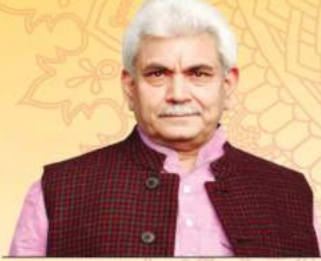




Government of Jammu & Kashmir



Viksit Bharat
Viksit Jammu Kashmir

Aman aur Taraqqi ki Nayi Tasveer



Inauguration of

Indian Institute of Management Jammu

- Institute of Excellence
- Spread over 200 acres of land at Jagti
- Constructed at a cost of ₹500.91 crores
- Joint programme with AIIMS & IIT under NEP 2020
- Annual student intake 500
- 07 programmes of Management Education
- High quality international level management education
- Focused on diversity & inclusion

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

FEBRUARY 20, 2024 | 11:00 AM | M A Stadium, Jammu





To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
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Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarship Name 1 Bhalodia-Khetan Summer Research Excellence Award 2024

Description: Bhalodia-Khetan Summer Research Excellence Award 2024 is an opportunity offered by the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar to honor and recognise outstanding research conducted by students participating in the Summer Research Internship Program (SRIP) at IIT Gandhinagar.

Eligibility: Open for students who have completed the Summer Research Internship Programme (SRIP) under the faculty guides' evaluation at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Gandhinagar.

- Prizes & Rewards: An award of 50,000 (one-time)
- Last Date to Apply: 05-03-2024
- Application mode: Online
- Applications Only: Online
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/BKSA1

- Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of 8,000 and a complete Internship Program (SRIP) 2024 is a research opportunity offered by the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, to students pursuing bachelor's or master's degrees at institutions in India.



tion certificate
 Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
 Application mode: via post or email at: Deputy Secretary National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) 9th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001 Email ID: naco.internship@gmail.com
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NACO1

tion certificate
 Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
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 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NACO1

Scholarship Name 2 National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) Internship Programme 2024

Description: National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) Internship Programme 2024 is an opportunity offered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India for students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, M.Phil and Ph.D. degree courses in various disciplines.

Eligibility: Open for Indian nationals pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, M.Phil, and Ph.D. degree courses in specified disciplines.

tion certificate
 Last Date to Apply: Round The Year
 Application mode: via post or email at: Deputy Secretary National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) 9th Floor, Chandralok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001 Email ID: naco.internship@gmail.com
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 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NACO1

J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Ltd

(A J&K GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
 O/O ESTATE MANAGER, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE B.A.M.K Wall Idmadtastatssciprkt@gmail.com
 NO: SICOP/EM/LE-BANK/23-24/23 Dated:- 17-02-2024

Notice inviting Objections from Financial Institutions/Banks/General Public

Whereas, Land measuring 01kanal each has been leased out in favour of M/s J.N Products I/E BANKM and New J.N Steels, I/E BANKM and lease deed executed with both units through its proprietor namely Bashir Ahmad Beigh S/O Late Gulam Hassan Beigh.

Whereas M/s J.N Products I/E BANKM Srinagar formally registered under No.07/09/00509/PMT/SSI dated. 28.06.1978 for the activity of "sports goods and additional line of broom handles and wooden items etc and M/s New J.N Steels, I/E BANKM Srinagar is also formally registered under No.07/09/04350/PMT/SSI dated. 12-03-1993 for the activity of "chain link fencing, steel furniture, etc and substantial expansion on formal basis by way of undertaking additional activity viz profiling of BPV/CRC/Pre-painted colour coated sheets.

Now the proprietor of both units i.e Bashir Ahmad Beigh has approached SICOP issuance of NOC for merger of unit, M/s J.N Products into M/s New J.N Steels and as well as de-registration of M/s J.N Products.

Before issuance of NOC for merger of unit, objections if any, are invited from Financial Institutions/Banks/General Public regarding to above. Objections should reach the office of the undersigned within the period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Estates Manager
 SICOP, B.A.M.K

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
 e-NIT/ET/R&B/Bandipora of 2023-24 Dated:- 16-02-2024.
 (Single Cover System)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor UT J&K, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. C/PWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following work:-

S.No/Name of Work	Inv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs.)	Cost of T.Roc. Earned (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M-Of Ac- count	Project Au- thority	Class of Con- tractor
1 Repair and Renova- tion of Govt. Of- fices and Buildings at Bandipora	20.00	800 (indicate name of work with NIT serial no. on TR)	40000.00 25 days	PPI Grants 2023-24	District Development Commissioner Bandipora	"BEE" "CEE"

Position of AAA - Accredited.

- 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 www.jkenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-
- Date of issue of Tender Notice: 16-02-2024
- Period of downloading of bidding documents: 17-02-2024 from 10:00 AM
- Bid submission Start Date: 17-02-2024, from 2:00 PM
- Bid Submission End Date: 23-02-2024 upto 4:00 PM
- Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online): 24-02-2024 at 10:30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora/Tender Inviting authority (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora (tender receiving authority).
- All bidders have to submit/upload 2% EMD of Advertised cost in shape of CR/DR/pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora
- The 1% lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as performance security in shape of CR/DR/pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bandipora within 02 Days before fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of D.P.
- The tender /bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWO Form 25 (Double Agreement Form) and detailed NIT issued.
- Tender Challan should indicate tender document cost deposit in between commencement date and end date of NIT. Name of work, Advnt. Cost, NIT No. and Tender Inviting authority.

- For drawing of the contract and memorandum of an agreement relating to sale of bill of exchange one rupee for Rs.10,000/- or part thereof shall have to be realized/deposited by the contractor at his own to revenue Head of Accts.0030/Stamp of Deputy Commissioner Stamps J&K UT.
- The successful bidder who fails to submit original copies of uploaded documents especially 2% (EMD) security performance of NIT. Advt. Cost within five days after opening of bid shall be debared from participating in future tendering for a period of one year in this Department as per instructions and reference of date 22.05.
- Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be false/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years. In addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
- EMD/Start up Card holder's should mandatorily be registered on JKPWOMS for making online payments, which is mandatory to upload with BID, non submission of the same shall be rendered the Bid non-responsive.
- All other terms, conditions are as per PWO Form-25 (Double agreement)

Sd/-
 (E. Asadullah Nisar)
 Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Bandipora
 No.EE/R&B/R/0829-37
 DIPP-1657/23 Dated:- 17-02-2024.

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Shahid Ahmad Khan S/o Gulam Mohd Khan R/O Palhan Pattan for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Hoorain Shahid born on 25-05-2022.

NOTICE
 General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Ishfaq Ahmad Lone S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Lone R/O Hadipora Rafabud for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Lone Sania born on 29-04-2020

NOTICE
 General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. As per reports of SDHPattan the Child is born on 13-08-2020. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

In The Court Of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

Subject: Application of Mohd Iqbal Lone S/o Gulam Mohd Lone R/O Braripora Tehsil and District Shopan for registration of event of Birth (delayed entry) of his Son namely Kifayat Iqbal

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
 Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for issuance of birth certificate of his Son with date of birth as 02-10-2010
 As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of birth record of applicant's Sons with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths)/Block Development Officer KAPRAN then he / she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law. Issued under seal and signature of this court today on 18-01-2024
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin
 FKO

Before The Hon'ble High Court Of Union Territory Of J&K & Ladakh, At Srinagar

CAVEAT PETITION NO. /2024

In the case of:
 Islamic University of Science and Technology at Awantipora Through its Registrar Versus Public at Large
 In the matter of: Caveat application

May it please your lordship:
 The Cavetator most respectfully submit as under:
 1. That the cavetator has issued an advertisement for various posts vide advertisement No:1 of 2024 bearing No: IJST/Reg/Adv/24/E/50 dated 6-02-2024. Copy of advertisement is annexed herewith as Annexure-C-1.
 2. That the Cavetator's herein apprehend that the non-caveator may challenge this Advertisement before this Hon'ble Court and by misrepresentation of facts try to obtain inter-exparte stay order.
 3. That this caveat application is being filed before the Hon'ble High Court in order to avoid any such situation where ex-parte stay order is issued in the said matter.
 PRAYER
 In the premises, it is therefore, most humbly prayed that in the event of filing writ petition or any other proceedings by the non-caveator may be put on notice passing of any order.
 Cavetator Through Counsel
 Syed Musab Deputy Advocate General

Office Of The Advocate Riaz Ahmed Bath

In the case of:
 1. Jethangir Ahmad Matoon
 2. Tariq Ahmad Matoon
 Both Sons of: Late Gulam Qadir Matoon
 Residents of: Shah-I-Hamdan Colony Naik Bagh Natipora Srinagar.

(CAVEATORS)
 (NON-CAVEATORS)
 Public at Large VERSUS Public at Large
 IN THE MATTER OF:- Caveat petition
 That the caveators have reason to believe that the non-caveators may likely approach this Hon'ble Court with unclear hands and may choose to file any Petition, suit, application or any other legal proceedings against the caveators and may secure interim order(s) by misrepresenting the facts which will cause irreparable loss to the caveators. It is impressed in that event the caveators may be given prior opportunity of being heard before passing any order (s) against the caveators.
 Sd/-
 Riaz Ahmed Bath Advocate
 nj

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that we are the only legal heirs of our deceased father, Syed Noor-Ud-Din, S/O Late Syed Mohammad Yusouf, R/O Chattabugh Budgam, who expired on 22nd January 2024 and have applied for issuance of legal heir certificate in our favour which application is pending before the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Narbal Budgam. If any person has objection, he/she may contact the concerned authority within seven days from the publication of this notice whereafter no objection is entertainable.

1. Syed Bashir Ahmad R/O Nund Reshi Colony Sector B, Bermania Srinagar (Son of deceased)
2. Safia Banu R/O Chattabugh Budgam (Daughter of deceased)
3. Syed Moina R/O Chattabugh Budgam (Daughter of deceased)

hko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of General Public that my DOB in passport has been incorrectly written while my correct dob as per Aadhaar and PAN card is 03-05-1948. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Zehera D/o Sheikh Hussain Ali
 W/o Syed Rasool
 BMG

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Abdul Majeed Hajam S/o Gh Hassan Hajam R/O Hanjwera Pattan for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Saniya Zeira born on 13-08-2022

NOTICE
 General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. As per reports of SDHPattan the Child is born on 13-08-2022. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

In The Court Of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

Subject: Application of Mohammad Shafiq Mir S/o Wali Mohd Mir R/O Zalpora Dharmarth Tehsil and District Shopan for registration of event of Birth (delayed entry) of his Son namely Zahid Shafiq

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
 Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for issuance of birth certificate of his Son with date of birth as 03-04-2010
 As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of birth record of applicant's Sons with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths)/Block Development Officer KAPRAN then he / she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law. Issued under seal and signature of this court today on 18-01-2024
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin
 FKO

In The Court Of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin

Subject: Application of Mohammad Shafiq Mir S/o Wali Mohd Mir R/O Zalpora Dharmarth Tehsil and District Shopan for registration of event of Birth (delayed entry) of his Son namely Zahid Shafiq

PUBLICATION NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC
 Whereas the applicant named above has filed present application for issuance of birth certificate of his Son with date of birth as 03-04-2010
 As such notice is issued in the name of general public that in case anybody has any objections regarding the entry of birth record of applicant's Sons with the office of Registrar (Births & Deaths)/Block Development Officer KAPRAN then he / she / they can file objections to same in this court within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which application shall be decided in accordance with the mandate of law. Issued under seal and signature of this court today on 18-01-2024
 Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kaprin
 FKO

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Shahid Ahmad Khan S/o Gulam Mohd Khan R/O Palhan Pattan for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Hoorain Shahid born on 25-05-2022.

NOTICE
 General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Subject: Application of Shahid Ahmad Khan S/o Gulam Mohd Khan R/O Palhan Pattan for issuance of DOB Certificate of his daughter namely Hoorain Shahid born on 25-05-2022.

NOTICE
 General Public is hereby informed through this notice that the undersigned office has received the above mentioned application for issuance of DOB. If any person(s) has any objection(s) he/she can visit the undersigned's office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be considered.
 Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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MeT Issues 'Yellow Warning' Amid Wet Spell Forecast

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: As Jammu and Kashmir braces up for an extended wet spell beginning this evening, night temperature on Saturday witnessed a jump with only Gulmarg recording below freezing level.

Also, the weatherman issued a yellow warning for isolated heavy rain and snow over higher reaches and disruption of traffic on higher passes from February 18-20.

There are four types of colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no caution, yellow—situation to be watched, orange—government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red—action needed by the agencies.

A meteorological department official reported that Srinagar saw an increase by over 4°C, recording a low of 3.0°C against minus 1.6°C on the previous night. It was above normal by 2.0°C for the summer capital of J&K for this time of the year, he said.

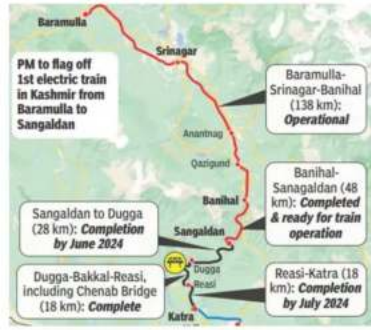
Qazigund recorded a minimum of 1.0°C against minus 1.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, the MeT official said. Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.7°C | [More on P10](#)

PM To Flag Off First Electric Train In Kashmir on Feb 20

KO Webdesk

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to flag off the first electric train in Kashmir on Tuesday and will also inaugurate the 48-km recently completed rail link from Banihal to Sangaldan - a 48.1-kilometre-long significant segment of the country's most ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project. This will be PM's first public engagement in the region after nullification of Article 370 in 2019.

The Indian Railways is all set to start train services on the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section, on



February 20.

Officials said the railways will script a new history of trains running on clean fuel in the Valley and also host the biggest ever programme in its history next week for inauguration and foundation stone laying of nearly 2,000 projects in one go. These include revamp of over 500 stations and construction of rail over bridges and under bridges. These two will be major programmes before the poll code is announced.

"We will get a step closure to realise our dream to connect Srinagar with Kanyakumari," a source in the railways told PTI.

"The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is one of the most ambitious Himalayan railway projects post Independence," he added.

Talking about the project, a senior railways official said, "Spanning the challenging terrain of the Pir Panjal ranges, the USBRL aims at establishing an all-weather, comfortable and economically-feasible transportation network, connecting remote Himalayan areas with the rest of the country."

The USBRL project seeks to integrate the Kashmir Valley with the Jammu region and the national | [More on P10](#)

Defence Min To Visit Jammu On Feb 24

Agencies

Jammu: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to meet army officers including the northern army commander at army's Northern Command Headquarters at Udhampur on February 24.

Sources told the news agency, Kashmir News Observer (KNO), besides Prime Minister, Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari are also likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir in March-April. The visits of union ministers including the Prime Minister's are considered significant in view of the coming Lok Sabha polls.

The Defence Minister Singh will be visiting Northern Command Headquarters at Udhampur on February 24, his second visit to the Jammu region in less than two months, during which he will inaugurate the new building of the Command Hospital and interact with top Army Commanders on prevailing situation in the Union Territory.

"The Defence Minister is scheduled to inaugurate the new building of Command Hospital in | [More on P10](#)

Ahead of PM's Visit, Forces Search For Cross-Border Tunnels

The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a joint search on Saturday for any possible cross-border tunnel along the International Border in Samba district, amid heightened security in the Union territory ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit next week, officials said. In the past decades, about a dozen cross-border tunnels which were used to push terrorists, weapons and narcotics from across the border were uncovered by the security forces along the International Border with Pakistan in Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts. Police had recently announced a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh to anyone who helps in locating such tunnels used by "anti-national elements". Modi is visiting Jammu on February 20 to inaugurate and lay the foundation of 209 projects worth Rs 3,161 crore. He will also address | [More on P10](#)

ECI To Introduce PBF In J&K For Upcoming LS Polls

Home Voting Facility To Senior Citizens, Disabled, Covid Patients
Majid Nabi

Srinagar: In a major electoral reform, the Election Commission of India (ECI), a statutory body entrusted with the responsibility of conducting elections in the country has decided to introduce Postal Ballot Facility (PBF) for prisoners, persons with deformities, COVID positive's and senior citizens above 80 years in J&K for upcoming elections.

Voters, who opt for postal voting, also referred to as 'absentee' voting, exercise their franchise through mail as opposed to appearing in person at a polling station.

Those who are unable to cast a ballot in person for a certain reason—such as being out of town, being disabled, or working on election day—may find this option very helpful, said Chand Kishore Sharma, Additional Secretary to the Government at a one-day training workshop for a select group of media representatives at the office Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) here.

Sharma referred to the change as a "significant development" in the electoral history of India, noting that those who fall under the purview of PBF may now vote without having to leave their homes to visit polling places.

Those having travelled outside their home constituency, including polling staff, security forces and police personnel. | [More on P10](#)

370 Not Merely A Number, Symbolises Profound Sentiment: PM

Says BJP Has Made A Mark As A Party Of Development, Good Governance

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked BJP members to build the party's Lok Sabha poll campaign around the government's development and pro-poor welfare initiatives besides the measures to enhance the country's global standing, asserting that winning 370 seats will be a true tribute to its key ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Addressing a meeting of the BJP's national office-bearers before the start of its convention, he said every party worker should focus on polling booths in the next 100 days, the period by which the upcoming Lok Sabha polls are likely to be over, and ensure at



least 370 more votes for the party at every polling station than in 2019.

Briefing reporters on Modi's speech, BJP general secretary Vinod Tawde said the prime minister told the meeting that the opposition will engage in "tu tu-main main" (petty

squabbling), unwarranted and divisive issues but they must not be distracted and remain focussed on its development agenda.

Modi said, "370 is not merely a number for the BJP. It symbolises a profound sentiment. Mookerjee made | [More on P10](#)

Only 15% Of Students In J&K Opt For Private Colleges



Agencies

Srinagar: In Jammu and Kashmir only 15 percent of higher education students prefer to study in private unaided and aided colleges.

According to the official documents, available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that reveal enrolment of private and government colleges based on actual response in a survey states that there were a total of 2,13,213

students enrolled in private and government colleges of Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the total number of enrolled students, 23,580 were enrolled in private unaided colleges, 4038 in private aided.

However, in comparison to the private colleges, the official figures reveal that in government colleges across Jammu and Kashmir, at least 1,85,595 students were enrolled.

Besides, the documents state that there were | [More on P10](#)

Upgradation Of Roads In J&K Centre Sanctions 152.30 Cr PMGSY Package

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Centre has sanctioned a Rs 152.30-crore package for upgrading 12 roads having a total length of 134 km and a bridge project in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said on Saturday.

The package under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was approved by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

With this, the spokesperson said, a total of 233 road projects spanning 1,750 km and 66 bridges falling in the alignment of these roads have been



sanctioned for upgradation at an estimated cost of Rs 2,245.46 crore under the PMGSY III programme for Jammu and Kashmir. The PMGSY | [More on P10](#)

LG Expresses Gratitude To PM

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh for approval of road infrastructure projects in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. The Lt Governor tweeted, "Grateful to Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji & Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development | [More on P10](#)

KPDCL To Hold Employee Pay Until Power Dues Cleared

Srinagar: Ahead of the new fiscal year, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) Saturday urged the district magistrates of Kashmir division to disburse the salary of government employees after the clearance of electricity dues. In a communication to district magistrates of Kashmir division by the Managing Director of KPDCL Musarrat Islam said that there electricity a due lying pending



with the government employees, contractors' etcetera needs to be cleared before disbursing of salary of government employees and before releasing of funds in favor of the contractors

for development works.

"KPDCL is entrusted with the responsibility of collecting revenue on account of electricity charges from all categories of consumers, including government employees and contractors executing various development works, in the Kashmir division," it reads.

Musarrat said that in this connection, the government has fixed revenue targets for KPDCL for | [More on P10](#)

Over 26,000 Connections Snapped In January: KPDCL

In the month of January, connections of 26,746 consumers were disconnected for non-payment of electricity dues, and Rs.7.50 crore were collected on account of penalties imposed on those consumers who were stealing power by unauthorised means. This was informed during a meeting chaired by Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Musarrat Islam, with all | [More on P10](#)

Preventive Detention Not A Demand-Supply Model For Police, DM: HC Quashes Man's PSA detention, 6 Days After His Infant Daughter's Death

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Observing that preventive detention is not a matter of demand and supply working model between police and a District Magistrate concerned, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against a resident of Pulwama whose eight months' old daughter died on 10 February this year.

While quashing the detention order passed by district Magistrate Pulwama on 27-September 2022 against Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, a bench of Justice Rahul Bharti observed that the PSA order has been affected by "speculation and assumptions."

6 IT IS ONE THING FOR A LAW AND ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO PRESENT a case against a prospective detainee before the District Magistrate concerned for seeking his preventive detention whereas it is another thing for the District Magistrate concerned to serve the preventive detention order as asked for by the law and enforcement agencies."



"It is one thing for a law and enforcement agency to present a case against a prospective detainee before the District Magistrate concerned for seeking his preventive detention whereas it is another thing for the District Magistrate concerned to serve

the preventive detention order as asked for by the law and enforcement agencies," the court said in the order passed on February 16, adding, "Preventive detention jurisdiction which adversely deals with personal liberty of a subject, which is a fundamental

right guaranteed under article 21 of the Constitution of India, is not a matter of demand and supply working model inter se the Law and Enforcement Agencies and a District Magistrate concerned or for that matter the State/UT Government."

It is the factual inputs on which a preventive detention case is required to be set up whereupon the subjective satisfaction of the District Magistrate is meant to apply for arriving at an informed opinion that the facts presented warrant exercise of preventive detention jurisdiction under the relevant clause of J&K Public Safety act 1978, the court said.

"The District Magistrate, Pulwama in | [More on P10](#)

Police Working On Plan To Deter Terrorism Recruitment: DGP

Says Arms-Picking Youth Victims; Financers, Facilitators Real Culprits

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain said that in the days ahead, police will follow a different plan to ensure that nobody joins terrorism in the Union Territory.

"You will see, in the days ahead, we will be following a plan to ensure that no youth joins terrorism in J&K. We are in touch with parents, teachers, civil society and masjid heads to make our plan a success," he said while talking to reporters on the side-lines of Public Darbar at District Police Lines



(DPL) Baramulla. DGP Swain said that he has been staying time and again that the young boy with no beard on his face picking up the gun is a "victim." "The real culprit is the one who hands

over the gun and money to this young boy. We are going tough against the ones who lure these young minds," he said.

About the public darbars, he said people including those associated with the police family have a wide range of issues like land disputes, delay in police investigations and queries related to old inquiries. "Issues related to Police Headquarters are being resolved by me within no time. Cases related to pending investigations are taking a bit of time," he said.

To a query about increasing the frequency of public darbars and involving | [More on P10](#)

"Biggest Voter Fraud": Imran Khan On Pakistan's General Elections Result

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Claiming that at least 85 seats won by it in Parliament were snatched by rigging, jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Friday said the outcome of Pakistan's elections would be remembered due to the "biggest voter fraud" in the country's history against it and its successful candidates.



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), and four smaller parties.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party founded by the cricketer-turned-politician also deplored the February 8 polls, saying the elections would be remembered in the country's history due to the scale of vote rigging. A week after the polling took place for the general elections, there is no sign of a government in cash-strapped Pakistan. Independent candidates backed by Imran Khan's PTI won the lion's share in the 266-member National Assembly even when none of the other parties won a clear majority.

Counting of votes was suspended on the night after the polling prompting the PTI to claim the polls were rigged. Ever since the party has regularly alleged how the establishment followed internal procedures to declare PTI's rivals as winners.

On Friday, a fresh round of crackdown, allegedly by the Pakistan Army, was launched against Imran Khan's party in a bid to put pressure on the winners in the elections to change their loyalties to parties backed by the powerful military.

Describing in detail that the party had three ways to ascertain the alleged rigging, the PTI leader said, "There were discrepancies between Form 45 and Form 47; there was also a huge difference in the numbers of votes polled for National Assembly and provincial assembly seats and the number of rejected votes, in certain cases, exceeded the margin of victory." For a press conference, the setting was unusual and looked more like a pandal for some event. Almost 70 candidates sat along with the main leaders, each showcasing his or her Form 45 with a claim of victory.

The crackdown came amid a possibility of a coalition government by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N).

Pakistan Poll Official Resigns, Accepts "Wrongdoing" In Elections



Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: A senior Pakistan bureaucrat on Saturday alleged that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice were involved in poll rigging in the recent election as he resigned from his post, taking the "responsibility" for all this wrongdoing.

responsibility" for manipulation of poll results, it said. Liaquat Ali Chhattha said "stabbing the country in its back does not let" him sleep. "I should be punished for the injustice I have done and others who were involved in this injustice should also be punished," he said.

Former Rawalpindi Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chhattha's remarks came amidst jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party began nationwide protests against alleged rigging and stealing of its mandate in the February 8 elections.

The former bureaucrat said there was "pressure" on him to the extent that he contemplated suicide but then resolved to present matters before the public. "It is my request to the entire bureaucracy to not do anything wrong for all these politicians," he said.

Speaking to reporters at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Liaquat Ali Chhattha said the candidates who were "losing" the elections "were made to win". "I am taking the responsibility for all this wrongdoing and telling you that the chief election commissioner and the chief justice are also completely involved in this," he was quoted as saying by the Dawn newspaper.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has strongly rejected the allegations Chhattha has made against the chief election commissioner. In a press statement, it said, "The Election Commission of Pakistan strongly rejects the allegations levelled by the Commissioner Rawalpindi on the chief election commissioner or the election commission and no official of the election commission ever issued any instructions regarding changing the election results to the Commissioner Rawalpindi."

Israel Conducts Airstrikes Across Gaza, Raids Largest Functioning Hospital



Agencies

CAIRO/JERUSALEM: Israeli forces carried out arrests in Gaza's largest functioning hospital, health officials and the military said on Saturday, as airstrikes hit across the enclave and rained battered Palestinians taking shelter in Rafah. Israeli forces raided the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis on Thursday as they pushed their war on Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist group that rules the enclave.

The Israeli incursion into the hospital has raised alarm about patients, medical workers and displaced Palestinians sheltering there. About 10,000 people were seeking shelter at the hospital earlier this week, but many left either in anticipation of the Israeli raid or because of Israeli orders to evacuate, the Gaza Health Ministry said.

A release of Palestinian prisoners serving long sentences in Israeli jails. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed "complete victory" over Hamas but added on Wednesday that flexibility in the group's position could move forward negotiations for a deal that would see hostages released.

Further south in Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million population are sheltering, the winter cold added to already dire conditions when wind blew away some tents of the displaced and rain flooded others.

The war began when Hamas sent fighters into Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and seizing 253 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. At least 83 people were killed in airstrikes across the Gaza Strip since Friday, health officials said, including one person on Saturday in Rafah, an area that borders Egypt and which Israel says is Hamas' last bastion.

The Israeli military said its jets had killed numerous militants in Gaza fighting since Friday.

Occupation forces detained a large number of medical staff members inside Nasser Medical Complex, which they (Israel) turned into a military base," said Gaza Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra.

Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh blamed Israel for a lack of progress in achieving a ceasefire deal in Gaza, the group said in a statement on Saturday. Haniyeh added that Hamas would not accept anything less than a complete cessation of hostilities, Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, and "lifting of the unjust siege," as well as

Ahead Of Meeting With Centre, Farm Leaders Demand Ordinance To Give Legal Guarantee For MSP

Press Trust Of India

CHANDIGARH: A day before the crucial meeting with Union ministers, farm leaders on Saturday asked the Centre to bring an ordinance on giving a legal guarantee to MSP, while a tractor march and dharnas were held in support of farmers protesting at the borders of Punjab.



Union ministers Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal and Nityanand Rai and farmer leaders from Punjab will meet on Sunday for the fourth round of talks. The two sides met earlier on February 8, 12 and 15, but those talks remained inconclusive.

Swaminathan Commission's recommendation goes, Pandher said that the government was giving a price according to "A2 plus FL" formula. "Under the same formula, an ordinance can be brought," he said. On the issue of farm debt waiver, Pandher said the loan amount has to be assessed. The government can collect data from banks in this regard, he said adding, "It is a question of political will power."

On the fifth day of their 'Delhi Chalo' march - called by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha - the farmers stayed put at the Shambhu and Khamauri points of the Punjab-Haryana border as they press the Centre to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee to minimum support price (MSP) for crops. Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher on Saturday demanded that the Centre should

bring an ordinance on giving a legal guarantee to MSP, a key demand of protesting farmers. Stating that the Centre has a right to take "political" decisions, Pandher said, "If the government wants resolution of farmers' protest, then it should bring an ordinance with an immediate effect that it will enact a law on MSP, then discussion can proceed further."

"(Centre) can bring the ordinance overnight, if it wants so," he added. Speaking to reporters at the Shambhu border, Pandher said as far as the issue of modalities is concerned, any ordinance has a six-month validity. As far as the demand for "C2 plus 50 per cent" as per the

Kamal Nath Reacts To Speculation Over Possible BJP Switch

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Amid speculation that he could cross over to the BJP, senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath arrived in the national capital Saturday afternoon and said if there would be any such thing, he would inform the media first.



Kamal Nath at 10.30 pm yesterday, he is in Chhindwara. "A person who started his political journey and stood with the Nehru-Gandhi family when Indira Gandhi was sent to jail by the Janata Party, do you think such a person will ever leave Congress and the Gandhi family?" Mr Singh said.

In his brief interaction with reporters, he asked them not to get excited.

Asked if he is joining the BJP, Mr Nath said, "If there would be any such thing, I would inform you first." When a reporter asked if he was not denying a possible switch, Mr Nath said, "It is not about denying, you are saying this, you people are getting excited. I am not getting excited, this side or that side; but if there would be any such thing, I would inform you first." Over the past few days, Mr Nath had been on a tour of his bastion Chhindwara, from where he had been an MP for nine terms. His son Nakul Nath won the seat in the 2019 polls, even as the BJP swept the remaining 28 seats in the state.

Kamal Nath is not to be disgruntled over not getting a Rajya Sabha berth and also Rahul Gandhi being opposed to him since the party lost the assembly polls late last year. Mr Nath was replaced as the party's Madhya Pradesh unit chief following its rout in the assembly polls, in which the BJP retained power winning 163 seats in the 230-member House. The Congress managed to win just 66 seats.

Activist Sharjeel Imam's Bail Plea Rejected By Delhi Court

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A court here on Saturday dismissed the plea of student activist Sharjeel Imam seeking bail because he had been in custody for the last four years, which was more than half of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence.



The court directed to continue Sharjeel Imam's custody, saying the present case was "different" from other cases because of the nature of allegations against Sharjeel Imam and his "disruptive activities." Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai was hearing Sharjeel Imam's plea seeking bail under 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), saying he was in custody since January 28, 2020, while the maximum sentence for the offence under Section 13 (punishment for unlawful activities) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act is seven years if convicted.

ple and ultimately triggered the communal riots in different parts of Delhi.

According to CrP Section 436-A, a person can be released from custody if he has spent more than half of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence.

It said, "The contents of the speeches clearly show that the applicant incited the public to do chhaka jams and block the cities. Particularly, in the speech dated January 16, 2020, as delivered at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), the applicant said that if a particular number of people are organised, the North-East part of the country can be permanently or temporarily cut." Sharjeel Imam also created a WhatsApp group, 'Muslim students of JNU', to raise voice against Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens, besides drafting and distributing pamphlets to incite the members of a particular community against CAA/NRC, the court said. The court said although Sharjeel Imam did not ask anybody to pick the weapons and kill the people, his speeches and activities mobilised the public which disrupted the city and might have been the main reason for the outbreak of riots.

The court, however, underlined that according to the provision, an accused's custody could be extended for a further period in "exceptional circumstances" after hearing the prosecution's case.

"Further, through inflammatory speeches and social media, the applicant skillfully manipulated the real facts and incited the public to create havoc in the city. Further, the words used by the applicant in his different speeches were so powerful that they captured the minds of the people of a particular community and incited them to take part in disruptive activities which finally resulted in the riots," it said.

"Keeping in view the alleged acts of the applicant (Sharjeel Imam), the court is of the view that the facts in the case in hand are not normal and different than the facts which in any other case could be," the court said.

"Considering the allegations against the applicant and his disruptive activities, the court deems it appropriate not to consider the relief as prayed for and to continue his custody," it added.

Filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi Jailed For 2 Years In Cheque Bounce Case

Agencies

A court in Jamnagar in Gujarat on Saturday sentenced renowned filmmaker Rajkumar Santoshi to two years in jail and also directed him to pay Rs 2 crore to the complainant in a cheque return case.



Santoshi, a director, producer and scriptwriter, is well known for action blockbusters like 'Ghalyat' and 'Ghatak', the court drama 'Damini' and the iconic comedy film 'Andaz Apna Apna'. Senior Civil Judge VJ Gadvi sentenced Santoshi to two years in jail and asked him to pay Rs 2 crore to the complainant, which is double the amount he had taken from

the latter. The court then allowed Santoshi's appeal for a 30-day stay on the order to allow him to appeal in a higher court. Ashok Lal, an industrialist, in his complaint, said he had lent Rs 1 crore to

Santoshi to produce a film against which the filmmaker gave him 10 cheques of Rs 10 lakh each. When the 10 cheques returned due to lack of funds in the bank account, Lal issued him a legal notice under provisions of Negotiable Instruments Act and approached court in 2017 after Santoshi failed to return the money. "Subsequently, the accused applied to transfer the case filed against him to a Mumbai court, which was challenged by the complainant in the sessions court. The sessions court directed that all cases against Santoshi be heard in the Jamnagar," Lal's lawyer Piyush Bhojani said. The court then issued summonses against the filmmaker but he failed to respond to it. When Santoshi did not appear in the Jamnagar court despite summonses, it issued a bailable warrant against him which he made an appearance, Bhojani said.

Pregnant Woman Gang-Raped, Set On Fire In Madhya Pradesh

Press Trust of India

Morena: A 34-year-old pregnant woman was allegedly raped by three men and set on fire in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, and is battling for her life in a hospital, police said on Saturday.



The victim, who sustained 80 per cent burns, is undergoing treatment in Gwalior, an official said. The incident occurred in Chand Ka Pura village, around 3 km from Ambah town, on Friday, he said. The victim went to the village to work out a compromise with a woman who had accused her husband of rape, inspector Alok Parihar of Ambah police station told PTI. The victim was, however, allegedly raped by three men who were present in the woman's house. Later, the trio and the accused

woman poured fuel on her and set her ablaze, the official said. A video has been shared with the police in which the victim, being rushed to a hospital in a vehicle, is heard saying that she was first gang raped, and then the accused woman and the men had set her ablaze, he said.

The victim's husband, who is out on bail in the rape case, has handed the video to the police, Parihar said. While the victim has recorded her statement with the magistrate, the police were yet to record her statement, he said, adding that the investigations are underway.

Water Transport Revival Under Srinagar Smart City Project

Jhelum Houseboat Owners Demand Rehabilitation

Srinagar: In anticipation of the revival of water transport in the Jhelum River under the Srinagar Smart City project, houseboat owners along the river Jhelum have expressed both appreciation for the initiative and concern for the safety of their livelihoods. While welcoming the government's decision, they have raised demands for the rehabilitation of houseboats to safer locations.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Ghulam Qadir Gasi, 57, spokesperson for the Houseboat Owners River Jhelum, emphasized the necessity of relocating the houseboats to safer areas before the inauguration of water transport.

Gasi highlighted the vulnerability of the houseboats along the Rajbagh to Lal Mandi stretch, stating that they are ill-equipped to handle the high and continuous tide generated by motor-operated boats.

"We are hopeful that the revival of water transport in Jhelum will bring new opportunities, but it is crucial that the safety of our houseboats is ensured," said Gasi. Gasi underscored the risks posed by strong waves to the stability of the houseboats, warning of potential damages to their bottoms and structures. Gasi stressed that relocation to safer places is essential to protect livelihoods and preserve the heritage of the houseboat community.

"We are registered houseboat owners with the government and there are

many families who live in the houseboats, if something untoward happens who will be held responsible for that. So we urge the government to rehabilitate us to better places."

Mohammad Anees, another commercial houseboat owner, voiced similar concerns, highlighting the dangers posed by the waves generated by water transport. Anees emphasized the importance of government intervention to address the demands of the houseboat owners, asserting that houseboats are integral to

We are hopeful that the revival of water transport in Jhelum will bring new opportunities, but it is crucial that the safety of our houseboats is ensured

Kashmir's tourism industry. Houseboats are the backbone of tourism in Kashmir. Before 2000, there were fewer hotels, and most of the tourists would stay in these houseboats. There is no tourism in Kashmir without houseboats, and the government should come up with a policy directed at rehabilitating us; that is our only legal demand," Anees said.



CEO J&K Organizes One Day Media Workshop Ahead Of LS Polls

Observer News service

Srinagar: In preparation for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections 2024, a one day workshop for media personnel was organized today at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Darul-Ilmi, Srinagar.

The program was attended by representatives of major news outlets of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

The participants were briefed about all the important aspects of media during the election process including spread of informa-

tion/ disinformation, fake news, media certification and monitoring committees. The representatives were also apprised about code of ethics for social media operation and regulations regarding poll day coverage.

Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole inaugurated the session and stressed upon the crucial role of Media as a watchdog for fair and transparent elections.

National level master trainers Chand Kishore Sharma and Riaz Ahmed Bhatt imparted training on several topics including Media centers, restrictions of exit and opinion polls, enforcement of MCC and other regulations.

Chief Electoral Officer J&K in his closing address apprised the participants on various election related aspects highlighting the need for a check on fake news and the role of media in ensuring a civil discourse both during and after the election processes.

He also emphasized upon the importance of maintaining good practices and transparency to ensure peaceful and fair elections.

DC Srinagar Chairs District Task Force Committee Meet

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to finalize the Action Plan and arrangements for smooth conduct of Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization Program (IPPI)-2024, a meeting of District

Task Force (DTF) Committee for was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a firsthand appraisal about the arrangements being put in place by the line Departments for smooth conduct of upcoming Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization Program (IPPI), 2024-25.

Higher Education Department Civil Secretariat, J&K

Subject:- Appointment of Assistant Professors, Economics in the Higher Education Department.
Reference: Letter No. PSC/DR-HE/AP-Economics/2023 dated 16-10-2023 from, the J&K Public Service Commission.

Government Order No. 79 -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 Professors (Economics) on regular temporary basis in the Pay Band of Rs. 15600-39100 with ACP Rs. 6000/- (Pre-revised) Academic Level-10 with pay structure of Rs. 57000/- in the Higher Education Department:-

S.No	Name Mr/Mrs.	Parentage	Address	Selection Category
1.	Aadil Ahmad Ganai	Nisar Ahmad Ganai	Ganiepora Ganiepora Shangus	OM
2.	Mudasar Ahad Bhat	Ab Ahad Bhat	617 Arpanthan Beerwah	OM
3.	Ajaz Ahmad Bhat	Gull Mohammad Bhat	0 Laro Kulgam	OM
4.	Syed Suhail Yaqoob	Mohammad Yaqoob Shah	23 Nazreenpora Nazreenpora	OM
5.	Mushtaq Ahmad Malik	Ghulam Ahmad Malik	276 Kitchama Narwan	OM
6.	Waseem Ahmad Parry	Gull Mohd Parry	01 Chanser Kulgam	OM
7.	Mohammad Shahid Zaman	Gulam Mohammad Bhat	House No 339 Batpora Naina Edgah Mahallah Shohora.	OM
8.	Khurshid Ahmed	Abdul Majid	87 Dandesar Nowsheera	PSP
9.	Mohd Irfan Rather	Gulam Mohd Rather	34 Wagam Wagam Chadoora	RBA
10.	Subash Kumar	Prehlad Kumar	10 Panditgam Nazla Sigdi Muqhal- maidan	RBA
11.	Priya Sharma	Om Parkash	R/O Khour Camp P/O Khour Khour	ALC/B
12.	Sandeep Kumar	Vir Singh	11 Village Draie P/O Chounary Gandoh	SC
13.	Shahid Shafi Sheikh	Mohd Shafi Sheikh	1 Markoot Gurez Gurez	ST
14.	Manzoor Ahmad Hajam	Habib Ullah Hajam	60 Rajpora Litter Shister Shahoora Litter	OM
15.	Nagina Kouser	Mohd Sadeeq	WPO Saaj Saaj Tehsil Thannamandi Rajour	OM
16.	Arshid Hussain Peer	Ghulam Mohammad Peer	Peer Mohallah Village Harwan Tehsil Borna Sopore	OM
17.	Abdul Raouf Wani	Mohammad Amin Wani	Lct15 Mukdampora Kokernag	RBA
18.	Abdul Rouf Badana	Bashir Ahmad Badana	13 Badana Mohalla Astarwali Tirthpora	ST
19.	Vishal Babu	Sham Lal	Khamba Jhanger Nowshera	SC
20.	Mehnaz Jan	Hussam Uin Din Akhoun	67 Near Ziyarat Shanef Malpora Kulgam	EWS

The candidates hailing from Kashmir Division shall report to the Nodal Principal, A.S College, Srinagar and candidates hailing from Jammu Division shall report to the Nodal Principal, GCW, Parade, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance 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 SPO-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 only 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 form of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956.

The appointment of the candidates shall remain provisional till such time 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 candidate(s) 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.
No. HED-GAZ/347/2023-04(7322226)

DIPK-16566/23
Dated: 16-02-2024
Annexure-A to the Government Order No. 79 -JK(HE) of 2024
Dated: 16.02.2024
AFFIDAVIT

I/ _____ Sd/-
(Alok Kumar), IRS
Principal Secretary to the Government
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.

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

- TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452922, 2455883
- POD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 1800180701
- SAC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

- RAILWAYS
- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
 - ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
 - BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
 - BIBHERA: 01932-228243
 - PAMPORE: 01933-294132
 - PATTAN: 01954-293507
 - QAZIGUND: 01951-291653

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 5: 52
ZUHR 12:45
ASR 4: 37
Magrib 6: 19
ISHA 7: 41

HIJRI CALENDAR
07 Shaban
1445

This Day In History

- 1930- US astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovers Pluto
- 1932- Japan declares Manchuria independent
- 1951- Nepal becomes a constitutional monarchy
- 1965- The Gambia becomes independent from the United Kingdom
- 1974- NASA launches Italian satellite San Marcos C-2 (235/843 km)
- 1977- Space Shuttle above a Boeing 747 goes on its maiden flight
- 1979- NASA launches space vehicle S-202
- 1979- President Zia ur-Rahman's National Party wins elections in Bangladesh
- 2003- Comet C/2002 VI (NEAT) makes perihelion, seen by SOHO.
- 2003- Nearly 200 people die in the Daegu subway fire in South Korea
- 2004 - Up to 295 people, including nearly 200 rescue workers, die near Neysabur in Iran when a run-away freight train carrying sulfur, petrol and fertiliser catches fire and explodes.

From KO Archives

Earthquakes: A Monster Is Lurking Beneath Kashmir, Say Experts

Shafa at Rasool

Srinagar: Kashmir may not always be a spectator to the quakes of the Earth, as meteorological experts believe that we may witness a massive earthquake, registering above 8 on the Richter scale, in future. Nobody knows when it can be tomorrow or after a hundred years. But contrary to the locally held belief that Kohistan and other hills of volcanic origin may erupt, the danger is mainly due to the tectonic activity in the entire Himalayan region; from the Hindukush in the west to Sadiya hills in the east.

The Indian Meteorological Department has already placed central and south Kashmir in the high risk Zone 6 of the seismic map of India. This signifies an extremely high probability of earthquakes of very high magnitudes. These dangers arise from the fact that the Indian peninsular plate is pushing itself in to the Eurasian plate at a rate of 6 cm per year and this is building up pressure in the entire Himalayan region, thus provoking tectonic activity. Earthquakes in this region are primarily the release of this pressure caused by the movement of plates deep within.

The point of worry is that the entire Himalayan region including Kashmir and western Nepal has experienced major earthquakes, thus releasing some of the tension. Experts say that an earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale is due in these two regions. Seismologists call an earth-quake of above 8 magnitudes as 'great'.

But no one knows when this will happen as there is absolutely no reliable forecasting method available at this time. "Although we have minor earthquakes here, as the one last year of 6.3 magnitude whose epicentre was in the Hindu-kush, but we have not experienced any great one in the last 180 to 900 years. By hypothesis and statistical prediction we can say that Kashmir may witness a severe earth-quake. But nobody knows when," says Srinagar-based senior meteorologist and Deputy Director Indian Meteorological Department, Srinagar.

Experts dismiss as myths the views about our recent volcanic activity in Kothi-Sulaiman and other hills in the valley. Prof. Muhammad Ismail Bhat, head of the geology and geo-physics department in University of Kashmir clarifies: "These public fears have no basis, we do not face any danger from these hills nor is there any question of some volcanic activity going on inside them." Studies have revealed that these hills came into being some 200 million years ago because of volcanic eruptions, and remained active for another 100 million years. They have shown no activity for the past 100 million years. The extensive media treatment of the causes behind earthquakes (after the Gujarat quake) has made terms like 'tectonic plates' and Richter Scale almost household words, and public awareness about earth's temperature has increased substantially. The fact that earthquakes cannot be predicted with pinpoint accuracy, leave alone prevented, is being accepted with philosophical stoicism. One point of comfort has emerged from this deluge of specialised information, and experts have put it across with admirable clarity: "Earthquakes do not kill people, buildings do. There lies the hope for people in regions prone to earthquakes, if governments wake up in time, that is."

(Kashmir Observer, 18 February, 2001)

It's Not Just Joe Biden's Memory That's Going - It's His Second Term Too

Joe Gill

You can hear the sound of panic in Democratic circles as it becomes increasingly clear that Joe Biden is not fit to run for a second term as president.

When the Justice Department report by special counsel Robert Hur last week described Biden as a "sympathetic, well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory", adding that his recollection was "hazy", "faulty" and "poor", all hell broke loose.

Hur's investigation into Biden's handling of classified documents acquitted him of wrongdoing but much more damaging was the description of his mental capacity. No sooner had the report been released than the entire liberal media establishment went into overdrive with confected outrage to deflect and dismiss the threat the report posed to his second term.

"Democrats throughout the nation are panicking at all levels... [they] don't want to lose the power they have and they definitely don't want Donald Trump back in office," Democrat strategist Hank Schienkopf told the BBC.

But the liberal media's desperate attempts to defend the genocide-enabling presidency of Biden cannot hide or gloss how "significantly limited" the 81-year-old's mental capacity is.

The report's findings could not have come at a worse time. Even for a president famous for his gaffes and senior moments, last week saw Biden claim to have spoken to two long-dead world leaders and state that another was a president from another continent.

At the end of an unscheduled press conference called to refute the claims in the report, Biden referred to President Sisi of Egypt as "president of Mexico".

A day earlier, Biden mixed up the dead and the living, claiming to have spoken to Francois Mitterand, the late president of France, at a recent G7 meeting, and Helmut Kohl, the late chancellor of Germany, in 2021, four years after Kohl died.

How long can this unseemly, cruel pantomime go on for? For the Demo-

cratic elite, the answer is at least until he is securely re-elected and their sinecures are safe.

In truth, Biden doesn't so much recall past events as conjure up events that never happened, or mix up recent events with much older ones. But according to one pro-Biden pundit, his cognitive impairment doesn't matter as long as the president's aides are in charge. "Well, if [Biden is] controlled by advisers, is that unacceptable? If the advisers are making good decisions? Reagan was pretty senile and controlled by advisers. Everybody's forgotten this, but the accounts of his mental state are harrowing. Nobody cared because the results were fine."

How long can this unseemly, cruel pantomime go on for? For the liberal press and Democratic elite, the answer is at least until he is securely re-elected and their sinecures are safe.

In case the general public begins to think that Biden has lost it, the Guardian's chief opinion writers came to the rescue. Under the headline 'Lest we forget: one confuses names, and the other led a coup', Marina Hyde admitted that Biden's recent public appearances are full of unforced errors, or not being able to find his way off the stage, while insisting that Trump will be "infinitely worse". Tell that to a Palestinian mother grieving a child killed by Biden's bombs in Gaza.

Some may feel sympathy for Biden, but not Arab-American voters who have seen him use emergency powers to hand over lethal weaponry to Israel for its war in Gaza, where more than 35,000 Palestinians are dead or missing, and almost 70,000 injured, probably the highest civilian casualty rate this century. Not for nothing is he labelled "Genocide Joe" at mass pro-Palestine protests across America every week.

Keep Biden

At the moment the praetorian guard of the presidency and its outsiders are trying to limit the damage by accusing Hur, a Republican, of overstepping his jurisdiction by providing a neurological assessment of the president, and ac-



“The report's findings could not have come at a worse time. Even for a president famous for his gaffes and senior moments, last week saw Biden claim to have spoken to two long-dead world leaders and state that another was a president from another continent.”

only have themselves to blame for this election year imbroglio.

Let's not forget that Biden has pursued a policy of arming Israel in its war of annihilation against the Palestinians of Gaza, bombing militias in Iraq, Syria and the Houthis in Yemen, spending \$111bn on arms and aid for Ukraine - plus a new \$80bn package - against Russia, and challenging China in the South China Sea. Neither Ukraine nor the Gaza war are popular and even without the latest neurological crisis, Biden's polling was falling behind Trump.

Dean Phillips, a Democratic congressman and presidential hopeful, said the Hur report had "all but handed Trump the presidency." The report simply affirms what most Americans already know that the president cannot continue to serve as our commander in chief beyond his term ending 20 January 2025.

Right-wing Republican presidential hopeful Vivek Ramaswamy said: 'Joe Biden will not be the nominee. I said this last year, people dismissed it as some type of conspiracy theory. Today I think it became that much more obvious.'

King Biden

In case anyone doubts that Biden's mental condition has deteriorated, just take a look at how clear and confidently he spoke in a CNN interview in 2016, with an easy mastery of his subject - eight years from how he is now. There's none of his doddering, somewhat confused manner that we have seen so many times in recent months.

The US presidential system has elements that resemble a constitutional monarchy, including a great deal of reverence for the president, and a lot of courtly hangers on and officials whose job it is to defend the presidency at all costs.

In other ways the US increasingly resembles a corrupt presidential republic where an ageing head of state is visibly declining but the system is determined to keep him in office. Rather like Algeria's former president Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was put forward to stand for a fifth term despite being unable to walk, rarely seen publicly, and

almost catatonic.

But then, the Algerian people rose up against this move by "le pouvoir" and Bouteflika was forced to step down.

For more radical critics, the question of Biden is immaterial. The imperial presidency is a facade and it doesn't matter who is in charge because the permanent bureaucracy runs everything. To a degree the Trump presidency almost proved this: his most outlandish ideas were often blocked, and his limited attempt to end the forever wars were stymied by the military establishment.

What Democrats ought to do is to convince Biden to announce he won't run, allow genuine primaries between now and June, and find a new candidate.

Biden and Trump are both elderly, and we will be told repeatedly that Biden is fine and if he misspeaks it's within the "normal range" and Trump is no different. Trump is also gaffe-prone and speaks his own weird form of semi-literate English, but he's a youth at the height of his powers compared to Biden.

And there are genuine reasons to fear that Trump will seek to turn America's broken, money-controlled "democracy" into a one-man dictatorship. But that's not a sufficient reason for voters to back a discredited, mentally declining Biden.

As ever, the Democratic establishment, rather than offer a genuine alternative to a presidency that primarily serves corporate donors and the military-industrial complex, would rather have a coronation of an 81-year-old with an ever-diminishing ability to know who he's talking to.

What they ought to do is to convince Biden to announce he won't run, allow genuine primaries between now and June, find a new candidate, and face Trump with fresh blood. All possible - after all the Soviet Union managed to find Mikhail Gorbachev after three ageing leaders died in office.

Most probably, the Democratic elite, like the 19th-century royal court, will do everything to keep Biden in place and go down in flames to Trump in November.

Middle East Eye

In Pakistan, we think we know China - a friend of Pakistan's and now a super-economy moving faster than all other economies to grab the maximum share of global wealth. But we know little about the Chinese struggle, their sacrifices and hard work to reach this level.

There is also little knowledge here about Chinese civilisation, culture and historical background, and the tremendous efforts of the people of China to pull themselves out of absolute poverty. Several generations sacrificed their lives for the progress of their country and the nation. This is something we all must know about China, now a super-power competing with high-tech economies, all the while helping poor economies by offering them both investment and technology.

There is a serious need to understand the Chinese economic model instead of simply raising slogans to adopt it here in Pakistan. We have experienced Western economic models but the country has remained under economic crises for most of the time since its inception. It is debatable whether the Western economic models have failed or we, the Pakistanis, have failed them. However, one thing is clear: economies need to have very deep roots in the culture of a country. We need detailed research to find out how China defeated the most developed countries with ever-growing new technologies.

A recent book by Pakistani author delves into China's culture and history to try and explain its economic model, along with the current regional and global political economy.

Belt and Road Initiative: Emerging World Order by Professor Dr. Talat Ayesha Wizarat provides diverse information and analysis about the Chinese economy, particularly the concept of connectivity and cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Despite being a neighbouring country and being the host of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the flagship of the BRI, there has been very little research work carried out in Pakistan to develop an under-

standing about the Chinese economy.

Dr Wizarat, an academic, researcher and writer, has provided in-depth information about China, particularly for Pakistanis, with credible research work. Her book includes a lot of references and views and is a wealth of knowledge and understanding. The writer discusses both the country's thriving economy and the opposition to China by Western developed economies. When China started moving towards capitalism from communism in 1978 under Deng Xiaoping, many think tanks in the West were sure that the country would not survive - as happened in the Soviet Union later - but the Chinese proved them wrong. On the contrary, China's progress and prosperity went well beyond the imagination of the West.

"China has overtaken the US in many areas of importance for the world economy," writes Dr Wizarat. "It is estimated that between 2030 and 2035, China will emerge as the largest economy, in spite of the damage caused by Covid-19. If BRI gains momentum, this development might occur sooner than expected."

She discusses in detail the Silk Road. The actual Silk Route was spread over more than 7,000 miles. The distance travelled over the seas was in addition to this. The Silk Road connected all major regions of the world, creating livelihoods for millions of people. Dr Wizarat predicts that the soft power of China will grow further but warns it is not taken as a threat by its rival states.

However, she is also well aware of the apprehensions of the West as regards China. She quotes Western scholar Robert P. Kaplan's view about the balance of power changing against the West, particularly in the Indian Ocean region. The rising power of China has

causing him of partisanship.

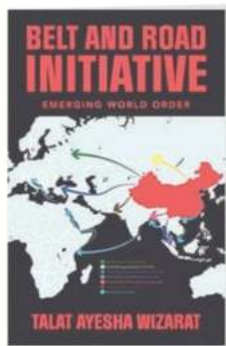
"We do not believe that the report's treatment of President Biden's memory is accurate or appropriate," said a White House spokesperson. He accused Hur of using "highly prejudicial language to describe a commonplace occurrence among witnesses - a lack of recall of years old events."

The establishment hacks are acting like Biden is the king and the laws of less majesty that apply to his royal highness have been broken.

But the Democratic establishment

The Rise Of China

Shahid Iqbal



Belt and Road Initiative: Emerging World Order
By Dr Talat Ayesha Wizarat
Partridge Publishing Singapore
ISBN: 978-1-5437-7372-9
246pp.

sent shockwaves all over the Western world, although China's rise has so far been peaceful. Even in the historical context, China has largely been a peaceful state.

Some Western scholars believe that creating a fear of China is nothing more than an effort to create unity among Western countries. According to this view, it has become increasingly difficult to bring the US, European states and Australia on one page and antipa-

thy towards China helps cement their alliance. Racial dimensions also make it impossible for Western countries to digest the emergence of China as a major power.

However, Dr Wizarat does not miss discussing the development of the Chinese navy. She points out that the Chinese navy has adopted a proactive and assertive role. It is feared among Western countries that China is looking to replace Western maritime domination and is heading towards becoming a supreme power.

Dr Wizarat never hesitates to promote China's global views and criticise Western approaches towards China. It is a fact that the Western media never forgets to criticise China for its assertive role while it has failed to recognise similar fast technological advancement with aggressive economic development in its own sphere.

China has also become a world production house, as billions of dollars are being invested in China by Western companies. These companies are earning huge profits through investments while their parent countries are out to prove that China has evil plans to replace Western development.

The book details China's plans for the economic development of the countries under the BRI. It also discusses CPEC. Dr Wizarat pins great hope on Chinese investment in Pakistan and believes it will bring vital changes with economic prosperity. It seems difficult to accept her views in their entirety, but the way she explains her point to the readers is appreciable.

"The establishment of Gwadar in the 21st century is a momentous development, which is expected to shape the destiny of Pakistan and the other states of the world," writes Dr Wizarat.

She believes that, after acquiring access to Gwadar, China is no longer just a Pacific power. Direct access to the Indian Ocean has made China a two-ocean power. The linkage to the royal court, geographical distance between China, its markets and sources of raw material.

China and Pakistan consider this to be a great economic asset that is mutually beneficial, but the US and India, along with other countries, fear it will further enhance the economic power of China in the region.

The author asserts that China is helping developing countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Iran, Bangladesh and the like to develop their ports. She writes that the network of ports developed by China are often referred to as a "string of pearls."

These ventures are commercial in nature but, according to Dr Wizarat, the Washington Post incorrectly labelled it as a "Chinese Security Paradigm." While Dr Wizarat comprehensively discusses the Chinese approach for the BRI and rivalries of the West, she writes that the Modern Maritime Silk Road (MMSR) is highly important for China, since the BRI depends upon the success of the MMSR.

China's adversaries, mainly the US, UK, India and Australia, also regard the MMSR to be a crucial factor in determining the success of the BRI. She believes that this is the reason they are devising policies to target the various dimensions of the BRI.

The book covers a number of topics and issues. It is a must-read to gain a good understanding of the BRI and relevant geopolitical issues directly related to the economies involved. The treatise has enough substance to be appreciated and is particularly of high importance for students hoping to understand China and its economic model, along with the regional and global political economy.

However, at the end, the reader may be left feeling that the book may offer more of a Chinese version than an independent one.

Dawn

Embracing Beauty and Change!

Kashmir Relies Heavily On Snow Melting For Its Water Supply, And Less Snowfall May Result In Lower Water Levels In Rivers And Lakes

Dr. Shahid Amin

Kashmir has always been well-known for its stunning beauty and the simple joys that define living in the area. Recollections from my early years in Kashmir are a delightful combination of fondness, companionship, and a profound sense of unity. An essential aspect of this intriguing mixture is the magical arrival of snow, which impacts the lives of the people living there, especially the lovely children.

The onset of snowfall in Kashmir is not just a shift in weather; it is a festive event profoundly ingrained in the local customs. Children eagerly await the first snowfall, turning the landscape into a snowy playground. Kids giggle while engaging in snowball fights and building snowmen, creating cherished memories. However, the sad reality is that snow-

fall has decreased, turning what was once a frequent event into a rare and incredible occurrence. Let us be serious: Climate change presents a notable danger since increasing temperatures are changing the fragile equilibrium of ecosystems in the valley. Fast urban growth has begun to cause habitat degradation and soil erosion, putting Kashmir's diverse range of plants and animals at risk. Furthermore, pollution caused by industries and vehicle emissions has increased like anything. It threatens the health of the environment and the people living in the valley.

We should not take it lightly that the snowfall reduction changes Kashmir's appearance and affects its water sources. Kashmir relies heavily on snow melting for its water supply, and less snowfall may result in lower water levels in rivers and lakes. It may mean the summer will

be full of water crises if the situation continues. This has also resulted in a growing acknowledgement of the importance of water conservation. As we witness decreased snow results, we must acknowledge our role in this natural shift. As a society, we have engaged with nature in harmful ways, and now it seems that nature is responding unfavorably to us.

In the middle of the significant hurdles, however, there is optimism. Basic yet efficient steps can be made to reduce the extent of environmental damage and protect the natural beauty of Kashmir for future generations. More afforestation is the need of the time. There is a need to adopt sustainable development practices to ensure progress does not harm the environment. In addition, strict rules can be implemented to reduce pollution from industry and cars while encouraging re-



newable energy alternatives. Education and awareness initiatives enable local populations to take care of their environment, promoting a feeling of duty and satisfaction in the natural heritage of Kashmir. Through combined effort and collaborative action, we can protect the beauty and abundance of our

land, guaranteeing that its magnificence continues for future generations.

Dr. Shahid Amin is Associate Professor, School of Management and Commerce, ITM University Gwalior and is an IIMA Alumnus and can be reached at dr.shahidamin15@gmail.com



What languages dominate the internet?

RUSSELL BRANDON

It's estimated that around 63% of living humans now have access to the internet, which would put the number of digitally connected people at just over 5 billion in sum. Those people come from all across the planet, and potentially speak thousands of different languages. If you search, you can find hundreds of languages online, from Urdu to Catalan.

But some languages are harder to find than others. Rest of World turned to W3Techs, a web-scanning firm based in Austria, to count all of the publicly accessible web addresses on the internet to get hard numbers on the discrepancy. Our data shows that a little more than half the sites on the web use English as their primary language. That's a lot more than one might expect, given that native English speakers only make up just under 5% of the global population. Meanwhile, Chinese and Hindi are the second and third most-spoken languages in the world, but the same scan found they account for just 1.4% and 0.07% of domains, respectively.

Because the internet is so vast, the data comes with caveats and blind spots (detailed below), but the scan still reveals massive imbalances in language use. Languages like Bengali and Urdu, each spoken by hundreds of millions of people, are nearly impossible to find online.

W3Techs primarily tracks programming languages used online. It regularly scans publicly available domains and categorizes them by language, providing



real-time reports for interested clients.

We compared the W3Techs data with spoken-language figures from a survey by Ethnologue, a nonprofit widely considered the world authority on language use.

Combined, the two data sets suggest significant over- and under-representation. English, German, and Japanese command a much larger portion of the internet than they do among native speakers.

By contrast, many non-European languages hardly exist on the internet at all.

For some international groups, these discrepancies are an ominous sign for the future. As early as 2003, UNESCO was urging the public and private sectors to maintain online content in the full range of human languages. But as the web has grown, the gap between spoken language and what's used on the internet has only grown.

Bhanu Neupane, a program manager at UNESCO who works with language inequity, told Rest of World we might be moving towards a world where only a handful of languages are meaningfully present online. "The world is converging," Neupane said. "And after 15 years, there could be just five or 10 languages that are prominently spoken and used in business and online. So we're very con-

cerned about this."

Surveys of the problem vary, but UNESCO's own assessment is consistent with the W3Techs results, showing only 14 languages present on more than 1% of domains.

There are a few caveats you should keep in mind regarding this data set: The data comes from scans of publicly available websites, so anything that is behind a login is probably going uncounted, which includes apps and social networks. (This quirk suggests the scans may be undercounting the Chinese internet, in particular, although it's hard to know by how much.) Even within web-accessible social networks like Reddit, the scans aren't designed to go through every page of a domain, which means they may be undercounting non-English communities on English-language sites. There are more details here, but the data should be read as a broad survey of websites, not a precise measurement.

Having said that, the bigger picture is hard to miss. Millions of non-native English speakers and non-English speakers are stuck using the web in a language other than the one they were born into. And since publicly available text on the internet is now often being used to train large language models like Bard and GPT-4, it suggests we're already building the same imbalance into technology's next frontier: artificial intelligence.

Russell Brandon is the U.S. Tech Editor at Rest of World.

The Dark Side Of Wildlife Selfies

Harmful Human-Wildlife Interactions

The Conversation

One of the biggest privileges of being a primatologist is spending time in remote locations with monkeys and apes, living near these animals in their habitats and experiencing their daily lives. As a 21st-century human, I have an immediate impulse to take pictures of these encounters and share them on social media.

Social media can help scientists raise awareness of the species we study, promote their conservation and obtain jobs and research funding. However, sharing images of wild animals online can also contribute to illegal animal trafficking and harmful human-wildlife interactions. For endangered or threatened species, this attention can put them at further risk.

My research seeks to find ways for scientists and conservationists to harness the power of social media while avoiding its pitfalls. My colleague, ecologist and science communicator Cathryn Freund, and I think we have some answers. In our view, wildlife professionals should never include themselves in pictures with animals. We also believe that featuring infant animals and animals interacting with unusual hosts viewers to think about these creatures in ways that are counterproductive to conservation.

Show and tell?

Many conservation biologists are thinking hard about what role social media can and should play in their work. For example, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Section on Human-Primate Interactions has issued guidelines for how to use images of wild primates and how to conduct

primate watching tours. These guidelines recommend that when scientists show photos of themselves with a wild primate, the caption should state that the person in the image is a trained researcher or conservationist. However, there isn't much data assessing whether this approach is effective.

We wanted to test whether people actually read these captions and whether informative captions helped curb viewers' desires to have similar experiences or to own the animal as a pet.

In a study published in 2023, my colleagues and I created two mock Instagram posts one showing a human near a wild gorilla, the other focusing on a gloved human hand holding a slender loris a small lemurlike primate native to Southeast Asia. Half of these photos carried basic captions like Me with a mountain gorilla or Me with my research subject.



the other half included more detailed captions that also stated, All animals are observed (gorilla) or captured and handled (loris) safely and humanely for research with the proper permits and training.

We showed over 3,000 adults one of these mock Instagram posts and asked them to complete a survey. The results shocked us.

Viewers who saw the Instagram posts with the more detailed caption recognised that the picture depicted research. But regardless of the caption, more than half of the viewers agreed or strongly agreed that they would want to seek out a similar experience with the loris or gorilla.

Over half of the viewers agreed or strongly agreed that they would

want these animals as pets and that the animals would make good pets. Presumably, participants did not know anything about the animals' life habits, behaviour or survival needs, or that neither of these species is at all suited to be a pet.

Why media impact matters

While these responses may sound merely sentimental or naive, research shows that particularly social media contribute to harmful human encounters with wildlife and to the exotic pet trade.

For example, the Harry Potter films and books, which featured owls as magical creatures used by wizards, led to a sharp increase in the illegal owl trade in Indonesia. Owls once were collectively known in Indonesia as Burung Hantu, or ghost bird, but now in the country's bird markets they are commonly called Burung Harry Potter.

New Paper-Based Platform Can Rapidly Detect Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria

Press Trust of India

Researchers have developed a paper-based platform that can quickly detect the presence of antibiotic-resistant, disease-causing bacteria.

One of the greatest challenges facing the world is the rise of disease-causing bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. Their emergence has been fuelled by the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, the researchers said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), a handful of such bacteria – including E. coli and *Staphylococcus aureus* – have caused over a million deaths, and these numbers are projected to rise in the coming years.

Timely diagnosis can improve the efficiency of treatment, the researchers said.

“Generally, the doctor diagnoses the patient and gives them medicines. The patient then takes it for 2-3 days before realising that the medicine is not working and goes back to the doctor,” said Uday Maitra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.

“Even diagnosing that the bacteria is antibiotic-resistant from blood or urine tests takes time. We wanted to reduce that time to diagnosis,” Maitra said in a statement.

The latest research, published in the journal ACS Sensors, addressed this challenge by developing a rapid diagnosis protocol that uses a luminescent paper-based platform to detect the presence of

antibiotic-resistant bacteria. There are different ways by which a bacterium becomes resistant to antibiotics. In one, the bacterium evolves, and can recognise and eject the medicine out of its cell.

In another, the bacterium produces an enzyme called beta-lactamase, which hydrolyses or breaks down the beta-lactam ring – a key structural component of common antibiotics like penicillin and carbapenem – rendering the medication ineffective.

The approach developed by researchers at the IISc and Jawa-

haral Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Karnataka involves incorporating biphenyl-4-carboxylic acid (BCA) within a supramolecular hydrogel matrix containing terbium cholate (TbCh).

This hydrogel normally emits green fluorescence when ultraviolet (UV) light is shined on it.

In the lab, we synthesised an enzyme-substrate by tethering BCA to the cyclic (beta-lactam) ring that is a part of the antibiotic. When you mix this with TbCh hydrogel, there is no green emission as the sensitiser is “masked,”

said Arnab Dutta, a PhD student at IISc, and lead author of the research paper.

“In the presence of beta-lactamase enzyme, the gel will produce green emission. Beta-lactamase enzyme in the bacteria is the one that cuts open the drug, destroys, and unmask the sensitiser BCA. So, the presence of beta-lactamase is signalled by green emission,” Dutta said.

The luminescence signals the presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and the intensity of the luminescence indicates the bacterial load, the researchers said.

For non-resistant bacteria, the green intensity was found to be extremely low, making it easier to distinguish them from resistant bacteria, they said.

The next step was to find a way to make the technology inexpensive. Currently used diagnostic instruments are costly, which drives up the price for testing.

The team collaborated with a Tamil Nadu-based company called Adivvo Diagnostics to design a customised, portable and miniature imaging device, named Illuminate Fluorescence Reader.

Infusing the hydrogel in a sheet of paper as the medium reduced the cost significantly. The instrument is fitted with different LEDs that shine UV radiation as required, the researchers said.

Green fluorescence from the enzyme is captured by a built-in camera, and a dedicated software app measures the intensity, which can help quantify the bacterial load, they said.



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BEFORE THE HON'BLE

1. Common High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Srinagar.
2. Principal District Judge Srinagar
3. Jk Special Tribunal Samandar bagh Srinagar

In the case of:-
1) Irfan Bilal Dar S/o Ab-Ahad Dar
2) Abdul Razzak Dar S/O Ghulam Ahmad Dar
Residents of Bonpora, Batmaloo Srinagar

...Caveator

Versus
Public at large.

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of Section 148A CPC.

The caveators has reason to believe/apprehension that non caveators may file an suit /writ petition/revision or any other proceeding before this honble court on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked up story,therefore may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/expense part against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators may suffer an irreparable loss and injury which can't be compensated by any means later on,therefore it would be proper to put caveators on notice so that an opportunity of being heard is given to the caveators counsel Advocate. Mohammad Younus Bhat & Umar Bhat Advocate mobile no:- 6006673466 9682346477 before passing any such relief/order,hence this caveat application.

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From the office of Advocate Irfan Ul Rashid

In the case of :-
1. Maqsood Ahmad Guroo S/o Late Mohammad Ramzan Guroo
2. Fahmeeda Maqsood W/o Maqsood Ahmad Guroo
3. Tawfeeq Ahmad Guroo
S/o Maqsood Ahmad Guroo
Residents of Mansoor Colony Bemina near Masjid

...Caveators

Versus
Public at Large

...Non-Caveator

In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A

The caveators may have apprehension that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/ in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.

Sd/advocate
NJ

Office Of The Principal Govt. College For Women, Nawa Kadal SRINAGAR KASHMIR (J&K)

No: WCN/24/ 348 (NAAC Rc-Accredited Grade A+) - (CGPA- 3.27) /Tele-Fax: 0194-2503456 Dated:17/02/2024

TENDER NOTICE For Running College Canteen

Sealed tenders affixed with Rupees Ten Revenue Stamp are invited from License Holders / Experienced Persons preferably having experience of running College Canteen in any Govt. / Semi Govt. Institutions / Offices for the academic year 2024-2025.

The tender should reach the office of the undersigned by or before 29th February, 2024, supported with CDR of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) pledged to the Principal Govt. College for Women Nawakadal Srinagar.

The approved list of eatable items is available in the office along-with terms and conditions. The successful tenderer has to produce a Certificate of good moral character. Female tenderer will be given preference.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender / all tenders without assigning any reason.

Tenders will be opened on 04-03-2024 in presence of tenderers who wish to remain present at 2:00 PM in the Office Chambers of the undersigned.

DIPK-16614/23 dated: 17-02-2024

Prof. (Dr) Mohammad Farooq Mir
Principal
Govt. College For Women

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate .As per school records my DOB is 13-01-2010. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection 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.

Ayaan Bashir S/o Bashir Ahmad Paswal
R/o Uri Baramulla A/P Hamdaniya Colony Bemina

ni

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate .As per school records my DOB is 04-06-2008. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection 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.

Zara Khanam S/o Bashir Ahmad Paswal
R/o Uri Baramulla A/P Hamdaniya Colony Bemina

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From the office of Mr. Rayees Maqbool Bhat Advocate Jammu and Kashmir High Court

In the case of:
Mrs. Massarat Naz W/o Muneer Ahmad Lone R/o Bemina Srinagar

Vs
Public at Large

In the matter of: Caveat Application under section 148A of CPC

That the caveator apprehends that any person may file any suit or writ or application or appeal at the back of the caveator and may manage to get an Ex Parte order, therefore the caveator submit that in case of any petition, appeal, suit or application or any such proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble court by any person against the caveator, the caveator or the counsel of the caveator may be provided reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing of any order in the said petition. Otherwise the caveator may suffer an irreparable loss which can not be compensated by any means and same would be an abuse of process of court.

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Sd/-

فاتحہ خوانی

آہ... اکبر علی ڈار نہ رہے!!!

دادا دہ کریم کے اس فیصلے (موت) کے سامنے ہر شیے بے بس دلہا میں بلکہ موت انسانی نفقت کا ایک ام صہ ہے۔
آئے دن بنی نوع آدم سے کوئی نہ کو دنیا میں تعمیر کیے آئے کو چھوڑ کر اہریت کے ساتھ ملحق ہو جا رہا ہے۔

آج مورخہ 16 فروری 2024 بروز جمعہ المبارک دن اسی سلسلے کا ایک اور کڑی ہر دل عزیز **اکبر علی ڈار پاندر** شیخین سر بنگلہ نے بھی اہریت کا زنجیر کے اپنے عزیز واقارب کو داغِ مفارقت دے گئے۔

دادا دہ کریم ہر جوم کو جوار محمد آل محمد میں جگہ رحمت فرماتے۔

مرحوم کی **فاتحہ خوانی** 19 فروری 2024 بروز پیر ان کے آبائی قبرستان واقع ہائبر شیخین میں ٹھیک 07:45 اجام پڑھے ہوگی

پھر دن بھر امام بارگاہ پاندر شیخین میں تعزیتی مجالس جاری رہیں گے۔

سوگواران: برادرہ فرزند واقارب

5-Month-Old Baby Dies At CHC Kupwara; Family Alleges Negligence

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A five-month-old baby reportedly died at the Community Health Centre (CHC) Kupwara due to alleged medical negligence, with the family demanding an investigation into the matter.

Family members of the deceased infant informed the news agency that their baby passed away at CHC Kupwara due to medical negligence. They called for a thorough inquiry.

According to them, they initially brought the baby, who was suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting to the hospital on Friday afternoon. However, after being discharged in the evening, the baby's condition did not improve.

"On Saturday morning, we brought the baby back to the hospital, but there was no doctor available for treatment," they said.

They alleged that only after the baby's condition worsened, a doctor attended to him. "Even

then, he was not referred to another hospital," they said.

The government must order a thorough investigation to hold accountable any hospital staff found responsible for negligence.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohammad Shafi, the Medical Superintendent of the hospital, informed KNO that the baby received treatment from doctors at the hospital, including undergoing a USG (ultrasonography).

He said doctors attempted to intubate the baby as surgical intervention was deemed necessary. "But unfortunately, the baby passed away during the intubation process," he said.

Dr Shafi said referral would have been considered post-intubation, but the baby succumbed before that could happen.

The Medical Superintendent, however, assured that an investigative committee has been formed to probe the matter thoroughly and that strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty of negligence—(KNO)

DC Bandipora Calls On Religious Scholars To Combat Drug Abuse



KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: To review ongoing efforts and to address the challenges posed by substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking, a meeting of the District Level Committee under Marco Coordination Centre (MCCORD) was today held at Mini secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel Ul Rehman discussed in detail emerging trends, trafficking patterns of drug abuse, access to treatment and rehabilitation services, and enforcement measures besides other key issues.

The meeting also discussed threshold preventive strategies, including public awareness campaigns, community-based initiatives, and school programs aimed at deterring drug use and promoting healthy lifestyles.

The DC, on the occasion, asked the concerned to frame an ad-

vice calendar of activities to educate more people regarding the ill effects of drug abuse and to reach out to the vulnerable sections of the society.

He emphasized upon coordination of different departments and NGOs and asked the concerned agencies to conduct more effective awareness programs regarding ill effects of substance abuse and preventive measures in close coordination and involvement of PRIs.

Rather said that District Development Council Members and other public representatives have an active role to play to spread awareness at the grassroots level.

The DC impressed upon the Tehsilدارs and other concerned agencies to ensure that no tobacco product is sold near schools. He asked all the concerned stakeholders, including social welfare, health, education, and others, to implement joint efforts to make a drug free society.

Two Lakh Vegetable Seedlings To Be Distributed: Dir Agriculture



KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal on Saturday kick-started the 2nd phase of vegetable seedling distribution (including knol-khol, cauliflower seedlings) at Seed Multiplication Farm Gangub, Srinagar.

Two lakh seedlings of different vegetable crops are to be distributed among the farmers in this phase.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture appreciated the efforts of the concerned officers and officials of the farm and said that the department is vigorously pursuing the ambitious target of providing sufficient quantities of seedlings to the farming community of the region.

The Department has introduced many initiatives to ensure round the year availability of vegetable seedlings to the farmers, he added.

Director Agriculture marked the importance of diverse vegetable cultivation for the region. He said the strengthening

of vegetable cultivation in the region could play a vital role in achieving economic security to the farming community.

"Our climatic conditions are one of the most suitable in the country for the cultivation of vegetables (traditional, exotic) therefore to channelize this potential a collaborative approach is needed wherein both the farming community and the department has to come forward and work shoulder to shoulder," he further added.

Director Agriculture visited adjacent vegetable growing areas of Gangub and took stock of the vegetable crops cultivated on the latest scientific lines in the area.

He reiterated the department's commitment to the promotion of entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors. He said the department is working on a multi-dimensional plan to attract more and more educated youth towards agriculture and allied activities.

He assured the concerned farmers of every possible technical support from the department during their endeavors.

Massive Tree Plantation To Protect 'Hangul'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In order to protect the fragile environment of Kashmir's rare stag species known as the 'Hangul' a social enterprise has decided to plant over 1,25,000 plants in the habitat of this protected animal.

As the after-effects of climate change are adversely affecting not only the environment but also the rare and distinct wildlife in the Valley of Kashmir, there is an urgent need for intervention.

A social enterprise, Grow-trees.com has come forward to plant over 1,25,000 trees of various species in the habitat of the Hangul. Hangul is a subspecies of the Central Asian red deer found in the dense riverine forests of the Valley and mountains of Jammu and Kashmir and northern Himachal Pradesh.

"The initiative is aimed at an urgent intervention to prevent the population from going extinct. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has already classified the Hangul as Critically Endangered in the Red Data Book and placed the animal under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, highlighting the imminent risk of Hangul disappearing forever," said Pradip Shah, Co-Founder at Grow-trees.com.

He said that in response to the situation and to raise awareness about the need for Hangul conservation, the social enterprise Grow-trees.com, actively involved in afforestation projects in the country, has initiated the 'Trees for Hanguls' project. "This project aims to create a lasting and meaningful impact, focusing on the area around Pampore, in the periphery of the Dachi-



gam National Park, and serves multiple purposes," he said.

Shah said that by planting trees, the programme works towards restoring the Hangul's habitat, and as these trees mature, they offer vital ecological benefits such as carbon sequestration, a sustainable water supply, and a healthy source of nutrition for the Hangul. Afforestation also helps to fight climate change. "Studies indicate that human activities are among the major factors contributing to the decline in the Hangul population," Shah said.

He said that rising pollution, poaching, habitat fragmentation due to land use and climate change have had adverse effects on the ecosystem. "Planting trees is an effective measure to counteract these threats," he said.

He said that through the 'Trees for Hanguls' project, we aim to enhance the Hangul habitat by restoring ecosystems, providing essential ecological services, and fostering community engagement in conservation efforts.

Following a landscape-level

conservation planning model, the agency is implementing a strategic mix of coniferous and broadleaf species, such as Kail (Pinus wallichiana) and Apricot (Prunus armeniaca), to serve as a valuable food source for the Hanguls.

Additionally, Cypress (Cupressus torulosa) and Deodar Cedar (Cedrus deodara) have been included to provide ample shade and shelter. The project also features the planting of Apples (Malus pumila/ domestica), Pears (Pyrus communis L.), Quince (Cydonia oblonga), and Horse Chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum), contributing to the social impact by offering various benefits to the villagers residing around the planting site.

The greatest advantage of the 'Trees for Hanguls' is that the public can become a part of this initiative by gifting or purchasing a tree for Rs 85 through www.grow-trees.com.

"Once the trees reach maturity, the project will play a pivotal role in enhancing the Hangul habitat and fostering biodiversity within the ecosystem," Shah added.

Handicrafts Department Ramps Up GI Tagging

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The handicrafts department has intensified its GI tagging process as more than 34000 handicraft products have been labelled in the last two years.

As per the figures accessed by the news agency, a total of 3296 handicraft products including shawls, paper mache, walnut wood and others have been GI tagged in the last two years.

Data revealed in the first three quarters (April to December 31) of the year 2023, a total of 21392 handicrafts products have been GI tagged. Prior to that in the years 2022-23, 12904 handicrafts products were GI tagged by the handicrafts department.

Out of the 21392 handicrafts products GI tagged last year, a total of 11290 Pashmina shawls have been labelled. Data suggested that 4840 and 3596 Sozni and carpet, respectively, were also labelled last year. 577 Paper Machie, 286 Kani Shawl, 797 walnut wood, and 6 Khatamband were also GI tagged last year.



GI tagging is a recognition granted to products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation, or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin.

This recognition guarantees that customers are receiving genuine, high-quality products while also protecting traditional production techniques and adding value to the products.

As per an official document, Jammu and Kashmir has become the first Union Territory/State in India to issue QR-based labels for all its crafts.

Documents also revealed that the granting of GI tag has subsequently enhanced the exports of these two particular handicrafts in the last two years.

It said in the last four years handicrafts worth Rs 4,740 crore have been exported to various countries.

Official data revealed that handicrafts worth Rs. 1116.37 crore were exported in FY 2022-23 against Rs. 563.13 Crore in FY 2021-22.

An official of the handicrafts department said the production as well as the exports has increased post GI tagging approval for the handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The artisans got their due credit for their hard work with GI tagging. It has benefited the handicrafts sector as the producers get desired returns for their crafts and their products reach various corners of the world," he said—(KNO)

Chief Justice Visits District Court Kulgam, Reviews Functioning

KO NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice N Kottiswar Singh, today visited the District Court Complex Kulgam along with Administrative Judge for Kulgam district, Justice Sanjay Dhar.

The dignitaries were accompanied by various officers from Registry.

The Chief Justice along with the Administrative Judge visited the construction site of New Court Complex to take first hand information regarding progress on construction works being executed on the building. He was apprised by the officers of Housing Board through a detailed PowerPoint Presentation, about the present status of various ongoing works in the court complex building.

During the inspection, the

Chief Justice expressed satisfaction over the pace of progress and quality of work being carried out at the site. He stated that the new court complex in Kulgam is poised to address the growing demand for judicial services in the region and cater to the needs of the local populace on its account. After completion, the new court complex in Kulgam is expected to serve as a beacon of justice, facilitating the resolution of disputes and dispensation of justice in a fair and efficient manner, he maintained. He said that it will provide a conducive environment for legal proceedings, thereby enhancing access to justice for all citizens.

In his address, the Chief Justice emphasized the pivotal role of Judiciary in upholding the rule of law and ensuring equitable access to justice for

all citizens. He underscored the importance of the newly established court in extending legal services to remote areas, thereby bridging the gap between the law and the people it serves.

The Chief Justice directed the Managing Director J&K Housing Board to keep a provision for making a Vulnerable Witness Deposition Complex within the new under construction court building, besides establishing a crèche facility in there preferably in the ground floor with an attached wardroom.

Regarding construction of Lawyers Chambers, the Chief Justice directed for making available one video conferencing room for the lawyers. In addition, one consultation room should also be made available in the lawyers building so that the junior lawyers

RTO Kashmir Warns Govt Depts Against Hiring Private Vehicles

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir, Syed Sherpa, stated on Saturday that no government department can hire private vehicles and anyone found involved in such practice will be dealt with as per the law.

He emphasized that both the driver and the department will face legal consequences. "We have already issued a circular and warned treasury officers against such practice," he added.

RTO Kashmir was talking on the sidelines of the culmination of National Road Safety Month-2024 event at Dak Bungalow Baramulla. He said that during the National Road Safety Month-2024, the department focused on implementation rather than awareness.

"We chose to visit the field instead of remaining in the offices. We visited far-flung areas across Kashmir to implement road safety measures and directed drivers and owners of commercial vehicles not to violate the rules," he said.

The RTO Kashmir further mentioned that he has instructed all ARTOs to deal with traffic violators firmly. "If any commercial vehicle is violating traffic rules, I have directed all ARTOs to cancel its permit, so as to set an example," he added.

Earlier, the Motor Vehicles Department in Baramulla

marked the successful culmination of National Road Safety Month-2024 with a grand victory rally at Dak Bungalow Baramulla.

Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa presided over the event as the Chief Guest, while as Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bhukhari as the guest of honor.

The function was attended by various stakeholders including Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla, Muzammam Ali, and members from Transport Association of Suroo Stand, Bus stands from Baramulla, Sopore, Tangmarag, Pattan, Uri besides Students as the culmination function witnessed insightful discussions and commitments towards enhancing road safety measures.

DC urged all transporters, vehicle owners, drivers, conductors, travelers, and road users to strictly adhere to road safety and traffic rules, emphasizing that compliance is paramount in reducing road accidents and saving lives.

While speaking on the occasion, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bhukhari, announced the commencement of Enforcement Month aiming to intensify efforts through targeted enforcement actions and awareness campaigns, fostering a culture of responsible driving and reducing accidents. (KNO)

Handicrafts Dept Organizes Exhibition Camp At Kupwara

KO NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom today organized a day long exhibition cum awareness camp at Town Hall Kupwara.

The programme, presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, was also attended by CO Lt. Col Rajiv, AD Handicrafts & Handloom Kupwara, Mohammad Yousaf Lone, Handicrafts Training Officer, Reyaz Ahmad Yattoo, besides a huge number of artisans, weavers and trainees.

The DDC enjoined upon the departments to take on board the interested women folk so that they can avail benefits of various government schemes.

She also encouraged the participants to come forward and share benefits of the schemes.

DC said that Kashmiri handicrafts are known for their beauty, intricate designs, high quality and craftsmanship, which results in strong demand both domestically and internationally. The demand for them speaks to their quality and unique cultural appeal. Additionally tourism plays a significant role in driving demand as visitors often seek out these handmade items as souvenirs or gifts, she added.

Floriculture Dept Revises Entry Fee For All Parks, Gardens



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The visitors will have to pay Rs 75 per head to enter into Asia's largest Tulip Garden as the government has revised the entry fee of all parks and gardens being maintained by the Department of Floriculture.

As per an order issued by the Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Sheikh Fayaz Ahmad, reads that sanction is hereby accorded to the revision of Entry Fee/Tickets of All Gardens and Parks being maintained by the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks.

As per the revised entry fee, adults visiting all parks and gardens (except Tulip Garden and Children Park Hazuri Bagh, Srinagar) will have to pay Rs 30 each while the children below 12 years of age will have to pay

Rs 15 per head.

Both children as well as their adult guardians will have to pay Rs 10 each. AS per the revised entry fee, the adults will have to pay Rs 75 each to enter into Tulip garden here while Rs 30 has been fixed for the children below 12 years of age.

Moreover, the fee has also been revised for the foreign nationals including adults as well as the children, who will have to pay Rs 200 each for Tulip garden.

In other parks, they will now have to pay Rs 100 each.

According to the order, the revised rates shall be applicable from 01-March 01, 2024, however in case of already outsourced parks and gardens, the revised rates shall be applicable from the date of allotment of new contract or extension of the contract as the case may be—(KNO)

Well Care Medical Institute Performs Partial Gastrectomy

Committed to Offer Comprehensive Cancer Care Services: Dir Well Care

KO WEB DESK

Srinagar: In its commitment of maintaining the highest standards in health, Well Care Medical Institute performs its first gastrectomy for cancer/squamous cell carcinoma.

A 61-year-old female patient from south Kashmir was diagnosed as a case of cancer esophagus (extending up to 30 cm) in October 2023. The patient was taken for esophagego gastrectomy on 7/2/24. The histopathology revealed squamous cell carcinoma. The operation was performed by Dr Khurshheed Alam along with theatre assistants Mr Shahid Ali Mir, Mr Shah Mobsin, Mr Suhail Hashmi. The anaesthesia team comprising senior consultant Anaesthesia supported by Anaesthesia assistants Mr Danish Sofi, Mr Suhail Ahmad, Ms Ishrat.

The post operative period of the patient remained uneventful and was discharged 5 days after surgery in a healthy condition.

Dr Khurshheed Alam, who has been a head of department and pioneer in shaping the department of general surgery at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical

Sciences (SKIMS) said, "Gastric cancer has been reported to be a highly prevalent malignancy in Kashmir, where together with esophageal cancer it accounts for more than 60% of all cancers, much higher than in other parts of the northern India."

He further said, "Particular lifestyle like consumption of salted tea and tobacco smoking by hookah (smoking pot), as well as Helicobacter pylori infection are among the most common risk factors."

Dr Masood ul Hassan, Medical Director Well Care appreciated the whole team and said, "Cancer is among the third causative factors for mortality among non-communicable diseases in India and is spreading rapidly. We need to be timely for dealing with this disease by providing surgical and medical/chemotherapy facilities to our patients."

He added, "We are committed to providing the best facilities for cancer treatment, our hospital provides both surgical facilities and chemotherapy to cancer patients. The chemotherapy is provided free of charge to patients under the Ayushman Bharat (golden card) scheme."

Special Lok-Adalat on Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) cases held at Sgr, B'gam, Spn & Kup

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17: As per plan of action Lok-Adalat calendar for the year, 2024, issued by J&K Legal Services Authority, the District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) of Srinagar, Budgam, Shopian and Kupwara districts of Kashmir Saturday conducted Special Lok-Adalat on Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) Cases.

The Special Lok Adalats were held under the able directions of Justice N. Kotsiwar Singh, Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron in Chief), J&K Legal Services Authority and Justice Tashi Rabstani, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The primary objective of the said Special Lok Adalat was to provide a platform for amicable resolution of cheque bounce disputes, aiming to reduce the burden on the regular court system and streamline the justice delivery process.

At Srinagar, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar today organized a Special Lok Adalat for the amicable settlement of Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) Cases, at the District Court Complex Mominabad Srinagar.

The Lok Adalat was held, under the direction of Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, and under the direction and supervision of Jawad Ahmed, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) & Sessions Judge Srinagar.



Four (4) benches were constituted for the said Lok-Adalat for the amicable settlement of Cheque Bounce (138 NI Act) Cases.

Overall 39 cases were taken up for settlement, out of which 7 cases were amicably settled and Rs. 62,44,000 was awarded as settlement amount in Criminal Compoundable Cases.

Budgam today organized a special Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex Budgam.

Under the insightful directions of Chairman DLSA Budgam, Khalil Ahmad Chowdhury, Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce cases was organized today in District Court Complex Budgam and Taluka Courts of District Budgam.

Each Court had identified cases for the said Lok Adalat

beforehand and same were placed before Six (06) different benches constituted by DLSA Budgam for their settlement in Special Lok Adalat.

Total number of 91 matters were taken up for their amicable settlement, out of which 43 were settled. Besides, an amount of Rs. 3,13,54,078 was realized in total in the settlement.

At Shopian, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority organized a Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases.

The said Special Lok Adalat was organized under the directions of Riaz-Ul-Haq Mirza, Chairman, DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Shopian at ADR Centre, District Court Complex Shopian.

A special bench was constituted on the occasion that took up 10 cases or their amicable settlement. Out of which 02 cases were settled, with a settled amount of Rs. 5,00,000.

At Kupwara, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kupwara under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority organized a Special Lok Adalat on Cheque Bounce Cases.

The Lok Adalat was held under the supervision of Chairman, DLSA, (Pt. District & Sessions Judge) Kupwara, Shazia Tabasum and guidance of Secretary, DLSA Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad Khan.

A total of Four (04) benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat consisting of Presiding Officers and other members for the amicable settlement/ compromise of the referred cases.

First bench was constituted at Court Complex Handwara, second bench at District Court Complex, Kupwara, similarly third bench was constituted at Court Complex, Sogam while fourth bench was constituted at Court Complex Tangdhar.

A total of 09 cases were taken up in all the benches during the Special Lok Adalat, of which 05 cases were settled on the spot by intervention of the benches and by participation of the lawyers and litigants, and an amount of Rs.19,70,500 was awarded as settlement amount.

At BARAMULLA, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Baramulla, held a Lok Adalat under the Chairmanship of Iqbal Ahmad Akhgar, Special Magistrate Baramulla and Adv. Raunigya Fayaz Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel as its member.

The Lok Adalat, consisting of a single bench, diligently heard over a total of 45 cases, exhibiting a commitment to justice and facilitated amicable resolutions to 18 of these cases.

A sum total of Rs. 1,53,77,000 was realized through the amicable settlements achieved in the cases overseen by the Lok Adalat.

CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

PM To Flag Off

rail network, spanning a total length of 272 kilometres out of which 161 kilometres have already been commissioned.

According to the railways, the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan section, which was constructed at a cost of Rs.15,863 crore, is ready for operation and the existing train services from Baramulla to Banihal will now be extended up to Sangaldan, a town near the district headquarters of Ramban.

The features 16 bridges, 11 major ones, four minor ones and one road overbridge. More than 90 per cent of this section is in tunnels, with a total of 11 tunnels covering 43.37 kilometres, including the country's longest transportation tunnel, T-50, stretching 12.77 kilometres in the Khari-Sumber section," a senior official associated with the project said.

"For safety and rescue, there are three escape tunnels with a combined length of 30.1 kilometres. Additionally, the section includes 30 curves spanning 23.72 kilometres. To further enhance passenger safety and comfort, several advanced features have been incorporated, such as ballastless tracks and canted turnouts (a first for the Indian Railways)," he added.

Besides, CCTV monitoring and state-of-the-art tunnel-safety technology, including ventilation and firefighting systems, are some of the other added safety features.

So far as electrification is concerned, the Baramulla-Srinagar-Banihal-Sangaldan section of the USBRL project, which spans 185.66 RKM (route kilometres) and serves 19 railway stations, is complete, the sources said.

"Constructed for Rs.470.23 crore, with electrification, it is possible to operate the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat trains in the section. Other noteworthy features include 25-KV OHE inside the longest operational tunnel (tunnel T-80 in the Banihal-Qazigund section), specialised equipment for high-altitude operations and 132/33-KV traction substations at altitudes exceeding 1,600 MSL," one of the sources said. (with inputs from PTI)

Ahead of PM's public meeting at the Maulana Azad Stadium in the heart of Jammu.

As part of the heightened security arrangements in view of Modi's visit, the officials said, the BSF and the police conducted a joint two-hour anti-tunnelling operation in the Ramgarh sector of Samba district.

The operation started around 9.45 am and search teams did not find anything suspicious on the ground, they said.

The officials said BSF troops guarding the IB and police personnel manning the border posts have been put on maximum alert, especially after the recent ceasefire violation by Pakistan Rangers, and have been asked to maintain a tight vigil on any suspicious movement from across the border.

Besides the border areas along the IB, security arrangements have been beefed up along the Line of Control (LoC) and the hinterland to thwart any attempt by terrorists to carry out an attack, the officials said, adding security forces have intensified patrolling, area domination and checking in sensitive areas to maintain peace.

On Wednesday evening, Pakistan Rangers violated the ceasefire by firing on a BSF post at Makwal along the IB in S Pura sector, prompting retaliation by the Indian border guards.

The cross-border firing continued for 25 minutes and later the BSF lodged a strong protest with their counterparts for the unprovoked firing.

Army troops guarding the LoC also fired at Pakistani drones on three occasions in different sectors of Poonch district in the past six

Defence Min

Northern Command Headquarters on February 24 followed by his address to the Army officers and jawans," the sources said.

"Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari are also expected to visit the Union Territory in April-May," sources said, adding that BJP president JP Nadda's tour to the UT is also being explored prior to Lok Sabha elections.

A number of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders left Jammu and Kashmir today to attend the party's two-day National Council meeting in New Delhi on February 17 and 18 which will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP president JP Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah among others.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will sound poll bugle for the BJP in Jammu and Kashmir during his February 20 rally at MA Stadium.

The sources said that Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir could boost BJP's prospects in the Union Territory ahead of Lok Sabha election this time as the party is eyeing three seats out of five this time.

BJP for two consecutive terms in 2014 and 2019 won two Lok Sabha seats from Jammu region. Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh won the Udhampur-Kathua seat and Jugal Kishore Sharma won the Jammu-Poonch seat in the last two Lok Sabha polls.

The party this time is eyeing third seat Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri which has a large number of Pahari voters to whom the Government accorded ST status in the just concluded Parliament session.

Meanwhile, tight security is in place for the smooth conduct of the Prime Minister's rally.

All vehicles passing nearby the venue located in the heart of Jammu city are being frisked and special check posts are installed along the River Tawi bank adjacent to the MA Stadium.

"Security forces are on alert mode and are maintaining vigil around the venue while barricades are also erected and the entrants at the venue are being allowed to move only after complete frisking," said a senior police official.

ECI To introduce

drivers and conductors can also cast their ballot through PBF, the facility, which he said is being introduced for the first time in J&K.

Regarding inmates lodged in different jails within and outside the UT, Sharma said that an ECI team would visit the jail to obtain the prisoners' proper electoral information before enabling them to exercise their franchise.

Specially aided, COVID positive patients and senior citizens over 80 years of age, he said since the three come under the purview of PBF, they are entitled to exercise their franchise from the comfort of their homes.

According to ECI, an Absentee Voter wishing to vote by Postal Ballot has to make an application to the Returning Officer (RO) of the constituency concerned, through Form-12D, filling in all particulars. Such applications seeking postal ballot facility should reach RO during the period from the date of announcement of the election to five days following the date of notification of the election conducted.

A polling team consisting of two polling officials, with a videographer and a security person, visit the elector's house and get the elector to vote on the postal ballot maintaining complete secrecy of the vote.

In the 2019 General Elections, the ECI allowed the disabled and people over 80 years of age to cast their vote through postal ballot and this move had helped increase voter turnout.

A team of officials accompanied by a

security official, a media representative along with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) visit their homes and collect their personal data before enabling them to cast a ballot.

370 Not

"The ultimate sacrifice for the abrogation of Article 370 to preserve our nation's unity and integrity. As a true tribune to him, the BJP should secure victory in 370 seats."

The Modi government had scrapped Article 370 of the Constitution, which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, in August 2019 soon after returning to power for a second time.

The Lok Sabha has 543 seats, and the BJP had won 282 and 303 of them in 2014 and 2019 respectively. Modi has set a target for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance to win over 400 seats.

In a post on X later, Modi said, "Addressed the @BJPIndia National Office Bearers. Complimented every Party Karyakarta for their exceptional efforts to serve people. Discussed ways to deepen our Party's grassroots level connect across all sections of society. Over the last decade, BJP has made a mark as a party of development and good governance. Our schemes, initiatives and reforms have transformed several lives."

"Tawde said Modi has been the head of a government, including more than 12 years as Gujarat chief minister, for nearly 23 years and there has been no allegation of corruption.

"It has been an 'aarop mukh' and 'vikas yukt' period," he said quoting the prime minister, adding that there has been no instance of such a long tenure of anyone holding constitutional positions not drawing any lair.

With the BJP likely to name its candidates for the polls, expected in April-May, in the coming weeks, Modi asked party members to keep in mind that 'lotus' (its poll symbol) will be its candidate at every seat it will contest and work to ensure its win.

"Tawde said the party will launch a campaign to reach out to beneficiaries of various central government schemes from February 25 and March 5.

Modi's leadership is marked by dedication, emotional investment and a steadfast commitment to development, he said, adding that the entire nation today takes pride in the "transformative" policies and initiatives spearheaded by him, the name of application of mind matched the SSP Pulwama concerned in entertaining the same tone and tenor of assumption as fed by the SSP Pulwama which is exhibited from the fact that the purported grounds of detention order is a copy-paste of the dossier; a bench of justice Rahul Bharti said, adding, "...the preventive detention of the petitioner (Bhat) has been effected on speculation and assumptions and the detenu (Bhat) cannot be allowed to carry forward its life any further at the cost of doing serious wrong to the fundamental right to personal liberty of the petitioner."

In fact, the court said, during the course of his preventive detention, Bhat suffered a personal tragedy in the death of his eight months' old daughter who came to expire on 10 February 2024 while he was in the state of preventive custody. "He could not have even the solace of being with his wife in the moment of personal loss and grief because of preventive detention slapped on him by fictionalizing his personal liberty prejudicial to the Security of State."

Ultimately, the court held the preventive detention of Bhat as "illegal" and, accordingly, quashed the same.

by Merely

Sub 26,000
Over 26,000 Officers of KPDCCL to review the

feeder-wise AT&C (Aggregate Technical and Commercial) losses in Kashmir Division. During the review meeting, MD KPDCCL issued standing directions to all SDOs to bring down AT&C losses and show visible improvement in smart metering saturation as well as enhancing billing and collection efficiency. Directions were also issued to snail the power connections of those consumers who fail to pay their pending electricity dues.

In order to ensure charging of already-installed LT-AB cable and shifting of smart meters from bare conductor, the MD issued express directions to SDOs to liaise with the Project Executing Agencies for conversion so that power pilferage, especially hooking, is completely plugged. He also tasked Executive Engineers to facilitate the charging of already installed LT-AB cable in their respective Electric Divisions.

KPDCCL has further intensified its disconnection drives against consumers for non-payment of electricity dues across all Divisions.

The Chief Engineer (Distribution) emphasised upon the SDOs that there shall be zero tolerance on power theft and revenue default. He also directed SDOs to further intensify their disconnection drives against those consumers who have huge outstanding dues pending.

He further advised SEs of all 06 Circles to analyse the performance of SDOs and take necessary corrective measures to improve AT&C index.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Distribution, Kashmir, Er. Sandeep Seth, SEs of all 06M Circles and Executive Engineers of all Electric Divisions.

more officers into it, the DGP said that many officers are being gradually evolved into public dabars for resolving the issues related to people. "I agree that the frequency of public dabars needs to be increased," he said.

Restoring that the police job is difficult, the DGP said that a traffic accident can't be termed as a murder. "While ensuring punishment to the accused, we have to go tough against the culprit," he said.

Termining the narco-terrorism a challenge, he said earlier it looked like that victims need treatment but of late it has come to fore that the addicts play peddlers as well. "We are trying to catch the big fish who supply drugs to addicts. As far as the demand of increasing drug de-addiction centers, we will sit with the Chief Secretary and also with the Secretary Health and Medical Education and put forth our request of setting up more drug de-addiction centers," the DGP said.

KPDCCL To Hold

the current financial year and regular review meetings are being chaired at the highest level and information shared on weekly basis.

It also said that the finance department has from time-to-time issued directions for timely recovery of government money deposited in lieu of power energy dues from government employees.

"In light of these directives and in order to ensure government revenue realization recovery fixed for the current financial year, all district magistrates of Kashmir division as per past practice are requested to issue circular directions to all DDOs, District Treasury Officers and Treasury Officers in their jurisdiction to draw and disburse the salary of government employees working in the districts only after the clearance of electricity dues," reads the communiqué.

Mussarat urged the district magistrates of Kashmir division that contractors shall also be bound to clear their power bills, before

releasing their payments for development works. This shall go a long way in achieving revenue targets and secure UT Exchequer. (KNO)

LG Expreses

and Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh Ji for approval of 12 road upgradation projects and construction of a bridge under PMGSY-III Batch-III at a cost of Rs. 152 Cr."

LG wrote that the road upgradation projects will benefit hundreds of habitations in 6 districts of J&K UT. The bridge for the border district of Poonch will ensure greater ease of travel and it will connect villages to prosperity and contribute to overall socio-economic development.

Only 15% Of

a total of 337 private and government colleges functioning in Jammu and Kashmir.

The survey based on actual response received from the sampled stakeholders reveals that a total of 127 private unaided, 21 aided, and 189 government colleges were functioning in Jammu and Kashmir as on 31st January 2024. Interestingly, KNO earlier this week reported that the School Education Department has said that in the past five years' 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 percent. Prior to 2019 there were a total of 12,37,000 students enrolled in government-run schools of Jammu and Kashmir."

However, it also states that in the past five years the student enrolment has increased by 17.7 percent. "Till academic year 2023-24, around 14,18,000 students were enrolled in government-run schools."

Centre Sanctions

programme was launched in Jammu and Kashmir in 2001-02 to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations with a population above 250 as per the 2001 census.

Under this programme, 2,140 rural habitations were found eligible to be connected. For this, the Ministry of Rural Development sanctioned 3,425 works, including 239 bridges (2,741 new connectivity works and 684 upgradation works), under PMGSY-I and II for the construction of 19,049 km of roads at an estimated cost of Rs.12,565 crore.

Despite adverse working conditions, Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 98.50 per cent of the target under PMGSY-I and II, the spokesperson said.

He said 2,118 habitations have been connected so far, the remaining 23 are likely to be connected by March.

A total of 17,985.10 km of roads has been constructed under the scheme, he said.

Under PMGSY-III, the spokesperson said, 521.09 km of road length has been upgraded so far at a cost of Rs. 11,72,37 crore.

Jammu and Kashmir has performed exceptionally in making progress and achieving goals under the PMGSY since 2019, constructing 5,000 km of roads, he said.

"The nation, the union territory ranked third in terms of road length constructed in 2020-21 and 2021-22 in terms of road length constructed in a year.

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh for the approval of the road infrastructure projects.

In a statement, Sinha said the road upgradation projects will benefit hundreds of habitations in six districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The two-lane bridge for the border district of Poonch will ensure greater ease of travel and connect villages to prosperity and contribute to overall socio-economic development, he said.

Jaiswal's Rapid 100 Puts India In Charge Against England

Agencies

RAJKOT: Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal smashed a rapid hundred before retiring hurt as India stretched their overall lead to 322 with eight wickets in hand to take control of the third test against England on Saturday.

The hosts are left with 10 players for the rest of the match after Ravichandran Ashwin withdrew on Friday night due to a family emergency. Mohammed Siraj (4-84) and Kuldeep Yadav (2-77) made up for the off-spinner's absence as they combined to skittle out England - who had started the day on a solid 207-2 - for 319 in reply to India's first innings total of 445.

India finished day three on 196-2 but Jaiswal, struggling with a back spasm, retired hurt after his scintillating 104, which included five sixes and nine fours. Shubman Gill was batting on 65 with night-watchman Kuldeep on three at the other end.

There was no inkling of England's batting meltdown when they resumed play with eight wickets left at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium. For many it was Joe Root's debatable reverse scoop when on 18 - attempted against India's premier bowler Jasprit Bumrah - that shifted the momentum in the hosts' favour.

Root has not been in great



form in this series, and his lean run continued as Jaiswal took the tricky catch at second slip. It was the ninth time in 21 test innings that Root has fallen to his Indian nemesis.

Kuldeep bowled a terrific spell

that had not just the English batsmen but even India wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel guessing which way the ball would turn. The left-arm wrist spinner trapped Jonny Bairstow lbw for a duck and was pleasantly surprised when his ordinary delivery ended Duckett's blistering 153, which contained two sixes and 23 fours.

Spilled by Rohit in the slip before he completed 150, Duckett slapped a half-tracker from Kuldeep to Gill at cover. England were pushed further on to the back foot after the lunch break when they lost two wickets in two balls.

Skipper Ben Stokes (41) slog-swept Ravindra Jadeja to Bumrah, while Ben Foakes (13) was snapped up at mid-on by Rohit. Siraj (4-84) went on to york Rehan Ahmed and James Anderson as England gave up their last five wickets for a paltry 20 runs.

Root dismissed Rohit for 19 when India came out to bat in their second innings but Jaiswal tore into the England attack to swell India's lead. The left-hander brought up his hundred with a four off Mark Wood and then dropped his bat, removed his gloves and stood in the middle blowing kisses and looking skywards in celebration.

Gill brought up his fifty soon after that with a six off Wood as India threatened to bat England out of the contest.

Sachin Visits Bat Factory In Kashmir, Pleased With Willow Quality



Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: A cricket bat manufacturer in the Sangam area here was in for a pleasant surprise when Sachin Tendulkar and his family visited his manufacturing unit on Saturday.

Tendulkar, accompanied by wife Anjali and daughter Sara, stopped by at a unit in Charsoo on the Srinagar-Jammu highway and interacted with the

workers there.

"We were busy making bats when a vehicle stopped at our gate. We were pleasantly surprised to find the Little Master and his family," Mohammed Shaheen Parry, owner of MJ Sports, told PTI over phone.

Parry said Tendulkar checked the quality of the bats made of Kashmir willow. "He stroked a few bats and was quite pleased with the quality. Ten-

dulkar said he had come to compare the Kashmir willow bats with those made of English willow.

"We requested him to lend his voice in support of the local bats," Parry said, adding the batting maestro promised to support the Kashmir willow bats. Parry said Tendulkar spent an hour at the manufacturing unit and interacted with a small bunch of fans.

MJ Sports factory, which manufactures bats, is owned by two brothers Manzoor and Javid of Chersoo.

Kashmir's bat industry is mainly concentrated in south Kashmir's Pulwama and Anantnag districts, with willow groves growing in the wet highlands nearby.

Around 200 bat manufacturing units employ around 50,000 people for production.

Real Kashmir Take On Churchill Brothers In I-League Today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC are on the road Sunday to take on Churchill Brothers in a 2023-24 I-League matchup at Tilak Maidan in Vasco da Gama, Goa. The game will kick off at 7:00 PM.

Hit-and-miss Snow Leopards are among top four teams in the league, but have fallen out of contention for the title. They are fourth with 23 points from 13 games, winning three of their last five outings.

Meanwhile, Churchill Brothers are 10th on the table, picking up 14 points from their 13 matchups this season. They have won only once in their previous five games, drawing three with one loss.

Sunday's contest will be a huge opportunity for coach Ishaq Ahmad and his Real Kashmir squad to solidify their place in the upper echelons of the

league. This team beat table-topper Mohammedan Sporting (34 points, 15 games) 3-0 recently, and has the talent to pluck out results away from home. But an uncharacteristic last-minute 1-0 defeat in Vasco da Gama, Goa, had halted the Srinagar-based club's title ambition.

The Snow Leopards now have eight games to run their 2023-24 I-League season around. It will be tough, as six of those outings are out on the road. However, the final two games of the season will be played in front of an intimidating Srinagar crowd, including potential title-deciding showdown against Mohammedan Sporting on March 23.

REAL KASHMIR PROBABLE XI: Muheet Shabir; Yousef, Hamdam, Shaher Shaheen, Wayne Vaz; Rehbar, Kamal Issah, Mohammed Inam, Carlos Lomba, Ayoub; Gnohere Kirzo.

Root's Shot Selection Surprises Siraj



Agencies

RAJKOT: Pacer Mohammed Siraj is surprised that a well-set Joe Root preferred to play a reverse ramp shot off Jasprit Bumrah and ended up losing his wicket to hand India advantage in the third Test here Saturday.

Root was batting at 18, having spent almost an hour at the crease. Trying to improvise, Root attempted a reverse ramp over the slip only to find Yashasvi Jaiswal at second slip.

His partnership with centurion Ben Duckett (153) was

steady but after his dismissal England could not add even 100 runs to the total. The visitors conceded a huge 126-run lead.

"Ben Duckett's partnership was growing with Root, if he had played a little more, then it would have been difficult for us. But suddenly he played that shot which didn't look (like one) to be played," Siraj said during media interaction after the day's play.

"But it turned out good for us and after that (Ben) Foakes and Ben Stokes had a good partnership, and then Stokes played a

shot (which got him out) and we got into the game from there," he added.

Siraj praised young India opener Jaiswal for his rapid 104-run knock. Siraj, who executed his yorkers perfectly to take 4/84 in England's first innings, said playing mind games becomes crucial on such wickets.

The India pacer said the absence of off-spinner R Ashwin, who withdrew from the Test owing to a medical emergency in family, meant the other bowlers had to bowl longer spells.

Pujara Scores 63rd First-Class Ton; Saurashtra In Command

Press Trust of India

RAJKOT: Seasoned Cheteshwar Pujara struck his 63rd first-class century while Prerak Manikand and Arpit Vasavada also registered hundreds to give Saurashtra a 387-run first innings lead against Manipur here on Saturday.

In reply, Manipur, who were bowled out for 142 in their first essay on Friday, were reeling at 55 for 3 at stumps on second day, still trailing by 332 runs.

Resuming the day at 153/3, Saurashtra's stand-in skipper Vasavada (148) and all-rounder Manikand (173) took the Manipur bowling attack to the

unusual knock. Pujara, who is eyeing a return to the Indian Test team, is enjoying a good Ranji season, having already notched up an unbeaten double hundred against Jharkhand and another 110 in the previous game.

The Test veteran last appeared for India at the World Test Championship final against Australia in June last year and even though he has continued to pile on runs in first class cricket, the Indian selectors have preferred to look ahead, giving opportunities to youngsters like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rajat Patidar and Sarfaraz Khan in the ongoing marquee



cleaners, while sharing a 152-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Coming in at number 6, Pujara (108 off 105 deliveries), known for his defensive style of play, showcased his class once again smashing less than a run-a-ball century, his 63rd in first class cricket. The 36-year-old hit 12 fours and a six in his

series against England. Defending champions Saurashtra declared their innings at 529 for 6 before pacer Chetan Sakariya. Veteran Saurashtra left-arm spinner Dharmendrasin Jadeja and off-spinner Yuvrajshin Dodiya picked up a wicket each to put Saurashtra in a commanding position.

Klopp Endorses Alonso As A New Generation 'Standout' Coach

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Xabi Alonso is an incredible talent from the new generation of managers given his impressive run at Bayer Leverkusen, soon to depart Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. The former Liverpool and Real Madrid midfielder has been linked to the upcoming opening at Anfield after Klopp announced last month that he will step down at the end of season.

Alonso guided Leverkusen from near the bottom of the Bundesliga to a five-point lead at the top within 16 months. The 42-year-old coach secured a spot in the German Cup semi-finals and notably defeated serial champions Bayern Munich 3-0 last weekend. "Xabi is doing an incredible job," Klopp said on Friday.

"If you would have asked me eight weeks ago about Xabi Alonso, I would have



gone 'Oh my God!' Always what I said, the dinosaurs if you want, Ancelotti (Carlo), Mourinho (Jose), Guardiola (Pep), maybe me, we will not do it - okay, maybe Mourinho - but all the rest will not do it for the next 20 years.

"The next generation is already there and I would say Xabi is a standout in that department... Former world-class player, from a coaching family as well which helps a little, he was like a coach already when he was playing. The foot-

ball he is playing, the teams he sets up, the transfers he did, it is absolutely exceptional."

Klopp added that he is not involved in the search for his successor as that is to be decided by the owners of the Merseyside club. The 56-year-old, who has had his fair share of achievements in the German league from his time at Borussia Dortmund, praised Alonso's immediate but potent implementation of strategies despite only taking on the role in Octo-

ber 2022. "How quick his team is that well tuned, for the time it's taken, he's put his proper stamp on it," Klopp added.

MO SALAH SCORES ON RETURN AS LIVERPOOL ROUTES BRENTFORD 4-1
Mohammed Salah made a scoring return for Liverpool as the Premier League leader routed Brentford 4-1 on Saturday.

Salah had been out for a month since sustaining a hamstring injury at the Africa Cup of Nations. He came on as a substitute just before halftime at the Gtech Community Stadium and struck his 19th goal of the season in all competitions in the 68th minute. Liverpool already led 2-0 at that point, after Darwin Nunez opened the scoring in the 35th and Alexis Mac Allister added another from Salah's assist.

Madrid Coach Ancelotti Swerves Mbappe Talk Amid Links

Agencies

MADRID: Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti on Saturday steered away from talk of Kylian Mbappe signing for the Spanish giants in the summer at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain contract.

France captain Mbappe, 25, has told the French side he will leave at the end of the season, a source close to PSG told AFP Thursday.

Superstar striker Mbappe is heavily linked with Madrid, who have tried to sign him multiple times in the past few years and may finally get their man. "I can see and hear. I understand it's the topic of the day for you, but not for us, for us it's tomorrow's game," Ancelotti told a news conference ahead of Madrid's visit to face Rayo Vallecano in La Liga. "People can talk. I understand it's the story of the day... I want to finish this season well and win titles. There's a lot of time left to think about next season."

Ancelotti said he did not think the league leaders' squad would



be affected by rumours and talk surrounding Mbappe in the weeks ahead.

"Do you think I look affected? No, no," said Ancelotti. Spanish newspaper Marca said Mbappe informed Madrid of his decision to leave PSG on Tuesday.

On Friday PSG coach Luis Enrique refused to comment on Mbappe's

decision. "I am going to avoid talking about this subject until the parties involved speak about it," said the former Barcelona coach.

"Kylian Mbappe has not said anything publicly and neither has the club. I am the coach and when the other parties have spoken, I'll give my opinion."

"Forced To Leave India": French Journalist After Overseas Citizenship Row

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: French journalist Vanessa Dognac on Saturday left India saying she cannot afford to wait for the outcome of the legal process set in motion in the wake of a notice issued to her by the government regarding cancellation of her Overseas Citizen of India card.

"Today, I am leaving India, the country where I came 25 years ago as a student, and where I have worked for 23 years as a journalist. The place where I married, raised my son, and which I call my home," Dognac, the South Asia Correspondent for French publications La Croix and Le Point, Swiss newspaper Le Temps and Belgian daily Le Soir, said in a statement.

Last month, the Foreigners Regional Registration Office served a notice on Dognac asking why her OCI card should not be cancelled, claiming she was "undertaking journalistic activities without any special permission as required under Citizenship Act 1955 and rules/regulations issued thereunder". She said leaving India was not her choice and that she was forced to by the government



which had claimed that her articles were "malicious" and harming "the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India".

The notice to Dognac also figured in the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, who was the chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations.

On January 26, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra, in response to a question, had said that France did "appreciate" India's "frame of reference" to look at the case purely through a lens of compliance with rules.

"People are free to do what they are accredited to do in a given space. But here I think the principal issue is whether the person is compliant with the rules and regulations of the state under which they come," Kwatra had said.

Gurugram-Based Consultant Duped Of ₹ 38 Lakh In Cryptocurrency Fraud

Press Trust of India

GURUGRAM: An executive of a Gurugram-based consulting firm was defrauded of about ₹38 lakh by a woman who was befriended him through a matrimonial site, police said.

The victim was lured into investing in a cryptocurrency named deuncin and was asked for various other charges, they said.

An FIR was registered at Cyber Crime East police station, police said, adding that the accused will be arrested soon.

According to a complaint filed by the consulting firm executive Naman Aggarwal, he met a woman named Ridhi Sharma via jeevansathi.com in November 2023.

The woman claimed to have been living in London for the past five years and that she was a native of Kolkata. After talking for some time, he developed a liking for her, Naman Aggarwal said.

"One day she lured me to invest in cryptocurrency and made my trading account on the website mdeuncin.vip. The link to this website was sent by her on WhatsApp and the customer care team of the trading platform was also communicated with via WhatsApp."

"She asked me to invest ₹10 lakh initially and said she will transfer a similar amount to my

trading account.

On December 20, the victim said he received a message on WhatsApp from the Deuncin customer care support team that the amount transferred by Ridhi Sharma was an act of money laundering and came under the scanner of financial action, and the task force asked him to deposit a similar sum within 24 hours to restore the normal status of the trading account warning that it would otherwise be frozen.

"I deposited ₹10 lakh again and asked them for withdrawal of my money. They forced me to transfer money in the name of different charges," the man said in his complaint.

Even after paying ₹38 lakh, they were still demanding more money which convinced him that the woman was involved in the whole "fraud", the man said. The modus operandi was to first win the man's trust and then make him a victim of financial fraud, Naman Aggarwal said.

Based on the complaint, an FIR was registered against the unknown woman and other fraudsters under Section 420 (cheating) of IPC at the cyber police station, east. A senior cyber police officer said that a probe is underway and the accused will be arrested soon.

Trump Ordered To Pay \$355 Million In New York Civil Fraud Case



Agencies

NEW YORK: A New York judge on Friday ordered former US President Donald Trump and the Trump Organization to pay a fine of nearly USD 355 million in a civil fraud case.

According to the 90-page judgement, Trump has been barred from acting as a company director in New York state for three years. His sons, Donald Trump Jr and Eric Trump, have also asked to pay a fine of USD 4 million each. They have been barred from serving as directors for two years.

Donald Trump and his two adult sons had already been found liable for massively increasing the value of their properties by hundreds of millions of dollars in a trial that ended in January. However, Trump and his sons have denied any wrongdoing.

Former US President Donald Trump has called the case a "fraud on me" and a "political witch hunt," Judge Arthur

Egoron's decision came just weeks after closing arguments in the case following a months-long trial in 2023.

The attorney general's office had requested the judge to ask Donald Trump to pay USD 370 million, which is USD 16 million less than ordered by the judge.

Former Chief Financial Officer Allen Weisselberg was ordered to pay USD 1 million. Weisselberg was also blocked from New York business for three years, according to the order.

Furthermore, Weisselberg and former controller Jeffrey McConney were banned for life from serving "in the financial control function" of any New York corporation or business entity.

The judge said the independent monitor he installed to oversee Trump's business would continue functioning for three years, apart from the installation of an "Independent Director of Compliance."

However, the judge reversed the decision ahead of the trial

that ordered the cancellation of the defendants' business certificates. Although the judge stated that the order could be renewed.

In a statement to The Hill, Trump's lawyer Alina Habba termed the ruling a "manifest injustice" and the culmination of a "multi-year, politically fueled witch hunt that was designed to take down Donald Trump."

The trial of the case lasted for more than two months, with testimony — sometimes tempestuous from 40 witnesses, including the former US President himself, top Trump Organization executives and Trump's adult children, according to The Hill report.

Trump's financial standing could face a major blow following the USD 354.8 million judgement, and another USD 83.3 million judgement against him for defaming writer E Jean Carroll after he denied her accusation that he sexually assaulted her decades earlier.

Hindu Outfit Goes To Court Over Lioness Named 'Sita' At Bengal Safari Park

Press Trust of India

SILIGURI: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad has filed a petition before the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court claiming that a lioness named "Sita" and prayed that the name be changed, VHP's lawyer said on Saturday.

The park authorities, however, denied that any such name was given by it to the lioness.

Two lions were brought from Tripura's Sepahijala Zoological Park on February 12. The lion was named "Akbar", the VHP claimed.

The VHP's north Bengal unit filed the petition on February 16 and the matter is likely to be heard on February 20 before a single bench of the court, petitioner's advocate on record Subhankar Dutta told PTI.

He said the petitioner has prayed that the name of the lioness be changed as such nam-



ing of an animal may hurt religious sentiments.

It was also urged that no animal in any zoological park be named after gods and goddesses of any religion in future, Dutta said.

The parishad's north Bengal unit said it learnt from media reports that a lion and lioness with markings as IL26 and IL27, respectively, arrived at the Bengal Safari Park as part of an animal exchange programme and that the lioness was named "Sita".

The park authorities asserted it had not named the two animals and the official naming was awaited.

Over 20 Stray Dogs "Shot Dead" In Telangana Town, Police Launch Probe

Agencies

MAHABUBNAGAR, TELANGANA: The Telangana Police today said a probe has been initiated into the incident in which over 20 stray dogs were found dead in a village in the state's Mahabubnagar area.

According to locals, the incident took place at Purnakal village, Addakal mandal of Mahabubnagar, late on Friday night.

After the incident came to light, a group of animal activists approached the police and lodged a complaint. They alleged that some

masked men arrived in a car after midnight and opened fire on the strays.

They claimed that around 20 stray dogs were shot dead, and several others were injured.

"According to locals, a few masked men arrived in a car after midnight and opened fire on the dogs," Adulapuram Goutham, an animal activist, said.

"We have lodged a complaint with the police officials regarding this incident," the activist said.

The police said that they have received a complaint and that a probe has been initiated.

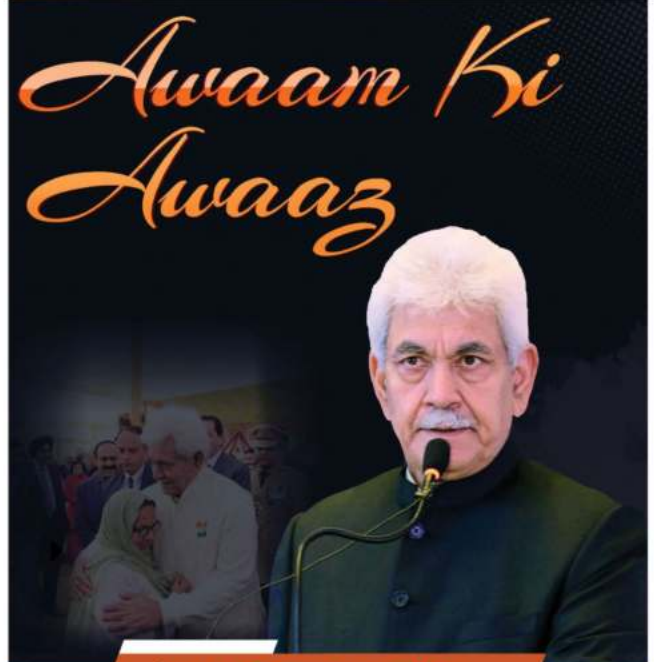
Ayodhya Ram Mandir Officials Seek Queue Management Lessons From TTD

Press Trust of India

TIRUPATI: A team of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams led by the executive officer A V Dharma Reddy on Saturday showcased queue management solutions to the newly inaugurated Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

The TTD team went to Ayodhya at the invitation of the Ram Mandir trust to demonstrate how to manage multitudes of pilgrims who throng the temple on a daily basis. Reddy and other TTD officials informed the representatives of Ayodhya Ram Mandir Trust on regularising devotee traffic, queue line management systems and others.

"The team led by TTD EO A V Dharma Reddy in a high-level meeting on Saturday evening gave awareness to the representatives of Sri Rama Janmabhoomi Theerthakshetra Trust in Ayodhya about the regulation of devotees' influx and the management of queue lines," said the temple body in a press release.



'Matured Boy' GSLV Rocket Successfully Injects ISRO's Meteorological Satellite Into Orbit

Press Trust of India

SRIHARIKOTA (AP): Moving ahead on its mission to study the Earth and ocean surfaces, ISRO on Saturday successfully launched its next generation weather observation satellite INSAT-3DS onboard a GSLV rocket into a precise orbit.

The flawless mission prompted the ISRO to virtually have a sigh of relief over the challenging GSLV rocket technology, as the director of today's mission said the "naughty boy" has matured into an obedient, disciplined boy, apparently referring to its past unsuccessful missions.

ISRO Chairman S Somnath said the success gave the space agency "greater confidence," as the GSLV will be next deployed for the NISAR mission, a collaborative effort with the US NASA.

The INSAT-3DS satellite, weighing 2274 kg is a follow-on mission of the third generation meteorological satellite to be placed in a geostationary orbit and is funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The objective of the mission is to provide conti-



nunity of services to existing operational INSAT-3D (launched in 2013) and INSAT-3DR (September 2016) for enhanced meteorological observations, monitoring of land and ocean surfaces, weather forecast and disaster warning, as well as to provide satellite aided Search and Rescue Services (SAR) among others.

At the end of the 27.5 hour countdown, the nearly 52 metre tall GSLV-F14 lifted-off majestically from the second launch pad at this spaceport here, at a pre-fixed time of 5:35 pm.

The three-stage rocket with a cryogenic upper stage, after a flight of about 20 minutes, got separated from the vehicle as planned and placed the satellite into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.

Later, scientists at ISRO would undertake a series of manoeuvres to place the satellite into the Geo-stationary orbit in the coming days.

The rocket carries imager and sounder payloads, data relay transponders, satellite aided transponders which would be used to study cloud properties, fog, rainfall, snow cover and depth, fire, smoke, land and ocean among others.

The imager and sounder payloads incorporated in today's mission are similar to those carried by INSAT-3D and INSAT-3DR, with significant improvements in radiometric performances, the space agency said.

INSAT stands for Indian National Satellite System. Somnath, also Secretary,

Department of Space announced the successful accomplishment of the mission.

"The spacecraft has been injected into a very good orbit. The injection conditions were as expected and the vehicle has performed very very well...INSAT-3DS is the next generation weather satellite with improved capability over the existing INSAT series. This will augment the capability of observation of various atmospheric parameters that leads to information related to weather and climate," he said from the Mission Control Center here.

Mission Director Tomy Joseph, referring to the GSLV said, "the naughty boy has matured as a very obedient and disciplined boy."

"Like PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle), GSLV has also become a robust vehicle for ISRO," he said, with his remarks prompting cheers and applause.

Somnath added that with today's mission, ISRO's confidence on GSLV was "further high."

"As all of you know, the next mission of the GSLV is going to be the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite and this

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