Principal, A.S College, Srinagar within a period of 21 days from the date of issue of this order failing which their appointment shall be deemed to have been cancelled without any notice.

The appointment of candidates shall be subject to the following Conditions :-

1. The appointees will be on probation for a period of two years from the date of joining.
2. The appointment of the above candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as per SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
3. The appointees shall, at the time of joining, produce the following testimonials in original which will be verified by the concerned Principal.

- a. Domicile Certificate.
- b. Date of Birth Certificate.
- c. Qualification and Marks Certificate i.e. NET/SLET/Ph.D. etc and marks cards/degrees.
- d. Category certificate as may be applicable to the appointees.
- e. Health and Medical Certificate.
- f. Any other certificate as required under law.

The salary of the appointees shall be drawn and disbursed after the receipt of the satisfactory report in respect of genuineness of Qualification/ Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate and subject to production of an affidavit (as per Annexure A) to this order.

The seniority of the candidates shall be determined in term of J&K Civil Services (Classification, control & Appeal) Rules, 1956. The appointment of the candidates shall remain provisional till time as the certificates get verified by the concerned Principal and found to be in order. In case any certificate is found to be fake, inadequate or not consistent with eligibility requirements, the appointment of the candidates shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio.

The appointment of the candidates shall be subject to outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending before any Court of law. By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/- (Alok Kumar) IRS
Principal Secretary to the Government

No. HED-GAZ/382/2023-04(7330843)
DIPK-16537/23 Dated:16-02-2024

**Annexure-A to Government Order No.78 -JK(HE) of 2024
Dated:- 16 .02.2024**

AFFIDAVIT

I, _____ S/o, D/o,
R/o _____ do hereby solemnly declare on oath that:

(a) My name has been recommended by the J&K Public Service Commission for appointment as Assistant Professor_ in the Higher Education Department.

(b) I understand that the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate has not been furnished by the concerned verifying agency in my case.

I, therefore, undertake that in the event of permitting me to join, pending receipt of the verification report in respect of the Qualification/Date of Birth/Reserved category certificate, I shall have no claim for the post in the event of my being adversely reported upon by the verifying agency found not to be genuine.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

The contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed therein.

DEPONENT

HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE
J&K's First Cambridge Affiliated School (IN024)
www.oasischool.net oasiglobalschool@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Learn • Discover • Achieve
GIRLS CAMPUS
Gogji Bagh, Srinagar
BOYS CAMPUS
Gulshan Nagar Nowgam

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Resumes are invited from the interested candidates for following posts:

S.No	POST	Number of posts	Department	Qualification	Salary
01.	Political Science	01	Higher Secondary	P.G. in Political Science + B.Ed	20K TO 30K
02.	Geography	01	Higher Secondary	P.G. in Geography + B.Ed	20K TO 30K
03.	Economics	01	Higher Secondary	P.G. in Economics + B.Ed	20K TO 30K
04.	Mathematics	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in Mathematics + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
05.	English	02	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in English + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
06.	Physics	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in Physics + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
07.	Islamic Studies	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in Islamic Studies + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
08.	Kashmiri	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G.in Kashmiri + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
09.	English language trainer	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in English/ Linguistics+ B.Ed	15K TO 25K
10.	Urdu	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in Urdu + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
11.	Science	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. in relevant subject + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
12.	Social Science	01	UPD (6 th -10 th)	P.G. (Political Science/ History) + B.Ed	15K TO 25K
13.	Mathematics	01	LPD (1 st to 5 th)	P.G. in relevant subject + B.Ed	12K TO 15K
14.	English	02	LPD (1 st to 5 th)	P.G. in English + B.Ed	12K TO 15K
15.	Science	01	LPD (1 st to 5 th)	P.G. in relevant subject + B.Ed	12K TO 15K
16.	Kashmiri	02	LPD (1 st to 5 th)	P.G.in Kashmiri + B.Ed	10K TO 12K
17.	English	01	PPD (UKG)	P.G.in English + B.Ed	12K TO 15K
18.	Physical Education	02	General	M.PEd/B.PEd	15K TO 20K
19.	General line teacher	05	Creche	B.A/B.Sc + B.Ed	8K TO 10K
20.	DTP Operator	01	IT Section	Graduate + Computer Knowing	12K TO 15K
21.	Drivers	02	Transport	8 th pass with Heavy Vehicle Licence	10K TO 14K
22.	Conductors	02	Transport	Min 8 th Pass	5K TO 7K
23.	Medical Assistant	01	General	B. Pharma or CMA or RMA	10K TO 15K
24.	Receptionist	01	General	Graduate with good communication skills	8K TO 12K

MEDIA LINE ADVT | 9419749091

Important Instructions:

1. Hardcopy of latest Resume must be submitted by the candidate at our institute or apply directly at <http://oasisjr.in/careers> by or before 19th Feb 2024.
2. Written examination for all the teaching posts (for serial no 01 to 19) will be held on 22nd Feb 2024 at our Boys Wing Gulshan Nagar Nowgam Srinagar at 11:00 a.m. After which only shortlisted candidates will be called for demo cum interview.
3. Interview cum demonstration for serial no 20 to 24 will be held on 23rd Feb 2024 at our girls wing Gogji Bagh Srinagar from 11 a.m. to 01 p.m.
4. Experienced candidates in the concerned field will be given preference, however freshers can also apply.

For Further Details Contact

Head Office: OASIS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (Gogji Bagh Near KGP Polytechnic College Srinagar)
Branch Office: OASIS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE (Gulshan Nagar, Nowgam Srinagar)

For any assistance,
Call: 8825091115, 9469844596

For Technical Support
Call/WhatsApp: 9086096005

Sd/-
Principal

5-day Wet Spell To Begin Today: MeT

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience a fresh wet-spell as the weatherman here has forecasted light to moderate snow-fall from February 17 to 20th.

In the meantime, the government has also started readying arrangements to avert disruption of utilities due to snow.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is a possibility of heavy to very heavy snowfall over middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam and South Kashmir districts from February 19-20.

In Kashmir, Ahmad said on Feb 17, weather conditions are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with possibility of light snow at isolated higher reaches towards late night.

On Feb 18, he said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of North, Northwestern, Central and South Kashmir.

On February 19-20, Ahmad said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at most places of plains & lower reaches while the middle and higher reaches of Kupwara, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Budgam and South Kashmir | [More on P10](#)

For Decades, Congress Created Obstacles In Art 370 Abrogation: PM

Says Seats Are Important In Democracy, But People's Blessings Are Biggest Asset



Press Trust Of India

Haryana: Prime Minister Narendra Modi played the Congress on Friday over its stand on the Ram temple in

Ayodhya, saying those who used to call Lord Ram imaginary and did not want a temple to be constructed are also chanting 'Jai Siya Ram' now. Addressing a public

gathering after he laid the foundation of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and inaugurated several projects in Rewari in Haryana, he said India has | [More on P10](#)

PM To Inaugurate Projects Worth 3,161 Cr In J&K

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate or lay the foundation of 209 projects worth over Rs 3,161 crore in Jammu and Kashmir on February 20, the Union territory administration said on Friday.

These projects will upgrade infrastructure, strengthen service delivery systems, general employment opportunities and spur progress and prosperity in the Union territory.

The prime minister will inaugurate 85 projects and lay the foundation of 124 projects at an event at the M A Stadium in Jammu at 11 am on February 20.

Modi is also scheduled to address a public rally, his

second in the region after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Earlier on April 24, 2022, he had addressed a rally in Palli Panchayat in Samba district.

The Union territory administration published a full-page advertisement in some leading newspapers on the event, carrying the pictures of both Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha with a caption "Viksit Bharat Viksit Jammu Kashmir - Aman aur Tarakki ki Nai Tasveer" (a new phase of peace and progress).

The prime minister will inaugurate seven grid stations, three receiving stations and three transmission line projects in Jammu, Pulwama, Baramulla, Srinagar, Budgam, | [More on P10](#)

Security Heightened In J&K Ahead of PM's Visit

Agencies

Srinagar: Security has been heightened in Kashmir valley ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu next week.

A top police officer told GNS that the security arrangements across Jammu and Kashmir have been tightened to ensure there is no untoward incident ahead of February 20 when the Prime Minister arrives.

"Besides upgradation of vigil on the borders, the security forces are patrolling the highways and other vulnerable spots, from the security point of view", the officer said, adding, "frisking has also been intensified in many south districts including Kulgam." Udhampur

He said that naka checking has been increased in Kulgam and vehicles and bikes without number plates are being seized.

Pertinently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Jammu on February 20 and will inaugurate various projects including AIIMS Jammu, world's highest railway bridge over Chenab, and north India's first river rejuvenation project - Devika river project - in Udhampur.

6 IN THE 10 YEARS OF MY GOVERNMENT, India rose from the eleventh spot to become the fifth largest economy in the world and it was due to people's blessings."

Private Schools In J&K Flout Admission Fee Ban

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Despite authorities' strict ban on private schools charging admission fees from parents, numerous complaints persist, indicating that many schools continue to impose such fees under various guises like development fees or capitation fees.

In December 2023, the committee for fixation and regulation of fee of private schools (FFRC) warned school administrators not to charge admission fees during the ongoing admission process in Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the established statute.

However, as the admission process for the new academic session has started, the parents haven't got any relief as the schools heads have found ways to charge the fee.

On Thursday, a picture of Doon International School's admission/registration form along with a break-up of the charges went viral on social media. The school had asked the parents to pay Rs one lakh as "development charges".

Besides, it mentioned Rs 4200 as tuition fee and Rs 4070 as annual charges. Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), while taking note of the violation of the provisions under RTE Act and circular instructions issued by the directorate and FFRC in this regard, issued a notification asking Doon School to explain its position within three days.

"It is pertinent to mention here that capitation fee means any kind of donation, admission fee or contribution or payment other than the fee notified by the school," the notification reads. "Before any [More on P10](#)

Promote Harmony, Support Weaker Sections: LG

Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called upon the people to rededicate themselves to promote social harmony and collectively work for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society.

On the holy occasion of Surya Saptami, Sinha paid obeisance to Lord Martand at Martand Surya Temple, Paloura, Jammu on Friday.

He participated in the Mahayagya organised by Martand Tirath Trust and prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of one and all.

The LG interacted with the people and extended his hearty greetings on the auspicious occasion.

Since time immemorial Jammu Kashmir has been



known as the land of spirituality and one of the main centres of learning and knowledge in the country. It has always promoted inclusive cultural ecosystems and kept alive time-tested traditional wisdom, the LG said.

He said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the vision

of 'Vikas Bhi Virasat Bhi' has been transformed into a people's movement.

AK Sidha, President, Martand Tirath Trust; Avtar Krishan, Chairman; TK Tickoo, General Secretary, other members of Martand Tirath Trust and people from different walks of life were present. Dr. Arvind [More on P10](#)

50 Held In Srinagar Ahead Of Protests In Farmers' Support

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday detained 50 trade union leaders and activists who were planning to hold a protest at Lal Chowk here in support of the demands of agitating farmers.

The protest was planned in response to the Samyukta Kisan Morcha's call for a 'Bharat Bandh' to press the government to accept the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

The leaders and activists were detained by police near Pratap Park on Residency Road as they were assembling for protests and taken to Kothibagh police station, officials said.

CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami condemned the police action.

"Condemning in no uncertain terms the use of forces against the peaceful protest of Apple Farmers' Federation of India, scheme workers and CITU leaders organised in response to Grameen Bharat Bandh," Tarigami said in a series of posts on X.

He claimed that scores of leaders, including Kulgam District Development Council (DDC) chairman Mohammad Afzal, Apple Farmers' Federation of India president Zahoor Ahmad Rather, general secretary Abdul Rasheed, were "unjustly arrested after being bundled into police vehicles".

"The use of brute force against peaceful protesters is an affront to democracy and a violation of fundamental rights," he added.

Farmers from | [More on P10](#)

'From Student Enrollment To School Infrastructure' Official Data Suggests J&K Experienced Major Changes In 5 Yrs

Agencies

Srinagar: Authorities have claimed that from the year 2010 to 2019 only 819 civil works in schools under the Capex budget were completed in the erstwhile state while after 2019 to 2023; at least 2339 works under the UT Capex budget were completed.

The official documents accessed by the news agency - Kashmir News Observer (KNO) wherein the authorities have made comparison of major works and initiatives taken before and after 2019 reveal that prior to 2019, at least 819 civil works in schools were completed. However, after 2019 at least 2339 civil works were completed.

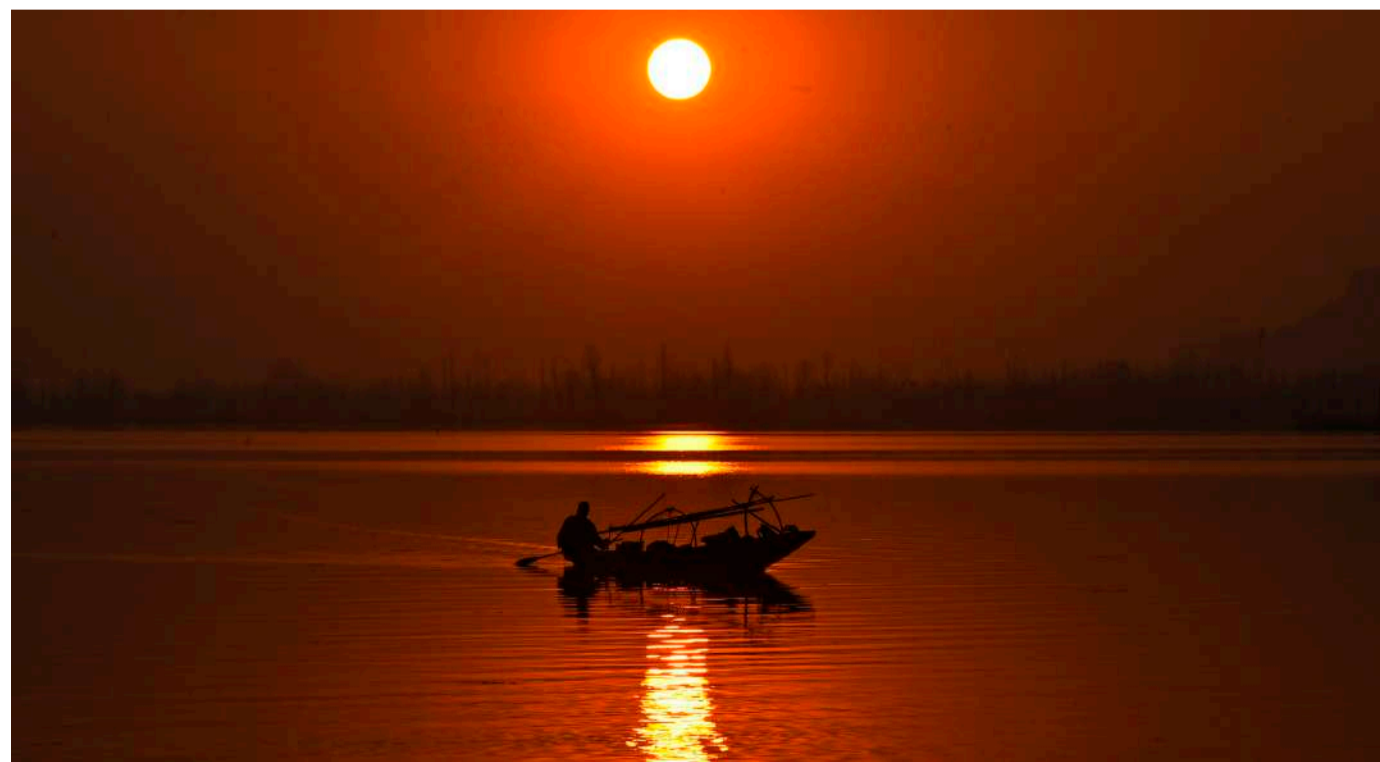
The documents further



reveal that under the erstwhile centrally sponsored schemes including SSA, RMSA and Samagra Shiksha, at least 9635 civil works in schools were completed from 2004-2019 and post

2019, at least 12,600 such works were completed. "342 Spill over works also got completed."

Earlier, the government had claimed that prior to 2019, schools in [More on P10](#)



Rowing into the Golden Horizon: A serene moment captured as a boat glides across Dal Lake against the backdrop of a breathtaking sunset. KO Photo Abid Bhat

S H O R T T A K E S

16-yr-old Killed In Kulgam Accident

A 16-year-old boy was killed after being hit by a speedy motorcyclist in the southern region of Kashmir on Friday evening, sources said. Sources said that an unknown motorcyclist hit a boy aged around 16 years at Batapora Bagbal and injured him critically; however, he was immediately taken to sub-district hospital DH Pora, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. [More on P10](#)

6 Medical Shops Closed In Kulgam

Drug Control Authorities today closed down 06 medical shops in Kelam, Agroo, Devsar, Brinal and Lammar of district Kulgam after they were found violating the conditions of licenses besides other mandatory Govt. directive regarding CCTV and Computerized Billing System and issuance of cash memos/invoices. Moreover, many other pharmacies were also inspected and statutory drug samples [More on P10](#)

Army Opens Fire On Pak Quadcopters

Army troops guarding the Line of Control (LoC) on Friday opened fire to bring down Pakistani quadcopters at two different places in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. However, the flying objects returned to the Pakistan side after briefly hovering over the Indian territory in Balnoi-Mendhar and Gulpur sectors, they said. They said a search operation was launched in both | [More on P10](#)

School Damaged In fire In Srinagar

A school building got damaged due to a fire incident in Chattabal area of Srinagar district on Friday, officials said. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a fire broke out in Valley Common Wealth School in Chattabal Veer area today afternoon. He said that the school building got partially damaged in the fire incident, while the cause of fire was being ascertained.

Electrocution Leaves 2 Injured in Kulgam

Two persons including a woman were hospitalised after being electrocuted in south Kashmir Kulgam district's Devsar area on Friday. Reports said that the woman and another person came into contact with a high-tension line, leaving them both injured. The duo injured was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment, the reports said. However, the exact details behind the incident could not be ascertained.

Body Of Elderly Man Found In Tangmarg

A lifeless body of an elderly man was found in the Tangmarg area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday morning. As per an official, the elderly man's dead body, which was found by police during early morning hours near Ferozpora crossing, had a gash on his right eyebrow. After the spotting of the body, it was taken to a nearby hospital for completion of medico-legal formalities.

Satellite Photos Show Egypt Building A Wall Near Gaza Strip As Israeli Offensive On Rafah Looms



Agencies

DUBAI: Egypt is building a wall and levelling land near its border with the Gaza Strip ahead of a planned Israeli offensive targeting the border city of Rafah, satellite images analysed Friday by The Associated Press show.

Egypt, which has not publicly acknowledged the construction, has repeatedly warned Israel not to forcibly expel the over 1 million Palestinians now displaced in Rafah across the border into its territory while it battles the militant group Hamas for a fifth month.

However, the preparations on the Egyptian side of the border in the Sinai Peninsula suggest Cairo is preparing for just that scenario, something that could threaten its 1979 peace deal with Israel that's been a linchpin for regional security.

The Egyptian government did not respond to requests for comment Friday from the AP. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Feb. 11 warning Israel over its possible Rafah offensive and its "displacement of the Palestinian people."

The satellite images, taken Thursday by Maxar Technologies, show construction ongoing on the wall, which sits

along the Sheikh Zuweid-Rafah Road, some 3.5 kilometres (2 miles) west of the border with Gaza.

The images show cranes, trucks, and what appear to be precast concrete barriers being set up along the road.

Those satellite images correspond to features seen in a video released by the London-based Sinai Foundation for Human Rights on Feb. 12.

The video shows a crane lifting concrete walls into place along the road. Nearby as well, construction crews appear to be levelling and clearing ground for an unknown purpose.

That can also be seen in the imagery from Planet Labs PBC of the area.

The Wall Street Journal, quoting an anonymous Egyptian official, described "an 8-square-mile (20-square-kilometer) walled enclosure" being built in the area that could accommodate over 100,000 people.

Hard-line officials within Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government have raised the possibility of pushing Palestinians out of the Gaza Strip, something strongly opposed by Israel's main ally, the United States. The Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank are lands the Palestinians hope to have for their future state.

Haryana Police Use Tear Gas On Farmers At Shambhu Border; Talks With Centre Again On Sunday

Press Trust of India

CHANDIGARH: Haryana Police on Friday fired tear gas shells to disperse protesting farmers when they moved towards the barricades at the Shambhu border near Ambala, a day after talks between Union ministers and farmer leaders remained inconclusive.

The fresh confrontation comes on the fourth day of the farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' march, called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, to press the government to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

Amid the impasse, the Union ministers and farmer leaders will meet on February 18 for the fourth round of talks. The two sides met on February 8, 12 and 15 as well but those talks remained inconclusive.

The farmers from Punjab began their march to the national capital on Tuesday but were stopped by security personnel at Shambhu and Khanauri points on Punjab's border with Haryana. The protesters have stayed put at the two border points since then.

On the fourth day of the protest, a 63-year-old farmer, who was among the protesters at the Shambhu border, died of a heart attack on Friday.

According to officials, Gian Singh, who hailed from Punjab's Gurdaspur district, complained of chest pain in the morning and was taken to



the Civil Hospital in Punjab's Rajpura. From there, he was rushed to Rajindra Hospital in Patiala, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Besides a legal guarantee of MSP, the farmers are demanding the implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Arjun Munda, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai represented the Centre at Thursday's meeting. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema also joined the meeting.

After the five-hour-long talks, Munda said, "We will

find a solution by sitting together." Mann said he raised with the Centre the issue of suspension of internet services in certain areas in Sangrur, Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib, and that of Haryana security personnel using a drone to drop tear gas shells on protesters inside Punjab's territory.

Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said a detailed discussion was held on their demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP and a debt waiver. "They (Union ministers) said they need time," he said.

"We want that there should be a positive result and any confrontation should be avoided. Otherwise, our programme to go to Delhi stands." Responding to a question on whether farmers will stay put at the Punjab-Haryana borders, Pandher said, "Yes".

Pandher said they also raised the issue of tear gas shelling by the paramilitary forces on farmers at the Shambhu and Khanuri borders. He said they showed the shells to the ministers during the meeting.

Haldwani Violence Culmination Of Long-Brewing Communal Tension: Fact-Finding Team Report

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A civil rights groups-led fact-finding team has claimed that the violent clashes that shook Haldwani on February 8 was not an isolated incident but rather the culmination of escalating communal tensions fuelled by divisive rhetoric and policies.

Violence broke out on February 8 over the demolition of an illegally built madrasa in the Banbhoolpura area, with locals hurling stones and petrol bombs at municipal workers and police, forcing many police personnel to seek refuge at a police station, which the mob then set on fire.

In the clashes, six "rioters" were killed and more than a 100, including police personnel and mediapersons, were injured, according to the police.

A look-out notice has been issued against Haldwani violence key accused Abdul Malik and his son Abdul Moid, while five more rioters have been arrested, police said on Friday.

A civil society fact-finding team comprising members of the Association for Protection of Civil Rights and Karwan-e-Mohabbat had visited Haldwani on Wednesday.

The team's report claimed that despite the matter being sub judice, authorities moved to demolish the sealed mosque and madrasa, triggering anguish in the Muslim community. The situation quickly escalated with clashes erupting between residents and law enforcement.

The report cited witnesses' testimony and alleged excessive use of force by police, including indiscriminate firing and brutality during searches and detention.

The report criticized the prolonged imposition of curfew and internet shutdown, exacerbating the hardships faced by the already vulnerable residents, particularly women and

children.

Because the area directly affected by violence on February 8 continued to be under curfew, it was not possible for the team members to directly meet and talk to the affected people, it said.

"We also reached out to members of the district administration however they either did not respond or informed us that they were very busy and therefore unable to meet us.

"Therefore, this is an interim report based on the conversations with a large number of members of civil society, journalists, writers and lawyers; and telephone conversations with a few affected persons who spoke to us on the condition of anonymity," the report said.

Riot Convict Extradited From UAE Within 4 Months Of Red Corner Notice

Agencies

NEW DELHI: A most wanted criminal was extradited from the UAE on Friday after he was "geo-located" in the Gulf by Interpol channels. Narendra Singh, who was wanted by the Haryana Police for murder and rioting, also faced a Red Corner Notice.

Singh was convicted in 2009 and jailed for life. Interpol had issued a Red Corner Notice against him on November 7 last year following a request from India.

The Red notice was then circulated to all Interpol member countries to identify his location.

He was geo-located in the UAE through a close follow-up by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) via Interpol, the central agency said. Geo-locating someone means identifying the geographic location of an individual based on data collection mechanisms.

The CBI's Global Operations Centre coordinated with its National Central Bureau for In-



terpol in Abu Dhabi, the Indian embassy, the foreign ministry, and the Haryana Police to secure his extradition.

"The Red Notice subject was returned today from UAE to India with a security detail from STF of Haryana Police," said the CBI.

The CBI serves as the National Central Bureau for Interpol and coordinates with all local law enforcement agencies in the country for assistance. The central agency issued around 100 Red Corner Notices in 2023 and extradited 29 fugitives wanted in India.

Defence Ministry Clears Acquisition Of Army Hardware Worth ₹84,560 crore

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The defence ministry on Friday cleared procurement of military hardware worth ₹84,560 crore including multi-mission maritime aircraft to boost overall combat capabilities of the armed forces.

The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The proposals cleared by the DAC include new generation anti-tank mines, air defence tactical control radar, heavy weight torpedoes, medium range maritime reconnaissance and multi-mission maritime aircraft, flight refueller aircraft and software defined radios.

The DAC approved procurement of medium range maritime reconnaissance and multi-mission maritime aircraft for strengthening the surveillance and interdiction capabilities of

the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard, the defence ministry said.

A proposal to procure air defence tactical control radar was also approved with an aim to strengthen the air defence systems, especially the capabilities to detect slow, small and low-flying targets, it said.

"In order to enhance the operational efficiency and domination in the tactical battle area for engaging targets that are beyond visual line of sight by the mechanised forces, the AoN (approval of necessity) under Buy (Indian-IDD) category has been accorded for procurement of canister launched anti-armour loiter munition system," the defence ministry said.

It said the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of Flight Refueller Aircraft for enhancing the operational capabilities and reach of the Indian Air Force.

What Law Panel Said About "Worrisome Trend" In NRIs, OCIs Marrying Indians

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Describing as a "worrisome trend" the "rising" cases of fraudulent marriages between NRIs and Indian citizens, the Law Commission has recommended a comprehensive law to deal with the situation and compulsory registration of such alliances.

While presenting the report "Law on Matrimonial Issues Relating to Non-Resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India" to the law ministry, panel chairman Justice (Retd) Ritu Raj Awasthi said the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed central legislation should be comprehensive enough to cater to all facets involving marriages of NRIs as well as foreign citizens of Indian origin with that of Indian citizens.

"The rising occurrence of fraudulent marriages involving Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) marrying Indian partners is a worrisome trend. Several reports highlight an increasing pattern where these marriages turn out to be deceptive, putting Indian spouses, especially women, in precarious situations," Justice Awasthi said in his covering letter to Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday.

Such a legislation, the panel

said, should be made applicable not only to the NRIs but also to those individuals who come within the definition of 'Overseas Citizens of India' (OCIs) as laid down in the Citizenship Act, 1955.

"It is further recommended that all marriages between the NRIs/OCIs and Indian citizens should be made compulsorily registered in India," Justice Awasthi said.

He said the comprehensive central legislation should also include provisions on divorce, maintenance of spouse, custody and maintenance of children, serving of summons, warrants, or judicial documents on the NRIs and OCIs.

"Further, it is recommended that requisite amendments need to be introduced in the Passports Act, 1967 in order to mandate the declaration of marital status, the linking of a spouse's passport with the other and mentioning of the marriage registration number on the passports of both the spouses," he told the government.

The commission recalled that in order to deal with the emerging situation, the Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indians Bill, 2019, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on February 11, 2019.

Ex Cop, Accused In Antilia Bomb Scare Case, Seeks Laptop In Jail To Write Book

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Former policeman Sachin Waze, an accused in the Antilia bomb scare and businessman Mansukh Hiran murder case, has sought the court's permission to have a laptop in prison to prepare his defence and to write a book.

In the handwritten plea filed before a special court, Waze said he has written various books in Marathi and English, and claimed his book on the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks has been translated to English from Marathi by a renowned author from England.

During the current incarceration, he is working on publishing the extended edition of his book and is also in the process of writing a treatise on anti-terror-

ism and allied laws, Waze said in his plea.

"For this purpose I've already written over 35,000 pages while in detention and referred to more than 20,000 judgments on the subject matter. Without a computer it is impossible for me to access, read, analyze and otherwise examine huge electronic data related to his case," he said.

It will be cumbersome to complete the research for the proposed treatise without accessing electronic copies of judgments and typing extensive documents without software such as MS office, his plea said.

"Under these circumstances it is utmost essential that I must possess and access a computer, preferably a laptop computer while undergoing incar-

ceration," Waze said.

However, the jail authorities opposed his plea citing security concerns in the prison.

The applicant has performed his duties as an officer in the police administration but he is currently accused of very serious illegal activities, the response said.

The jail authorities said if he is allowed to possess a computer then other accused too may make such requests.

There is a high possibility of misusing it (computer) for anti-national activities and anti-administration conspiracy, the jail authorities told court.

On his plan for writing a book, the jail administration said it will be essential to take prior permission of the state government, fail-

ing which prison authorities may land in trouble.

The jail authorities cited the example of Pravin Mahajan, arrested for murdering his brother and political leader Pramod Mahajan.

Pravin Mahajan was kept in Arthur Road Jail and his writings in prison, which were published in the form of a book resulted in a big political storm in the state, it said.

The Maharashtra government had asked the jail administration for its response and it brought disrepute to the prison administration, the response mentioned.

Taking into consideration all these factors and prison security, Waze's plea shouldn't be allowed, the jail authorities said.

The matter will be next heard on February 28.

Office Of The Executive Engineer Generation Division Power House Ganderbal

Email: xeneganderbal@gmail.com Tel /fax - 01942-416234

e-NIT No. GDG/18 of 2023-24 Dated: 16/02/2023
e-NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER

On behalf of Managing Director JKPC, online e-bids in double cover system are invited (Cover-I-Techno-Commercial Bid and Cover-II-Price Bid) from authorised firms/ contractors/Self Help Groups registered with J&K government or any organization owned by PSUs/ State Government/ Central Government having sufficient related experience for undertaking the following titled work at Generation Division Ganderbal.

S. No	Scope Of Work	Quantity	Cost Of Tender Document	Estimated cost (Rs)	EMD @ 2% (Rs)	Time Completion
1.	Rehabilitating of Thrust pads, Drive end pads and Non Drive end pads of Unit-IV at power house Ganderbal.	As per scope	Rs 1000/-	5.75 lacs including all applicable taxes & duties	11500/-	Within 30 days from date of LOA

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in as per schedule of dates given below.

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16-02-2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	19-02-2024 to 04-03-2024
3.	Bid submission Start Date	19-02-2024 1400 hrs
4.	Bid submission End Date	04-03-2024 up to 1600 hrs
5.	Deadline for receiving Hard Copies of e-NIT uploaded document.	04-03-2024 up to 1600 hrs
6.	Date and time of opening of Bid (online)	05-03-2024 or any other convenient date.
7.	Venue for submitting the hard cop of EMD & Cost of tender (proof)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal, Kashmir.

Position of AAA	-	Accorded
Technical Sanction	-	Sanctioned
Position of Funds	-	Available

- The entire process of bidding shall be online. The bidding document consisting of BOQ (Bill of Quantities), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the government website jktenders.gov.in or www.jkspdc.nic.in. The bidder has to submit the bids (complete in all respects) online on the said website. The subsequent opening as well as comparison of bids (on the opening date/time) shall be online on the said website.
- The following documents are to be uploaded along with the bid; otherwise the bid shall be liable for rejection:
 - Details of Contractor along with working phone no. and e-mail id on the letter head of contractor.
 - Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Bank slip/ demand draft in favour of the Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan with the detail as: Account No. 007101020005002 IFSC code : JAKAOKAN GAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan
 - Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Chief Pay & Accounts Officer Kangan.
 - Copy of Valid Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of valid GST Registration Certificate.
 - Copy of PAN Card.
 - Experience / Work Orders / Completion and performance Certificates copies.
 - Income tax return Certificate for last three years. (ITR)
 - Information regarding the current litigation (if any) in which the bidder is involved; parties concerned and disputed amount on registered affidavit/stamp paper of Rs 10/-.
 - Balance sheet indicating profit/loss statement for last 03 years duly vetted by chartered accountant.
- The bidders need to submit the proof/cost of e-bid document as stated above through Bank slip/Demand Draft pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan with the detail as: Account No. 007101020005002 IFSC code : JAKAOKAN GAN Bank: J&K bank Ltd Kangan The Bank slip/Demand Draft must be uploaded along with the e-Bids but the original Bank slip/demand draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.
- All the e-bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD @ Rs. 11500/- in the form of CDR/FDR/BG only, pledged to the Chief Pay Accounts Officer Kangan payable at Kangan. Hard Copies of original instrument of EMD and cost of tender document shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Engineer, Generation Division, Ganderbal up to the cutoff date.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
 - any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 07 days after fixation of contract.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of price bids.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened on same website in the Office of Superintending Engineer Generation Circle-II Bermana Srinagar Kashmir.
- No price bid will be accepted in physical form.
- The bidders are advised to visit the site for assessment and go through the contents of the SBD before quoting the rates.
- Modification in scope of work and extension of period of download of tender specification, closing opening date if required will be notified through corrigendum.

No: GDG/17/370-78 DIPK-NB-5724/23 Dated: 16-02-2024 Executive Engineer Generation Division Ganderbal

DLSA Srinagar Organizes Awareness Program On Child Labor & Exploitation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar and Social Welfare Department, Srinagar, in collaboration with Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Forum today organized an awareness program on various central and state Labor Laws and Welfare Schemes floated by the government on combating "Child Labour, Bondage/Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, e.t.c. at Slum areas of Nowgam and Bemina Bypass areas of Srinagar.

The awareness program was held under the guidance of Chairman (PDJ) DLSA, Srinagar, Jawad Ahmed.

The aim of the program was to raise awareness about the prevalent issues of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, as well as to highlight the importance of education, child custody and protection from abuse.

Sunila Kumari, J.L.A, DLSA Srinagar, emphasized the legal provisions in place to protect the rights of children and vulnerable individuals. She further emphasized the commitment of DLSA to provide free legal aid and assistance to victims of child rights violations.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv. Syed Shabana Kausar, panel lawyer of DLSA, Srinagar, encouraged participants to spread awareness about these issues and to report any suspected cases of child exploitation or abuse to the authorities.

“The aim of the program was to raise awareness about the prevalent issues of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, as well as to highlight the importance of education, child custody and protection from abuse.

Participants were informed about the importance of access to education for children and the legal framework that ensures their right to education.

In order to encourage and attract children towards education, DLSA, Srinagar & Department of Social Welfare with support of Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Forum, distributed story books, note books, pencils, e.t.c among the children of slum dwellers.

The attendees pledged to play an active role in preventing and reporting cases of child exploitation and abuse.



Residential Quarter Guttled In MLA Hostel Blaze

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: A residential quarter was damaged in a massive blaze that broke out at Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Hostel at Maulana Azad Road in Srinagar this morning, officials said.

Property worth millions including furniture, bedding, clothing and other household items, was damaged by the fire, which appeared to be caused by a gas leak, they said.

The fire, which broke out on

the first floor of the two-story building around 9 in the morning, also caused damage to a chinar tree and a nearby wooden structure.

An adequate number of firefighters and fire tenders were rushed to the spot to douse off the flames as soon as the Fire and Emergency Services Department received the information about the blaze at MLA Hostel.

Confirming the incident, Assistant Director Fire and Emergency Service, Mir Aqib Husain told Kashmir Observer that

prima facie cause of fire appeared to be gas leakage which led to the blaze in the residential quarter at MLA Hostel.

Mir said that a team of firefighters was immediately dispatched to the spot to douse off the flames and that no death or injury was reported in the incident.

“The fire that broke out on the first floor of the wood-framed residential quarter comprising seven rooms was quickly contained. It appears that a gas leak is what started the fire,” he added.

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 - (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
 06 Shaban
 1445

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 50
ZUHR	12:45
ASR	4: 37
Magrib	6:19
ISHA	7: 41

This Day In History

- 1370 - Battle at Rudau: Germany beats Lithuania
- 1461 - Wars of the Roses: Second Battle of St Albans - Lancastrian army defeats Yorkists and recaptures King Henry VI
- 1500 - Battle of Hemmingstedt - German peasant army repels ducal army of Schleswig and Holstein
- 1670 - France & Bavaria sign military assistance treaty
- 1814 - Battle of Mormant: French Imperial army defeat Russian
- Austrian forces (War of the Sixth Coalition).
- 1837 - Charles Lyell makes his presidential address to the Geographical Society, London and announces that Richard Owen has concluded from Darwin's fossils that extinct species were related to current species in the same locality.
- 1854 - Britain recognises independence of Orange Free State (South Africa).
- 1864 - Confederate submarine HL Hunley sinks Union ship Housatonic - world's first successful submarine attack
- 1865 - Battle of Charleston, South Carolina
- 1865- Columbia in South Carolina burns down during the American Civil War
- 1867- Gyula Andressy becomes premier of Hungary
- 1880- Alexander II of Russia survives an assassination attempt
- 1897 - Emilio Aguinaldo and a group of katipuneros defeat Spanish forces led by General Camilo de Polavieja at the Battle of Zapote Bridge in Cavite
- 1911- 1st hydroplane flight to & from a ship (Glenn Curtiss, San Diego)
- 1913- 1st minimum wage law in US takes effect (Oregon)
- 1915- Edward Stone, 1st US combatant to die in WW I, is mortally wounded
- 1916 Sigmund Romberg, James Hanley, Harold R. Atteridge and Edgar Smith's musical Robinson Crusoe Jr. premieres in NYC
- 1917- In Australia, Nationalist Party takes over a coalition government
- 1928- Johan Grottnusbråten leads a Norwegian sweep of the medals in the 18k cross country at the St. Moritz Winter Olympics; he also wins the Nordic combined gold the following day
- 1930- French government of André Tardieu falls for the first time
- 1936 - The world's first superhero, The Phantom, a cartoon strip by Lee Falk, makes his first appearance in comics.
- 1959 - 1st weather satellite launched, Vanguard 2, 9.8 kg
- 1965 - US Ranger 8 launched, will transmit 7,137 lunar pictures
- 1966 - French satellite Diapason D-1A launch into Earth orbit
- 1967 - Kosmos 140 (Soyuz Test) launches into Earth orbit
- 1969 - Golda Meir sworn in as the first female Prime Minister of Israel
- 1974 - 49 die in stampede for seats at soccer match, Cairo, Egypt
- 2008 - Kosovo declares independence from Serbia.
- 2012 - Approximately 70 ancient Olympic artifacts are stolen from the Archaeological Museum of Greece
- 2013 - 37 people are killed and 130 are injured in a series of Baghdad car bombings.
- 2014- American pair Meryl Davis and Charlie White win the first Olympic gold medal for the US in ice dance at the Sochi Winter Games
- 2014- Belarus takes the aerials double at the Sochi Winter Olympics when Anton Kushnir wins the men's event; Alla Tsuper claims the women's section
- 2014- US Secretary of State John Kerry claims climate change requires urgent action and that only a small "window of time" remained open

The J&K Board Of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)

Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: Conduct of 2nd/Mop-up (Upgradation/Allotment) Physical Round of Counseling for admission to Bachelor of Physiotherapy Course (BPT) in Government/Private Institutions of UT of J&K for the session-2023: Reducing of cut-off score and registration thereof.

Reference: Notification No. 011-BOPEE of 2024 dated 02.02.2024

Notification No. 012-BOPEE of 2024
 Dated: 15-02-2024

Pursuant to Notification No. 011-BOPEE of 2024 dated 02.02.2024, the Board has received short fall of seats from the concerned colleges/institutions and in order to fill up these short fall seats along-with the seats which have remained unfilled at the conclusion of 1st Round of Counseling, a 2nd/Mop-up Round of Upgradation/Allotment Counseling (Physical) is being conducted, which is notified to be held on 22nd of February, 2024 at BOPEE office(s) Srinagar/Jammu simultaneously.

It is further notified for the information of the concerned candidates that the Board has decided to reduce the NEET cut-off score for Open Merit and Reserved Category from 125 and 96 respectively to 50 marks for both Open and Reserved Category including the seats falling under Management Quota as per past precedence so that maximum number of seats are filled by allotment to the interested candidates.

Further, the candidates having NEET score up-to 50 marks during the session 2023 and interested for admission to BPT Course-2023 in CRC/JCP institutions and who have not registered themselves earlier due to one or the other reason shall be required to Register themselves with the Board till 20th of February, 2024 upto 02:00 p.m and shall have to submit following documents physically at BOPEE office Srinagar/Jammu up to the prescribed cut off date/ schedule viz 20.02.2024 till 02.00 pm:-

1. Date of Birth Certificate (10th Class)
2. 10+2 Marks Card.
3. Domicile Certificate.
4. NEET Score Card 2023.
5. Category Certificate, if any.

The newly registered candidates shall have to deposit nonrefundable Counseling fee of Rs.1000/ through POS machines available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar at the time their registration.

The newly registered CDP category candidates are advised to submit their CDP category Priority certificate along with other relevant documents at the time of registration & also to bring the same with them on the day of counseling.

After the last date of registration, newly registered candidates, if any, shall be allotted Point-wise rank(s) on the basis of their NEET Score & seats shall be allotted accordingly on the basis of their merit/rank only. The updated rank-wise merit list shall be made available on website of the Board on 21st Feb.2024 for general information of all the concerned candidates.

It is accordingly notified for information of the concerned candidates that the Board shall conduct the 2nd/Mop-up (Upgradation/Allotment) Round of Physical Counseling for admission to Bachelor of Physiotherapy Course (BPT) in Government/Private Institutions of UT of J&K for the session-2023 as per the schedule given below:-

Day/ Date	Counseling Schedule	Eligibility Cut off NEET Score
Thursday 22.02.2024	From Rank 01 to 4115 & newly registered candidates, if any.	50 marks (OM/Reserved Category)

The tentative breakup of available seats is given below:

Name of Institution	Total number of seats available for 2 nd /mop-up round
Composite Research Centre (CRC), Srinagar	11(OM=04, RBA=01, PSP=01, STK=01, ST=02, CDP=01,SP=01)
Jammu College of Physiotherapy(JCP), Jammu	58 (Govt. =38, MQ=15, P&B=05)

Note

1. The candidates shall have to report at the BOPEE Offices Srinagar/Jammu physically for registration/attendance and fulfillment of other counseling related formalities between 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on the day of counseling.
2. All the candidates who are participating in the counseling process are advised to bring all the original documents on the day of counseling for check & verification. Further, all the CDP category are advised to also bring their original Priority CDP certificate on the day of counseling.
3. The candidates who have been allotted seat(s) during first round of counseling and have joined in the allotted College/Institution, if interested for upgradation are eligible to participate in the counseling process subject to the condition, that they shall have to bring the fee deposited receipt of the respective Institution(s) for check and verification.
4. Since it will be a Mop up round, so the Board has decided that those candidates who have been allotted seats during first round of counseling but have failed to join the allotted College/Institution shall also be eligible to participate in this round of counseling.
5. The candidates who are already registered but have missed earlier round of counseling shall be eligible to participate in this round of counseling subject to the condition that they shall have to deposit the counseling fee of Rs.1000/only (non-refundable) on the day of counseling through POS Machines available at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar through the Credit/Debit cards, if not already paid by them.
6. The candidates participating in the counseling process for the first time for allotment of BPT seat in Government/Private College/Institution are advised to deposit an amount of Rs.1000/only (non-refundable) as counseling fee on the day of counseling through POS Machines available at the respective BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar through the Credit/Debit cards, if not paid earlier by them.
7. Mere participation in the counseling shall not confer any right to the candidate to claim a seat in any college.
8. Board reserves the right to make any change(s) as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reason beyond its control.
9. The Board shall first call the reserved category candidates on the day of counseling against the available reserved category seats in CRC only and in case any seat(s) remains unfilled due to non-availability of eligible candidate, the same shall be converted into Open Merit and shall be accordingly allotted to Open Merit candidate on the basis of merit cum preference on the same day of counseling.
10. The Seat Matrix shall be uploaded on the official website of the Board separately before the day of counseling for the information of the aspiring candidates.
11. As and when seats are exhausted fully, the counseling will automatically be closed and no claim(s) from any candidate including refund of fee shall be entertained by the Board under any circumstances.
12. For the latest updates relating to the counseling and availability of seats, the candidates are advised to remain in touch with the website of the Board viz. www.jkbopee.gov.in.

The other Terms and Conditions shall, however, remain the same as notified by the Board in various Notifications/Notices issued from time to time in this regard.

Sd/-
 Controller of Examinations
 J&K BOPEE

No: BOPEE/EXAM/33/2023 (7398741)

DIPK-NB-5717/23
 dated: 16-02-2024

Elections Sans Democracy

RIYAZ WANI

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The irony lies in the fact that the party with a significant share of seats, despite electoral irregularities, will now sit in the opposition, while those benefiting from irregularities will govern

The election results in Pakistan have brought a mix of surprise and predictability. While there was anticipation for the success of the PTI, led by the imprisoned Imran Khan, many doubted its chances after being barred from contesting as a party and losing its bat symbol. However, against all odds, PTI-backed independents with symbols like eggplants, lions, and hookahs secured the highest number of seats.

Khan's pursuit of power in Pakistan has hit a roadblock as the authorities anticipated and prevented party-less independents from forming the government. The irony lies in the fact that the party with a significant share of seats, despite electoral irregularities, will now sit in the opposition, while those benefiting from irregularities will govern.

What was the point of this elaborate exercise then? A more pertinent question would be what is the point of democracy if it can be so effortlessly and blatantly compromised. And this isn't just true of Pakistan but of most third world countries. And there are several forms this rigging can take. It can start with pandering to the base instincts of a substantial section of a people, comprising pent-up prejudices, hatreds, a will to dominate minorities etc to playing to imagined historical resentments or harking back to a mythical glorified ancient past. It can also take the form of subsidy or token freebies extended to a vast majority of poor people as a welfarist measure, who then vote for the benefactor party purely out of consideration to retain the help, which they otherwise are made to fear they will lose. Similarly, the ruling parties can also resort to suborning of the media and subverting of the institutions to ensure peddling of helpful narratives and myths as well as silencing of the opposition.

In Pakistan's case, the attempt to rig the system has been brazen and direct, with little nod to any subtlety. A leader who obviously commands the support of a vast majority of people and who, therefore, should have been presiding



over the destiny of the country in a democratic set up has been jailed, and his party taken apart, deprived even of its symbol. Its leaders took part in the election as independent candidates under different symbols and despite credible allegations of interference with the voting process, still won the largest number of seats. But the party doesn't get the invite to form the government on technical reasons - since it has been reduced to a group of independent candidates. The unpopular parties who won many of their seats largely through institutional help are getting to form the government.

This reveals a sordid reality about the operation of democracy outside the west, its birthplace: a powerful ruling party or a powerful institution as in the case of Pakistan can take a country through the motions of a democratic operation only to ensure a premeditated outcome. Advancing communications technology has made it even easier. Far from empowering masses which it was earlier billed to have done, it has disproportionately empowered the governments, almost enabling them to act God-like. Public opinion can now be shaped or manipulated on a far greater scale than ever before through misinformation and disinformation peddled systematically on formal and social media. So much so that the governments can now hone

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Khan's pursuit of power in Pakistan has hit a roadblock as the authorities anticipated and prevented party-less independents from forming the government. The irony lies in the fact that the party with a significant share of seats, despite electoral irregularities, will now sit in the opposition, while those benefiting from irregularities will govern.

a public opinion according to their conveniences. This, in turn, influences the public reaction to day to day events. And in its most consequential fallout, even the outcome of elections. Former US president Donald Trump's election as the US president in 2016 is believed to have similarly been maneuvered remotely by Russia. However, in a highly literate society such as the US, people have a higher ability to see through fake information, a factor that played a decisive role in Trump's defeat in the 2020 election, despite his violent effort to overturn the outcome.

But this is generally not the case in our part of the world, where closely networked elites acquire a vice-like grip over the power structure and go on perpetuating it by fair means or foul. And swathes of the deprived and poor don't understand the language of rights, and are too weak to take the elites on. Another factor is that the people have lived for centuries under feudal systems and consider elites as their benefactors.

Crisis of democracy has only become deeper, and as Trump's advent in the US shows, its repercussions are being felt in the west also. One conspicuous feature of this failing is that it has increasingly come to disempower minorities. In their short-cut pursuit of power, leaders seek to forge the majority community into a monolithic community by directing their anger against the minorities. This state of affairs is only getting worse by the day, with brazen attempts being made to make the minorities' way of life subservient to that of the majority community. This needs urgent addressing if democracy is to survive as a form of government that gives both the individuals and the communities a say and a stake in the governance.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer

The Supreme Court on Thursday struck down the validity of the electoral bonds, a controversial political funding instrument, terming it as unconstitutional. We examine the key issues, and whether this will have any bearing on the Bharatiya Janata Party, which is believed to be the key beneficiary of the bonds, ahead of the general election.

What is the electoral bonds scheme?

The bonds allow corporations and individuals to anonymously donate money to political parties by purchasing electoral bonds from the State Bank of India (SBI). Notably, the SBI has sole access to the details of those who purchased electoral bonds. The Supreme Court has now ordered SBI to stop rolling out such bonds and submit details of bonds purchased since April 2019 to the Election Commission by March 6. By March 13, all the data has to be posted on the EC's website.

According to the scheme, the proceeds from any bonds, which are not encashed within 15 days of being issued, are to be deposited in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. It was first mentioned in the 2017 Budget speech by then finance minister Arun Jaitley. The scheme was pushed as a solution to the issue of opacity in political parties' funding. According to the Centre for Media Studies, the 2019 elections cost about Rs 60,000 crore, a large chunk of which came from electoral bonds.

Why was it challenged in court?

Petitions were filed by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and non-governmental organisations Common Cause and ADR. Advocate Prashant Bhushan argued that citizens have a right to information about the parties and candidates seeking their votes. Bhushan pointed out that there are roughly 2.3 million registered companies in India. Figuring out how much each company had donated using this method would not be possible for an ordinary citizen. The argument also was that the scheme would distinctly favour the ruling government of the time, as the guarantee of anonymity would allow the government to provide favours in various forms.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal drew the court's attention to how the scheme could result in companies failing their duties towards their shareholders.

Axe On Electoral Bonds: A Case Of Too Little, Too Late?

Financial Express



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Petitions were filed by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), and non-governmental organisations Common Cause and ADR. Advocate Prashant Bhushan argued that citizens have a right to information about the parties and candidates seeking their votes.

Allowing companies to “funnel money” to political parties without any oversight from shareholders denies the owners the ability to decide how their company should act in the political sphere.

How did the axe fall?

The Supreme Court raised several issues in its verdict, one of which was that the scheme violates the right to information under Article 19(1)(a), which guarantees the freedom of speech and expression. The court held that information on the funding of political parties is essential for voting. It also held that the RTI can only be restricted based on Article 19(2), which speaks of the reasonable restrictions

to freedom of speech and expression. It does not include curbing black money as a restriction. Even assuming curbing black money is a legitimate purpose, it is not proportional to the restrictions posed by this scheme.

The court said the ability of companies to influence the political process through contributions is much higher compared to individuals. The most crucial aspect the court considered is whether the encroachment on fundamental rights is proportional to the objection sought to be achieved. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud said the state did not adopt the least restrictive method. As an example of the least restrictive methods, he cited the Rs 20,000 cap on anonymous donations.

Will the decision affect the BJP?

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) defence was that political parties earlier received most of their funds through anonymous donations which were shown in cash. An effort, therefore, required to be made to cleanse the system of political corruption; the party also said that donors had the right to privacy. In the six years through 2022, the BJP earned Rs 5,271 crore via this funding tool, accounting for 57% of the Rs 9,200 crore raised through these bonds, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), based on data from the Election Commission. The share of the Congress, was 10%.

However, political pundits say the court decision may do little to damage the BJP, the main beneficiary of the funding, so close to the polls. Yogendra Yadav, a political activist and founding member of political party Swaraj Abhiyan, said while the court's action was welcome, the decision was “unduly and extraordinarily” delayed, and it is too late now as the ruling party may already have taken advantage of the bonds. BJP, in any case, doesn't have a paucity of funds, has deep pockets and collects its funding from multiple sources. Opposition parties were anyway not getting much donation through these bonds.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Financial Express

Verse Converse - Addressed Emotively

Four despatches, including the one in the Prosaic Vein

S.SARWAR MALIK

DESPATCH-I

(Transcription of a small poem, from the writer's Kashmiri opera, *Gatte Patte Gaash*; Written in 1991: *ADDRESSED TO ALL READERS*)

WAILS OF THE VALE

Who
Axed our *Chinars*
And harpooned
The temple-ponds;
Blistered with bile
My liver asks
Who spilled blood?
On my verdure;
Boils abound
The Pine-wood breast
Yet the pain
Would subside if,
My hand could find
A place to sooth.
With dust of aeons
Settled on glass
And hands of clock
Forgotten somewhere;
Numberless islands
Have erupted
In the *Jhelum*;
As unfamiliar breath
Separates
The mates of age,
Beds freeze at night
As winter loneliness
Creeps;
Wrinkled countenance
And hands shiver;
Time has embarked
On the wild-run;
Flight of crows
Raise the din.
Flights of crows
Raise the din.
Floral curls
Dishevelled on mat;
Who torched
The votive-threads
Of shrines,
Furrowing milk-teeth
In the graveyard.
Who made my kids?
Babble
An alien lingo,
Silencing
Eloquence of the
Ecstatic words,
Learnt in the lap of
Saint's mother*,



(*Lul Ded)

Trampled beneath goes
Our own heart,
When shall we correct
The staggering gait? ///

DESPATCH - II

(Another small poem, 'CALL'; written in 1991: *ADDRESSED TO SOME YOUTH AND THEIR GRIEVING MOTHERS*)

CALL
Crouching slowly
To comb the tousled strands
Of my poem
The moist breeze of ideas
Had begun to ferry
The landscape of words
When rushes shrieked
And harps in hedges
Went mute
(- hearing her voice/
"Of one colour you will find
The votive threads and my
veil,
Same flicker you will find
Of my eyes and the lamps
(-placed on *Karevas*)
What is strewn on every path?
Flowers or blood?

Who can tell?
Willow tresses, song of brooks
Unkempt hair and my call.
Arms outstretched
Pines and *chinar*
Keep vigil with me
For a glimpse of you./
Still in dalliance
(-with a dream?)
Captive?
Eliminated?
-upstream
Speak up child
Hear my call./
See your sibling
Arisen today
Demanding in his own calmer
way
For your father's piece of land
That we wish to till & embel-
lish
With our own hand./
I used to tell you
To emulate his temper
You listened not
So I thought
Time will calm you
Or balm me with forbearance
But I was wrong
Gashes weep



The fire of your
breath rises up
-smouldering
slowly in its own
fragrance
And there
Beneath the
distant horizon
Descends lightly
Drop by drop
The glistening dew
Of your loving
glance

Pains shriek
Parched voice words my call/
Wish you return
Suddenly
And cup my eyes
From behind
Whispering softly
The name you gave me
Before I could think of one,
For you, my child
("Ma")//

DESPATCH - III

(Rendition of the well known small *Nazm* "Dashte Tanehaye Main" of Faiz Ahmed Faiz: *ADDRESSED TO ALL DESPAIRING SOULS*)

ROSES IN DECEMBER

In this desolate expanse
Of loneliness
Now and then I see
My love
Trembling shadows of your
voice
Beckoning mirages of your lips
Emerging through
The dusty thistles
Of distance
I see bloom
Roses and jasmine
Of your countenance
Close by
The fire of your breath rises up
-smouldering slowly in its
own fragrance
And there
Beneath the distant horizon
Descends lightly
Drop by drop
The glistening dew
Of your loving glance
Soothed by the touch of your
memory
O Love
My heart tends to believe
The night of union has arrived
The day of separation has
ended
When in reality
The wee hours of separation
Have just begun.//

DESPATCH - IV

(On the unnerving-unemployment-problem of J&K and 'the apparent embargo on the absorption in Government offices')

'FOR YOU TOO, SIR'

As our Health Care & Education sectors are thirsting for adequate manpower, (especially in rural areas) that can be easily satiated with the locally available human resource, the author humbly addresses *Some Verses*, appearing herein under the planners and executors sitting in **highest echelons**, hoping that requisite concrete steps (...purely on humanitarian basis, in right earnest... understanding that topographical realities of J&K dictate that Government sector has a "large job-absorption capacity") will be announced without further delay... so that our grieving 'IDLE NUMBER' receives balm through this *token* contribution in *visionary vein*. This will be also, (the author hopes) a step towards the betterment of economy by producing more productive humans- who can contribute if nurtured as potential & actual resource in an affordable environ.

Propelled by the Directive principles enshrined in the constitution and the concept of welfare state, compassionate views can be taken, it is hoped, by the Government for timely intervention, lest our youth fall further down the 'depression & drug drains'.

"Let me not tarry here longer, ... (continues the author)... and proceed directly to address these verses to the ones sitting in the **highest chairs**":

"...in the golden tray of your munificence

If there is

A shawl that can soothe
Spread it on that part of the body

Where it hurts the most

...Spread the velvet of your clothes

Under our aching feet"//

The author is a Srinagar based Penman, Columnist & Poet, who has been contributing write ups to newspapers & literary journals from over two decades

ChatGPT's Tryst With Short Story Editing

Katherine Day
Renée Otmar
Rose Michael
Sharon Mullins

Writers have been using AI tools for years - from Microsoft Word's spellcheck (which often makes unwanted corrections) to the passive-aggressive Grammarly. But ChatGPT is different.

ChatGPT's natural language processing enables a dialogue, much like a conversation - albeit with a slightly odd acquaintance. And it can generate vast amounts of copy, quickly, in response to queries posed in ordinary, everyday language. This suggests, at least superficially, it can do some of the work a book editor does.

We are professional editors, with extensive experience in the Australian book publishing industry, who wanted to know how ChatGPT would perform when compared to a human editor. To find out, we decided to ask it to edit a short story that had already been worked on by human editors - and we compared the results.

THE EXPERIMENT: CHATGPT VS HUMAN EDITORS

The story we chose, *The Ninth* (written by Rose), had gone through three separate rounds of editing, with four human editors (and a typesetter).

The first version had been rejected by literary journal *Overland*, but its fiction editor Claire Corbett had given generous feedback. The next version received detailed advice from freelance editor Nicola Redhouse, a judge of the Big Issue fiction edition (which had shortlisted the story). Finally, the piece found a home at another literary journal, *Meanjin*, where deputy editor Tess Smurthwaite incorporated comments from the issue's freelance editor and also their typesetter in her correspondence.

We had a wealth of human feedback to compare ChatGPT's

recommendations with.

We used a standard, free ChatGPT generative AI tool for our edits, which we conducted as separate series of prompts designed to assess the scope and success of AI as an editorial tool.

We wanted to see if ChatGPT could develop and fine tune this unpublished work - and if so, whether it would do it in a way that resembled current editorial practice. By comparing it with human examples, we tried to determine where and at what stage in the process ChatGPT might be most successful as an editorial tool.

The story includes expressive descriptions, poetic imagery, strong symbolism and a subtle subtext. It explores themes of motherhood, nature, and hints at deeper mysteries.

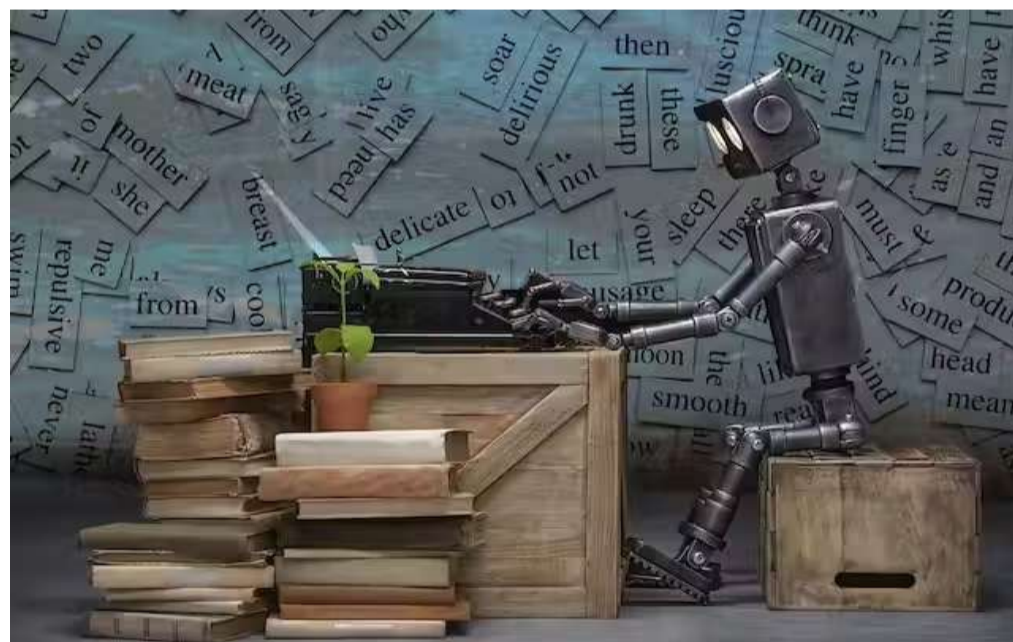
We chose it because we believe the literary genre, with its play and experimentation, poetry and lyricism, offers rich pickings for complex editorial conversations. (And because we knew we could get permission from all participants in the process to share their feedback.)

In the story, a mother reflects on her untamed, sea-loving child. Supernatural possibilities are hinted at before the tale turns closer to home, ending with the mother revealing her own divergent nature - and looping back to offer more meaning to the title: pinching the skin between my toes... Making each digit its own unique peninsula.

ROUND 1: THE FIRST DRAFT

We started with a simple, general prompt, assuming the least amount of editorial guidance from the author. (Authors submitting stories to magazines and journals generally don't give human editors a detailed, prescriptive brief.)

Our initial prompt for all three examples was: "Hi ChatGPT, could I please ask for your editorial suggestions on my short story, which I'd like to submit for publication in a literary journal?"



Responding to the first version of the story, ChatGPT provided a summary of key themes (motherhood, connection to nature, the mysteries of the ocean) and made a list of editorial suggestions.

Interestingly, ChatGPT did not pick up that the story was now published and attributed to an author. Raising questions about its ability, or inclination, to identify plagiarism. Nor did it define the genre, which is one of the first assessments an editor makes.

ChatGPT's suggestions were: to add more description of the coastal setting, provide more physical description of the characters, break up long paragraphs to make the piece more reader-friendly, add more dialogue for characterisation and insight, make the sentences shorter, reveal more inner thoughts of the characters, expand on the symbolism, show don't tell, incorporate foreshadowing earlier, and provide resolution rather than ending on a mystery.

They are the sort of suggestions an editor might write in response to almost any text - not particularly specific to this story, or to our stated aim of submitting it to a literary publication.

STAGE TWO: AI (RE)WRITES
Next, we provided a second prompt, responding to ChatGPT's initial feedback - attempting to emulate the back-and-forth discussions that are a key part of the

making the connection between mother and daughter's ocean affinity and their webbed toes - and reading the story aloud to help identify awkward phrasing, pacing and structure.

While this wasn't particularly helpful feedback, it was not technically wrong.

ChatGPT picked up on the major themes and main characters. And the advice for more foreshadowing, dialogue and description, along with shorter paragraphs and an alternative ending, was generally sound.

In fact, it echoed the usual feedback you'd get from a creative writing workshop, or the kind of advice offered in books on the writing craft.

They are the sort of suggestions an editor might write in response to almost any text - not particularly specific to this story, or to our stated aim of submitting it to a literary publication.

STAGE TWO: AI (RE)WRITES
Next, we provided a second prompt, responding to ChatGPT's initial feedback - attempting to emulate the back-and-forth discussions that are a key part of the

editorial process.

We asked ChatGPT to take a more practical, interventionist approach and rework the text in line with its own editorial suggestions:

Thank you for your feedback about uneven pacing. Could you please suggest places in the story where the pace needs to speed up or slow down? Thank you too for the feedback about imagery and description. Could you please suggest places where there is too much imagery and it needs more action storytelling instead?

That's where things fell apart. ChatGPT offered a radically shorter, changed story. The atmospheric descriptions, evocative imagery and nods towards (unspoken) mystery were replaced with unsubtle phrases - which Rose swears she would never have written, or signed off on.

Lines added included: "my daughter has always been an enigma to me", "little did I know" and "a sense of unease washed over me". Later in the story, this phrasing was clumsily suggested a second time: "relief washed over me".

The author's unique descrip-

tions were changed to familiar clichés: "rugged beauty", "roar of the ocean", "unbreakable bond". ChatGPT also changed the text from Australian English (which all Australian publications require) to US spelling and style ("realization", "mom").

In summary, a story where a mother sees her daughter as a "southern selkie going home" (phrasing that hints at a speculative subtext) on a rocky outcrop and really sees her (in all possible, playful senses of that word) was changed to a fishing tale, where a (definitely human) girl arrives home holding up, we kid you not, "a shiny fish".

It became hard to give credence to any of ChatGPT's advice.

Esteemed editor Bruce Sims once advised it's not an editor's job to fix things; it's an editor's job to point out what needs fixing. But if you are asked to be a hands-on editor, your revisions must be an improvement on the original - not just different. And certainly not worse.

It is our industry's maxim, too, to first do no harm. Not only did ChatGPT not improve Rose's story, it made it worse.

WHAT DID THE HUMAN EDITORS DO?

ChatGPT's edit did not come close to the calibre of insight and editorial know-how offered by *Overland* editor Claire Corbett. Some examples:

There's some beautiful writing and fantastic themes, but the quotes about drowning are heavy-handed; they're given the job of foreshadowing suspense, creating unease in the reader, rather than the narrator doing that job.

The biggest problem is that final transition - I don't know how to read the narrator. Her emotions don't seem to fit the situation.

For me stories are driven by choices and I'm not clear what decision our narrator, or anyone else, in the story faces.

It's entirely possible I'm not getting something important, but

I think that if I'm not getting it, our readers won't either.

Freelance editor Nicola, who has a personal relationship with Rose, went even further in her exchange (in response to the next draft, where Rose had attempted to address the issues Claire identified). She pushed Rose to work and rework the last sentence until they both felt the language lock in and land.

I'm not 100% sold on this line. I think it's a little confusing... It might just be too much hinted at in too subtle a way for the reader.

Originally, the final sentence read: "Ready to make my slower way back to the house, retracing - overwriting - any sign of my own less-than-normal prints."

The final version is: "Ready to make my slower way back to the house, retracing, overwriting, any sign of my own less-than-normal prints." With the addition of a final standalone line: "I have seen what I wanted to see: her, me, free."

Claire and Nicola's feedback show how an editor is a story's ideal reader. A good editor can guide the author through problems with point of view and emotional dynamics - going beyond the simple mechanics of grammar, sentence length and the number of adjectives.

In other words, they demonstrate something we call editorial intelligence.

Editorial intelligence is akin to emotional intelligence. It incorporates intellectual, creative and emotional capital - all gained from lived experience, complemented by technical skills and industry expertise, applied through the prism of human understanding.

Skills include confident conviction, based on deep accumulated knowledge, meticulous research, cultural mediation and social skills. (After all, the author doesn't have to do what we say - ours is a persuasive profession.)

By arrangements with The Conversation

How The Weird And Wonderful Microbes In Wastewater Can Make Our Cities More Sustainable

The Conversation

Covid-19 showed us how useful monitoring wastewater can be. But the genetic material in our wastewater, namely DNA and RNA, is a treasure trove of other useful information. It reveals the presence of thousands of different types of weird and wonderful wastewater microbes.

The diversity of these microbes can talk to us and tell us how to get more renewable energy out of our wastes. If only we could listen to them. Soon we can.

How will that work? It all starts with our poo. These types of microbes have been used since the 19th century to treat and reduce the ever-increasing volumes of sewage sludge arriving at our wastewater treatment plants, especially in urban areas. Two-thirds of the world's people are expected to live in urban areas by 2050, hence sewage treatment will be in high demand.

Yet most people today have little idea how vital microbes are for sustainable growth of cities. We need them to treat our waste.

We also need sources of renewable energy. Thanks to naturally occurring microbes, our water utilities can produce renewable biogas from human waste. By reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, their poo biogas can help to mitigate climate change.

So we need to learn more about these microbes to ensure they are doing the best possible job of processing our waste. One way of doing that is by monitoring DNA in human waste sludge.



A living sludge mass

First of all, this promising waste-to-energy technology, which fully relies on microbes, is called anaerobic digestion.

Operating anaerobic digesters is expensive. It requires intense monitoring strategies and frequent interventions. That is because microbes can be unpredictable.

On the face of it, the process is really simple. Wastewater sludge is pumped into large vessels without oxygen, where microbes are left alone for a few days to practically eat the sludge and breathe out biogas. Sludge goes in, treated sludge plus gas goes out.

The process reduces overall sludge mass and the number of pathogens. This ultimately makes it a safer material, while also generating renewable energy. Brilliant, right?

liant, right?

But there is a catch. This process is only effective if these living, breathing treatment vessels behave. Unfortunately, sometimes they get out of control without warning, making them difficult to manage.

These sludge microbes are similar to those in our gut. Once we know this, we might intuitively understand how sensitive they can be, given our experience of gastrointestinal disorders linked to our gut microbes.

So microbial happiness is not only important for our own health, it is crucial for the health of the large digester vessels managed by wastewater treatment plants. To make it cheaper to run these facilities, we urgently need to learn more about life in our sludge.

“We also need sources of renewable energy. Thanks to naturally occurring microbes, our water utilities can produce renewable biogas from human waste. By reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, their poo biogas can help to mitigate climate change.”

DNA, a window on an invisible world

At the ARC Biosolids Training Centre we want to make anaerobic digestion easier for water utilities by developing routine DNA-based monitoring tools. Essentially, we are looking for a way to predict the process to manage it better.

DNA tells the story of thousands of different types of microbes that work together to treat our sludge. To optimise the wastewater treatment process we need to identify them, the troublemakers and the do-gooders.

But sludge life is complex. Before it can tell us its story, we require empirical stud-

ies. We have to be able to relate microbial DNA to the process.

To show how that works we produced a review of the role of microbes for monitoring anaerobic digestion. This includes some of the diversity metrics that ecologists use to assess the health of the whole system based on the composition of microbes.

The weird and the wonderful

The microbes that are used to treat sludge consist of a diverse range of ancient, weird, at times alien-like bacteria and archaea (another form of single-celled organisms). They can metabolise materials that no other lifeform can.

Amazingly, some of them existed 3.5 billion years ago the Earth formed 4.5 billion years ago. There is even a chance some have existed on Mars.

And sludge life is a very active community of microbes: some are bullies, some collaborators. Through their DNA, we count them to learn how many different types of microbes there are and how often they appear. This counted diversity can then tell us if a system is healthy or not.

For a healthy, productive system, we need diversity as many different microbes as possible to provide stability. If a particular organism somehow starts to grow faster or slower, it means something is getting out of control.

We can exploit that knowledge to develop risk scores for the operators of treatment facilities. And that is what we try to do.

We will keep working so that someday we can properly listen to our sludge-eating microbes and get more value out of our poo.

A Simple Blood Test To Predict Risk Of Heart Attack Within Six Months

IAN S

A simple blood test can help detect several important biological processes that are active during the months before a heart attack, suggests a study.

Heart attacks are the most common cause of death in the world and are increasing globally. Many high-risk people are not identified or do not take their preventive treatment.

Now, researchers at Up-

psala University in Sweden have found that the blood test can predict if you are at an increased risk of having a heart attack within six months.

The research group had access to blood samples from 1,69,053 individuals without prior cardiovascular disease in six European cohorts. Within six months, 420 of these people suffered their first heart attack. Their blood was then compared with blood from 1,598 healthy members of the cohorts.

“We identified around 90



psala University in Sweden have found that the blood test can predict if you are at an increased risk of having a heart attack within six months.

The problem, according to the researchers, is that risk factors have previously been verified in studies involving five to ten years of follow-up, where only factors that are stable over time can be identified.

“However, we know that the time just before a heart attack is very dynamic. For example, the risk of a heart attack doubles during the month of a divorce, and the risk of a fatal heart event is five times as high during the week after a cancer diagnosis,” said cardiologist and professor of epidemiology Johan Sundstrom.

“We wanted to develop methods that would enable the health services to identify peo-

ple who will soon suffer their first heart attack,” Sundstrom said, in the paper published in the journal Nature Cardiovascular Research.

The researchers have also developed a simple online tool in which anyone can find out their risk of having a heart attack within six months.

“This was one of the aims of the entire study since we know that people feel relatively low motivation to follow preventive treatments. If you find out that you happen to have an increased risk of suffering a heart attack soon, perhaps you will feel more motivated to prevent it,” Sundstrom said.

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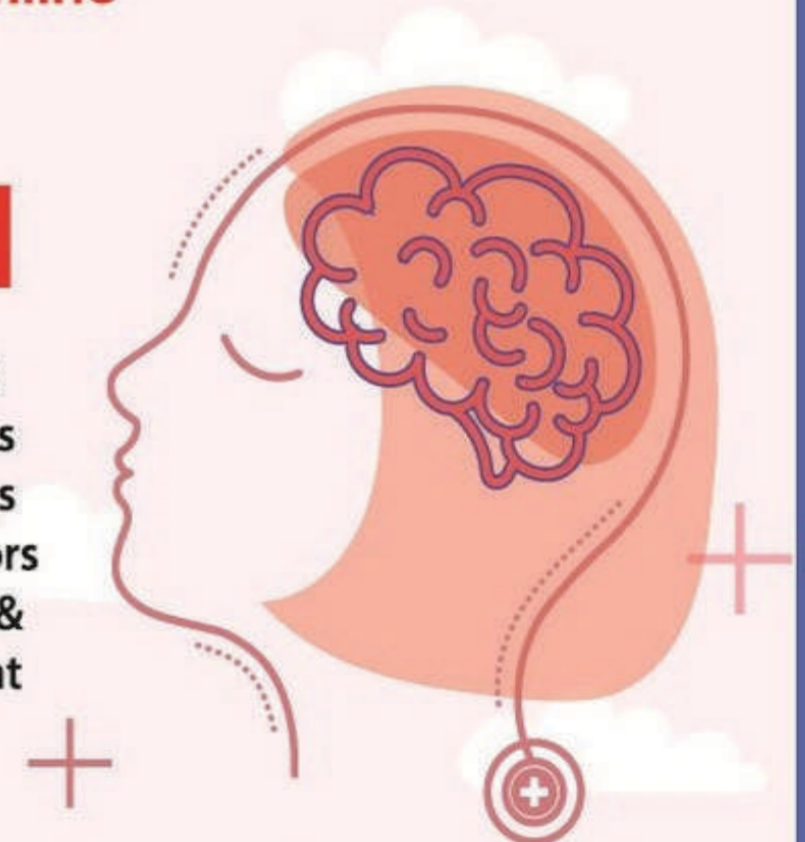
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Govt Signs Mou To Facilitate Stay Of J&K Residents' In Delhi

KO NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI: Aimed at facilitating the stay of residents of J&K in Delhi, the Jammu and Kashmir on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Youth Hostel Trust (NYHT).



The initiative would help the stay of residents of J&K in Delhi who visit the capital city due to various reasons like entrepreneurship, education and medical.

The Principal Resident Commissioner mentioned that this initiative has been undertaken as a part of "Hello J&K" component which was launched by Lieutenant Governor of J&K on 13th, February, 2024 while inaugurating "SAMBAAV UTSAV" at Jammu & Kashmir Resident Commission, New Delhi.

J&K House for boarding and lodging facilities. The infrastructure of 190 beds (including dormitories and individual rooms) with facilities like TV and fridge in AC rooms with attached bathroom, complimentary breakfast shall be available for J&K House as part of this MoU.

Div Com Reviews Departments' Preparedness Ahead Of Snowfall



KO NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR: In view of the change in weather & forecast of heavy snowfall in the Valley in coming days, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri on Friday convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners & Head of Civil Departments wherein he directed all the departments to keep men, material and machinery ready to tackle any exigency that may emerge out of the expected snowfall.

connectivity and transportation. Similarly, Div Com enjoined on KPDCCL for making workshops functional to repair damaged transformers within stipulated time besides instructed to ensure restoration of power supply lines in case snow causes any disruption.

He also directed officers to mobilize their field staff for effective & timely response to any emergency. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners; Commissioner SMC; Director ULB and officers of line departments including PWD, PHE, KPDCCL, KPCL, PMGSY and Telecommunication Service providers.

While addressing the meeting, Div Com enjoined all the officers to remain available in the field to ensure timely restoration of services for the convenience of general public. He also directed them to keep citizens informed through social media regarding the maintenance works being executed to restore services.

Lok Sabha Elections 2024 Election Deptt Holds One Day Workshop For Political Parties

KO NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Election Department, in preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, today organized a one day workshop for political parties at the office of Chief Electoral Officer, Darul-Intikhab, Srinagar.

Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, who inaugurated the session, stressed upon the central role of political parties in a vibrant democracy like India.

The training programme, which was attended by representatives of major political parties of Jammu and Kashmir, covered all important aspects of the election process including nomination, qualification and disqualification of candidature, EVM preparedness, Election Expenditure Monitoring, Model Code of Conduct besides media certification and monitoring committees.

He appraised the representatives of various election related aspects highlighting the need for a closer liaison between political parties and administrative machinery in ensuring a free, fair and civil discourse both during and after the election processes.

Every Child Under 5 Must Receive Vaccine from March 3: Govt.

KO NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR: Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah on Friday underscored that every child under 5 years of age must be administered Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) on National Immunization Day (Pulse Polio) on March 3.

He said that India maintains polio free status since 2011 and to ensure that the country stays free of polio, all stakeholders must redouble their efforts. He called upon all stakeholders, including the general public to wholeheartedly participate in the National Immunization Day (NID) to ensure maintenance of polio free status of the country and Jammu & Kashmir.

He made these remarks during the State Task Force meeting regarding National Immunization Day to discuss the planning & implementation of activities for Pulse Polio scheduled on the 3rd of March 2024 across Jammu & Kashmir.

without vaccination. He said that some districts have peculiar geographical challenges and they should put in place a meticulous and in-depth plan in this regard. He said that slum areas brick kilns, construction sites, hard to reach areas and other vulnerable areas should be given utmost attention during the immunization day and proper surveillance must be maintained in such areas.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, District Development Commissioners of J&K, Director School Education Kashmir, Director School Education Jammu, Director AYUSH J&K, Director Health Services, Jammu, Director Health Services, Kashmir, Chief Medical Officers, State Immunization Officer, J&K, Deputy CMO's of J&K, District Immunization Officers (DIOs)

of J&K. All outstation officers attended the meeting via video conference. Dr Abid Rasheed took a detailed review from every district about the preparations made and the steps taken by them for the NID activities among the target population, including the details of number of booths, vaccine availability in far-off places.

While chairing the meeting, Secretary Health & Medical Education said that maintaining polio free status is a prime responsibility for all stakeholders. He said that effective implementation of pulse polio immunization programme is necessary to safeguard our future generations from this disease.

He called upon all the concerned departments to ensure active indulgence and take leadership roles in making this immunization programme successful so that no eligible child is left behind

Public notices from the Office of Principal J&K Police Public School Bfmina Srinagar. Includes details for ZARA KHANAM and AYAN BASHIR, including their names, addresses, and school details.

SHER-E-KASHMIR UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY OF KASHMIR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER. For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (in single-cover system) are invited on Item Rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2024 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR. LAL MANDI, NEAR L.D. HOSPITAL SRINAGAR-190008. NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NIT No.90/R&B/RAJ of 2023-24 issued under Endorsement No.7361-71 Dated:16.02.2024.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI(PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR. BAGHI-ALI-MARDAN, NOWSHARA SRINAGAR. CANCELLATION NOTICE

Cesar Reyes, G L Dholakia Conferred the KISS Lifetime Achievement Award



Bhubaneswar: Former Vice President of Guatemala Cesar Guillermo Castillo Reyes and the Founder-Chairman of Sri Ramakrishna Export Private Limited Mr. Govindbhai Laljibhai Dholakia were on Friday bestowed with the KISS Lifetime Achievement Award, marking the 20th-anniversary celebration of KIIT DU.

Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda could not attend the celebrations due to his health but wished the students

all success in life in a message.

The awards were given away by the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta in the presence of KISS Pro-Chancellor Prof Amareswar Galla and KISS Vice Chancellor Prof Deepak Kumar Behera.

They were given this award for their extraordinary contribution to the field of social service, leadership, and philanthropy.

In his acceptance speech, Dholakia expressed his awe at

witnessing such a large gathering of students and faculty for the first time in his life. He praised the students for being blessed enough to study at KISS and commended Dr. Samanta's efforts in making such an institution possible.

Dholakia likened his interaction with Dr Samanta to meeting with a second Mahatma in his life, emphasizing the importance of having individuals like Dr. Samanta in society to create impactful institutions like KISS, which can provide education to a large number of students.

Dr. Reyes in his speech stressed the need for personalities like Dr. Samanta in their country, suggesting that with such individuals, it would be possible to create educational institutions such as KISS, significantly contributing to the education of numerous students. He advised the students to dream big and aim for excellence in their pursuits.

DC Srinagar reviews functioning of Revenue Department

Asks Tehsildars to pay special thrust on efficient and prompt delivery of public services as envisaged under PSGA

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16:- In order to review the functioning of Revenue Department and take Tehsil wise appraisal about Revenue related public services delivery system in the District, a meeting was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Dr. Khalid Hussain, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner (Revenue), Assistant Commissioner Nazool, SDM East, SDM West and all Tehsildars of the District.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review about the working and functioning of the Revenue Department at grass root level and coordination of Tehsildars with the field Revenue staff.

The DC also reviewed the progress of all Tehsils of the District on various Revenue



matters including progress on digitization of Jamabandis/Girdawari, Reconstruction of damaged Massavies, Status of Migrant offline/online grievances and Online public services delivery system.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all the Tehsildars to pay focused attention to the complaints registered on the portal/offline to ensure quality redressal to the best satisfaction of the complainants. He further asked the officers to work with added zeal and dedication while redressing the grievances to ensure their time bound, prompt and quality disposal.

The DC also reviewed the

process of online public services delivery mechanism. He said not a single application should be beyond the stipulated period under PSGA.

The DC also asked the Revenue Officers to monitor the process of revenue related activities in respective jurisdiction on a daily basis so that people do not face any inconvenience while availing revenue related services.

The DC stressed all the Tehsildars to pay special thrust on ensuring efficient and prompt delivery of public services to their best satisfaction as envisaged under Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

Sheikh Fayaz convenes mega public darbar at Handwara, assesses public grievances

HANDWARA, FEBRUARY 16: Commissioner Secretary, Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, today chaired a mega public darbar here to assess public grievances and demands under the ambitious public outreach cum grievances redressal programme of the government.

District Development Council member Mawar, DDC member Nutnoosa, President Traders Federation Handwara and locals attended the event and projected several issues concerning welfare and development of their respective areas.

ADC Kupwara, Mohammad Rouf Rehman, ACD Kupwara, ACP

Kupwara and other senior officers of civil administration and police were present in the public outreach program to record the public grievances and demands so that remedial measures are initiated accordingly.

The public darbar witnessed overwhelming response from the public who thronged the programme from various areas of Handwara to raise their issues and concerns for redressal.

The participating delegations and general public projected several demands and grievances pertaining to their respective regions, encompassing both developmental and administrative concerns that need immediate attention of



the government.

Some of the major development issues included construction of public park near Degree College Handwara for which 32 Kanal of land has already been identified, construction of lavatory block near children's Park at Handwara,

recreational Park at Bagatpora on Bungas road for which 200 Kanal of land is available, functioning of slaughter house, Tribal Sub Plan for tribal villages, development of Saranwali Moanbal as tourist spot, release of second and third instalments of PMAY (G) and

wages under MGNREGA.

While highlighting the importance of holding these public darbars, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad said that these events act as a bridge between the administration and the people where senior government functionaries connect with the people on rotation basis. This facilitate the participants to get their grievances redressed through these public outreach programmes besides enabling them establish a strong rapport with the officials for effective implementation of government schemes in their respective areas.

The Commissioner Secretary assured all the individuals and delegations that the grievances

and demands projected by them would be redressed on priority after being taken up with the appropriate authorities. He impressed upon the concerned officers to adopt a proactive and people friendly approach in delivering prompt public services.

DDC Member Mawar, Khurshid Ahmad Dar, DDC Member Nutnoosa advocate Zahoor Ahmad and President Traders Federation Handwara, Aijaz Ahmad Sofi, while highlighting issues of diverse nature faced by the public, expressed their gratitude to the UT government for organizing this ambitious programme in Handwara.

Earlier, ADC Kupwara,

Muhammad Rouf Rehman, presented developmental scenario of Kupwara district.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner Secretary also e-inaugurated development projects including newly constructed entry gate for Smart Village Shehla, macadamisation of road and washrooms at Government High School Payerpora. He also participated in a plantation drive.

The people, while expressing gratitude to the district administration, said that such public outreach programs provide them an opportunity to voice their grievances and developmental issues for redressal through the appropriate channels.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

For Decades

touched new heights in the world today and that it has been possible because of people's blessings.

Referring to his visit to the UAE and Qatar this week, he said the respect that India now gets from every corner is not of Modi alone, but of every Indian.

Targeting the opposition Congress, Modi said those who used to call Lord Ram imaginary and did not want a temple to be built in Ayodhya are also chanting 'Jai Siya Ram' now.

For decades, the Congress had created obstacles in the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. He said he had given a guarantee and fulfilled it by scrapping Article 370.

Modi said his first event after the BJP declared him as its prime ministerial candidate in the run-up to the 2014 general elections was in Rewari in September 2013.

"As prime ministerial candidate, I had given some guarantees." The country wanted a grand Ram temple in Ayodhya and it has been fulfilled, he said.

Modi said people are now saying that since he has come to Rewari again, the BJP-led NDA will win more than 400 seats this time -- 'Abki Baar NDA Sarkar 400 Paar' -- with people's blessings.

Seats are important in a democracy, "but for me people's blessings are the biggest asset", he added.

The Lok Sabha polls are due in April-May. India could successfully host the G-20 summit last year because of people's blessings, he told the gathering.

In the 10 years of his government, India rose from the eleventh spot to become the fifth largest economy in the world and it was due to people's blessings, he further said.

"I need your blessings to make India the third largest economy in my third term, in coming years," he said.

PM To Inaugurate

Ramban and Samba districts, 12 road projects and three bridges completed at a cumulative cost of Rs 184.19 crore.

He will also inaugurate five common effluent treatment plants in Samba, an intelligent traffic management system in Srinagar city, modernisation of Narwal fruit mandi in Jammu, sewage treatment plants, transit accommodation - 244 flats for Kashmiri migrants at two locations in Ganderbal and Kupwara in Kashmir Valley, drug testing laboratory in Kathua, and degree college buildings infrastructure at Mahanpur (Kathua), Neeli Nallah (Udhampur), Sunderbani (Rajouri) and Kokernag (Anantnag), among others.

The prime minister will lay the foundation of 124 projects, including development of nine new industrial estates spread over 2210 kanals with large investment and employment opportunities, and 2,816 flats for Kashmiri migrants at nine locations in Anantnag, Kulgam, Kupwara, Shopian and Pulwama districts, according to the advertisement.

The prime minister will lay the foundation stone of data centre, disaster recovery centre for integrated command and control centre for Jammu smart city, upgradation/revamping of transport nagar at Parimpora in Srinagar, and construction and upgradation of 62 road projects and 42 bridges at a cost of Rs 891.53 crore.

5-day Wet Spell

districts would experience heavy to very heavy snowfall.

On Feb 21, he said there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate snowfall at many places till afternoon, late afternoon and gradual improvement thereafter.

In Jammu region, he said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow over higher reaches with thunder, lightning at many places on February 18.

On February 19 and 20, Director MeT said that there is a possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain with thunder, lightning in plains of Jammu with light to moderate snowfall over higher reaches with heavy snowfall over isolated higher reaches of Ramban, Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar

"Intermittent light to moderate snow and rain is expected over many places till late afternoon, evening and gradual improvement thereafter on February 21," he said.

The weatherman has, however, issued an advisory, saying that the system may lead to temporary closure of roads of higher reaches and important passes like Sinthan pass, Mughal Road, Sadhna & Razdan pass, Zojila and others. He advised the travellers to plan accordingly. Moreover, the Director MeT advised the farmers to withhold irrigation and fertilizer application & drain out excess water from Orchards and fields during the above period.

Significant drop in day temperature during the above period is expected, he said.

Meanwhile, the Mechanical Engineering Department (MED) Kashmir has urged people not to park their vehicles on the roadside.

Kaplesh Pandita, a senior officer at MED Kashmir told KNO that the department is all geared up and has made all arrangements to ensure smooth snow clearance from the roads. "A mock drill has already been done, all men and machinery are ready. We urge people not to park their vehicles on the road sides during the snowfall," he said.

Another senior official looking into the functioning of the provincial control room said that they have activated 22 control and sub control rooms across the valley and that all men and machinery are on standby mode.

"There are around 300 machines available with the mechanical and hospital engineering department and they are already stationed in all districts," officials said.

He said that in district Srinagar alone, they have stationed over 40 machines to address any issues arising from the forecast weather conditions.

The official also said that in order to ensure no or least damage chances to the roads during snow clearance they have procured high tech snow clearance machines with plastic

cartilage snow blades.

Moreover, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting of Deputy Commissioners & Head of Civil Departments wherein he directed all the departments to keep men, material and machinery ready to tackle any exigency that may emerge from the expected snowfall.

He also directed officers to mobilize their field staff for effective & timely response to any emergency.

Weatherman said a significant drop in day temperature is expected during the period.

Amid the forecast for extended wet spell from February 17 evening, night temperatures recorded a rise in Kashmir Valley on Friday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that Srinagar recorded a low of minus 1.6°C against minus 3.0°C on the previous night. It was below normal by 2.6°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 1.2°C against minus 2.0°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said.

Pahalagam recorded a low of minus 4.2°C against minus 5.4°C on the previous night and it was 0.2°C above normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 0.4°C against minus 0.2°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 1.3°C for the place, the official said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of minus 2.4°C against minus 3.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.2°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg, the official said, recorded a low of minus 3.4°C against minus 3.2°C on the previous night and the temperature was above normal by 3.4°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 9.2°C and it was below normal by 1.3°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 1.0°C, Batote 4.6°C and Baderwah 2.4°C, he said. (With inputs

from KNO)

Private Schools

action is initiated against your school, you are asked to explain your position within three days as to why provisions of RTE Act and circular instructions issued by this directorate are being violated by your institution failing which it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence and action under rules will be initiated against your school which may include fine and even derecognition of the school," it added.

DSEK said that section 13 of Right to Education Act 2009 clarifies that no school or person shall, while admitting a child, collect any capitation fee. It also said that any school or person, if in contravention of the provision of sub-section(1), receives a capitation fee, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to ten times the capitation fee charged.

However, Chairman Doon International School Srinagar, Showkat Hussain Khan refuted the allegations and asserted that they respect the guidelines issued by the FFRC.

"These are baseless reports. We didn't take any admission fee. We only take annual, bus and tuition fees," Khan said.

Sources from the education department, however told Kashmir Observer that parents are themselves responsible as they are willing to pay the amount to secure the admission of their kids.

G N Var, President at Private Schools' Association said that "few schools" are maligning the image of others.

He however noted that as per norms private schools have to notify the fee structure 45 days before the commencement of the session. However, he said at the same time the fee committee hasn't allowed the schools to notify the fee structure.

"We have over 6000 schools in UT and it is impossible for the FFRC to fix the fee structure in a month, as a result private schools are in a dilemma," Var added.

He further said that the private schools will gradually stop taking admission in the current session.

Piyush Singla, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, told Kashmir Observer that "strict action" shall be taken against the violators.

He said few cases which came to their notice through socialmedia have been flagged to concerned Deputy Commissioner and Director School Education for "strict action in the matter"

"Any parent who wants to make a complaint can send a written complaint to FFRC or to the School Education Dept.," Singla said.

Notably, post abrogation when hundreds of central laws were implemented in the newly carved union territory a few including Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. is yet to be implemented.

Under the RTE act, Economically weaker sections (EWS) are able to secure admission in top schools who had to reserve a 25 percent quota for them.

However, as of now the students of EWS aren't able to take admission in leading schools of the valley as the schools do not reserve any quota for the poor students.

According to the Act, the government will cover the expenses of educating these underprivileged children.

"That's the reason this act is not being implemented here. The Govt has to reimburse fees to the private schools," sources said.

Promote Harmony,

Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K and senior officials of UT Administration were also present.

50 Held In Srinagar

Punjab began their 'Delhi Chalo' march on Tuesday but were stopped by security personnel at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana.

The protesting farmers have been camping at the border points ever since. Their agitation entered the fourth day on Friday.

Official Data

Jammu and Kashmir were witnessing a deficit of average number of working academic days due to 'unrest' here.

However, in the past five years, the academic days in schools of Jammu and Kashmir have increased by over 30 percent. "Prior to 2019, due to unrest, the average number of working days for which Schools remain functional was 128-150."

"After 2019, the schools remain functional for more than 210 days, which has improved the school education system to a large extent," it reads.

The School Education Department has claimed that in the past five year's student enrolment in government-run-schools have increased by over 17 percent.

It said that till the academic year 2023-24, the enrolment increased by 17.7 percent.(KNO)

16-yr-old Killed

Meanwhile, official sources also confirmed this road mishap to News Agency Kashmir Scroll and identified the deceased boy as Murtaza Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmed Shiekh of Pombay Nehama.

Meanwhile, police took cognizance of this road mishap.

6 Medical Shops

were lifted for analysis purposes to ascertain their quality parameters.

The team of officers headed by Assistant Drug Controller Anantnag informed that such inspections are routinely carried out as mandated under law.

He added that our organisation has already sensitized chemists to adopt a robust system for maintenance of records and CCTV Surveillance to plug in gaps to avoid misuse of essential life saving scheduled formulations along with observing conditions of licenses.

Army Opens Fire

the sectors to ensure there was no dropping of weapons or narcotics by the quadcopters.

Officials said troops noticed two quadcopters entering the Balnoi area of Mendhar around 6.30 am and opened fire but the remotely controlled machines returned.

Similarly, a couple of quadcopters hovering over Gulpur sector around the same time returned in the face of firing by Indian troops, they said.

Earlier on February 12, Army troops had fired on an enemy drone after picking up its movement in Mankote area of Mendhar sector.

Pakistan is using drones to drop narcotics and weapons in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police recently announced a cash reward of Rs three lakh to anyone providing information about drones flown from across the border with a purpose to drop weapons and narcotics.

Ton-up Duckett Propels England To 207/2 On Day 2



Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: Opener Ben Duckett led England's strong response with a scintillating hundred as the visitors raced to 207/2 at stumps after bowling out India for 445 on the second day of the third Test here on Friday.

At stumps, Duckett was batting on 133 and his teammate Joe Root was 9 not out as England scored their runs in only 35 overs to trail by 238 runs.

The day also saw Ravichandran

Ashwin become only the second Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket, with the wicket of Zak Crawley (15).

Duckett got to his century in just 88 balls, the fastest by an Englishman against India.

Earlier, in his first international outing, wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel batted very well for a neat 46.

India resumed the second day on their overnight score of 326/5 with Jadeja and night-watchman Kuldeep Yadav (1) at the crease.

Both Jadeja and Kuldeep, however, got out quickly as India slipped to 331/7. Ashwin and Jurel then steadied the innings.

For England, returning pacer Mark Wood finished with figures of 4/114 in 27.5 overs.

BRIEF SCORES:
India 1st innings: 445 all out in 130.5 overs (Rohit Sharma 131, Ravindra Jadeja 112, Sarfaraz Khan 62; Mark Wood 4/114).

England 1st innings: 207/2 in 35 overs (Ben Duckett 133 batting)

Ashwin Looks Beyond Kumble's Record After Conquering Mount 500

Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: R Ashwin is a content man after becoming only the second Indian to take 500 Test wickets and has no interest in chasing Anil Kumble's national record of 619 scalps. Ashwin dismissed England opener Zak Crawley in the final session on day two and became only the ninth bowler to scale 'Mount 500' in Test history. The 37-year-old Ashwin said he has no particular aim of pushing for more and try and get to Kumble's record.

"The very simple answer is 'no'... 120 wickets away. Every day is what I want to live for, and, I'm 37 years old. I don't know what's in store next," Ashwin told the media here after stumps on the second day. "What's in store for the next two months? You play this series and then what lies ahead, you really don't know."

"I don't want to really jump the gun. I've kept it this way for the last 4-5 years and it's been very simple and it's worked for me. Why change anything that's working for you?" Ashwin added.

Recalling his journey on one of the most memo-



orable days of his career, Ashwin said he could only look back and say "not a bad achievement".

"It's been a very long journey. I don't exactly know where to begin because I was an accidental spinner. I wanted to be a batter all along. Life gave me a chance."

"When I walked into the CSK dressing room, Muthiah Muralitharan didn't want to bowl (with) the new ball and eventually I got tossed the new ball."

"I had a reasonable first-class (cricket) start to my life. (The) first-class career was pretty good. But nevertheless, the stage in the IPL made me made me visible to a lot of people and I eventually got my Test debut."

"People doubted me whether I could be a Test bowler and 10-13 years later... not bad, not a bad achievement. I'm pretty glad," he added.

Ashwin did not appear being one for big celebrations given his focus on

the ongoing Test.

"It's in a very innocuously placed time, the Test match, (the) second day... I think it's hanging in the balance. It's a good time to celebrate, probably go have dinner and then think about it (and) how far I've come in life," Ashwin added.

With Nathan Lyon also having completed his 500 Test wickets last December, Ashwin revealed getting congratulated by the Australian wicketkeeper.

Kishan Skips Ranji Game To Play DY Patil T20 Before IPL



Press Trust of India

JAMSHEDPUR: Ishan Kishan's absence from Ranji Trophy continued as the wicketkeeper-batter, who plays domestic cricket for Jharkhand, skipped the final round of matches that started on Friday, a move that might not go down well with BCCI especially after the dictat from secretary Jay Shah.

Jharkhand are playing Rajasthan in Jamshedpur and even Deepak Chahar, who is currently training with the Chennai Super Kings, skipped the last round Ranji game.

It is learnt that Kishan was asked by a senior member of the Indian team think-tank to play Ranji Trophy in order to make a comeback to the Test team but the flamboyant keeper-batter has reportedly said he was "working on certain technical aspects" of his game and was

not ready for red-ball cricket.

The 25-year-old from Patna, who is currently training with his Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya in Baroda, is set to make a comeback to competitive cricket for his employers Reserve Bank of India in Mumbai's DY Patil T20 tournament.

DY Patil T20 is a tournament where most of the office teams take part and a lot of players tune up for the cash-rich IPL by playing in the event.

It is Kishan's reluctance to play first-class cricket and focus only on the IPL that forced the BCCI to make a minimum number of Ranji Trophy games mandatory for players in order to be eligible for the cash-rich league's lucrative auction pool.

"If you are fit then no excuse will be entertained," BCCI secretary Jay Shah recently told the media in Rajkot.

8 Tral Athletes Win Medals At South Asian Martial Arts Championship

Players to undergo trials to play in world championship in Iraq

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Eight young players from the Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district have clinched medals at the Tri-Nation South Asian Martial Arts Championship held in Nepal.

Seven out of the eight students, who are enrolled in the Leeniv National Academy Tral, secured gold medals, while one bagged a silver.

Farooz Ahmad, the head coach of Leeniv Academy, informed news agency KNO that all eight students showcased exceptional skill and professionalism, defeating their opponents in the championship. He said seven students won gold medals, with one securing a bronze.

The successful players are Imaad Farooq, Ahmad Bin Nisar, Iyaad Farooq, Sheikh Azzan, Faizan Majeed Khan, Murshidah Irshad, Mir Ayaan Arshid, and Gurmeet Singh, he said.

Farooz said the students showed exceptional performance not only at the national level but also on the international stage.

"These athletes are now eligible to participate in trials for the Martial Arts World Champi-



onship scheduled to take place in Iraq next month," the coach said, adding that he is confident that they will continue to prove their mettle.

The victorious players expressed gratitude to their parents, coach, and the academy's management for their "unwavering" support. They said winning medals is a recognition of one's hard work and encour-

agement sports persons to further excel in their respective fields.

"At a time when people are spending most of the time on mobile phones and consume unhealthy diets, there is a need to engage youth in sports activities," they said, adding that this will help in both physical and mental fitness besides keeping youth away from social evils. (KNO)

Dubai Capitals & MI Emirates To Clash In ILT20 2024 Final



Agencies

DUBAI: The stage is set at the Dubai International Stadium, as the much-anticipated final match of the International League T20 (ILT20) approaches.

After weeks of intense competition, featuring six formidable teams battling it out on the cricket field, the grand finale will witness the Dubai Capitals facing off against MI Emirates in a thrilling showdown on Saturday.

The ILT20, one of the most anticipated cricket tournaments of the year, has showcased outstanding performances from some of the finest cricketers talent worldwide. From breathtaking batting displays to phenomenal bowling spells, each match has been a testament to the skill and dedication of the players.

The T20 league has evolved into a wholesome family entertainment with the increasing popularity of

the format among women.

The Dubai Capitals, under the astute leadership of captain Sam Billings, have been a force to be reckoned with throughout the tournament. With a blend of experienced campaigners and emerging stars, including the likes of Sikandar Raza, Ben Dunk, Jason Holder and Tom Banton, the Capitals have consistently delivered when it mattered most.

On the other hand, MI Emirates, led by their charismatic captain Nicholas Pooran, have showcased their mettle with standout performances from key players like Trent Boult, Tim David and Mohammed Waseem, Akeal Hosen and Fazalhaq Farooqi.

The recent addition of Kieron Pollard to the squad has further strengthened MI Emirates' line-up, providing them with added firepower and experience in the crucial playoffs.

Kylian Mbappe Tells PSG He Will Leave At The End Of The Season: Report

Agencies

PARIS: Kylian Mbappe has told Paris Saint-Germain he will leave the club at the end of the season.

The France international informed PSG President Nasser Al-Khelaifi he would not stay at the club when his contract expires, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press.

Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because Mbappe hasn't made his decision public yet.

One person said Mbappe — who has previously been pursued by Real Madrid — did not indicate which club he would join next.

PSG declined to comment, but a second person with knowledge of Mbappe's decision said the terms of his departure were still being worked out with the club and an official statement would not come until that has been finalized.

Mbappe — widely considered to be one of the best players in the world — will be a free agent at the end of the season after seven years with PSG.

He informed the club last

year that he would not trigger an extension to the contract he signed in 2022.

When he signed that last deal, PSG paraded him at Parc des Princes holding up a jersey with 2025 written on it — even though the actual contract was until 2024, with an option for an extra year. That episode reportedly irked Mbappe, who then also felt let down by the club for failing to sign enough top-class players — other than Lionel Messi — after they pledged to do when he penned the deal.

While Madrid seems like the most probable destination for Mbappe, his departure from PSG is likely to spark a bidding war between a host of other clubs eager to sign the former World Cup winner.

The 25-year-old Mbappe has been at PSG since 2017 after signing from Monaco in a transfer worth a reported \$190 million. He arrived at the same time as Neymar, who cost PSG a world record \$222 million from Barcelona.

In 2021, PSG turned down a bid of \$190 million from Real Madrid for the forward, who went on to sign his current contract the following year.

Mbappe will be the latest



superstar player to leave the French club in recent times following the departures of Messi and Neymar last year. The glittering attacking trio played together for two seasons yet couldn't even reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League as PSG was eliminated at the last-16 stage both years, first by Real Madrid and then Bayern Munich.

Mbappe won five French league titles with PSG, but has

so far failed to lead it to success in the Champions League. When PSG reached the final in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, it lost 1-0 to Bayern as Mbappe and Neymar both failed to make an impact.

Mbappe could still go out on a high by winning European club soccer's biggest prize this season. He scored in PSG's 2-0 win on Wednesday over Real Sociedad in the first leg of the round of 16, taking his

record-extending club tally to 243 goals in just 290 games, including 38 in the Champions League.

He also has 93 assists for PSG, third on the club's all-time list.

Mbappe's decision brings an end to a drawn-out saga that has overshadowed his final year at the club.

His PSG career could have ended last summer amid a tense transfer standoff. After

telling the club he would not extend his contract for an extra year, he was left off a pre-season tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. PSG said it would rather sell him than let him leave for free in 2024, but Mbappe rejected a 300 million euro move to Saudi team Al-Hilal.

PSG left Mbappe out of the team's opening league game of the season as the standoff continued — a dull 0-0 home draw which he watched from the stands — but then quickly relented and let him return to the lineup.

Even before that, Mbappe had sometimes let his evident frustration with the club show on and off the field.

After a 0-0 draw early last season, he posted a sarcastic message seemingly in reference to his displeasure at being used as a lone center forward, when he preferred to play behind a striker like France teammate Olivier Giroud. His Instagram post with the hashtag pivotgang — a pun on the word pivot (target man) — was then deleted.

Despite his brilliant scoring record, Mbappe has not always been a fan favorite at

the club. Some fans questioned why he stayed at all given his stated ambition to win the Champions League and Ballon d'Or trophy multiple times. He was won neither with PSG.

PSG may have sensed this moment was coming, since it has already made moves to shift its focus over the past 12 months in light of the exits of Messi and Neymar.

After years of problems with soccer violence and falling short on the field, PSG's fortunes improved after being taken over by Qatar Sports Investments in June 2011. PSG largely dominated French soccer with some of the biggest names in the sport, including Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Mbappe, Neymar and Messi. But it has begun to shift away from that model with signings like Randal Kolo Muani and Bradley Barcola last year.

Mbappe has long been viewed by Madrid as the ideal successor to Karim Benzema, who left the Spanish giant for Al Ittihad in Saudi Arabia last year.

Whether PSG can find a successor to Mbappe remains to be seen, as he will leave a giant void.



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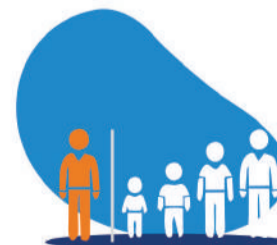
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