

Kashmir Feels The Pre-Snow Chill

Advisory Issued In View Of Heavy Snowfall Forecast

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: As Kashmir anticipates widespread snowfall forecasted for coming days, the valley experienced a crisp bite of cold, signaling the imminent arrival of snow. Few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir witnessed fresh snowfall on Tuesday, while rain lashed the plains, officials said.

The middle and higher reaches of Kashmir, including the famous ski resort of Gulmarg and tourist resorts of Sonamarg and Pahalgam, and Kokernag continue to witness snowfall. The plain areas of the valley, including Srinagar, witnessed rains, they said.

In a weather advisory issued here, the Meteorological Office said under the influence of another active western disturbance, widespread moderate rain or snowfall is expected in Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas from February 29 night or early morning March 1 till the afternoon of March 3, with its peak activity on March 2.

"The above system is most likely to cause heavy to very heavy rain/snow over Pirpanjal Range of Jammu Division and middle and higher | [More on PII](#)

PM Modi To Address Public Rally In South Kashmir In March

This Would Be PM's First Visit To The Kashmir Valley After The Abrogation Of Article 370 in August 2019

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir next month and address a public rally in Anantnag district, BJP sources said here on Tuesday. This would be the prime minister's first visit to the Kashmir Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

The public rally will be held as part of the BJP's election campaign for the forthcoming general polls, the sources said. "The prime minister's public rally is scheduled in Anantnag district next month," the BJP sources said.

"While the exact date is yet to be finalised, the rally will take place any day between March 14 to 17," the sources said, adding the party was



waiting for the final dates from the Prime Minister's Office. The BJP is focussing on the Anantnag-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat which comprises

of the south Kashmir areas of Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag, and Rajouri-Poonch areas in Jammu. Before delimitation | [More on PII](#)

INDIA Bloc Has Accepted Defeat, Thus Abuses Me: PM

PPrime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the constituents of INDIA bloc have accepted defeat, but intend to loot Tamil Nadu. Addressing the valedictory of BJP state unit President K Annamalai's state-wide yatra in Thiruvananthapuram, Modi took on the opposition and said that during the last 10 years, the Centre has given more funds to Tamil Nadu than in the past, apparently referring to the UPA period.

Chanting the 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' slogan and trying to drive home its message of development for all, the Prime

Minister asserted, "When Modi works, he works for everyone."

No INDIA bloc member speaks about development or education; they are only bothered about their families, Modi claimed.

He pointed out that former chief minister Late MGR did not practise dynastic politics and slammed the DMK's dynasty politics as an insult to Ramachandran -- who is still remembered by the people of Tamil Nadu for his work.

MGR promoted people based on talent and not on the basis of family, he added. "If there was anyone after MGR, it was 'Amma' | [More on PII](#)

WHILE THE EXACT DATE IS YET TO BE FINALISED, the rally will take place any day between March 14 to 17,"

Modi Ended Politics Of Casteism, Corruption: HM Says The Fight Is Between Two Ideologies



Press Trust Of India

Bhopal: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has in the past ten years ended the politics of casteism, corruption, appeasement and dynasty that prevailed in the country after independence and ushered in "politics of performance".

He was speaking at an event in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal. "After independence, politics of caste, corruption, appeasement and dynasty prevailed. Modi has finished them off in the last 10 years and set the trend of politics of performance," Shah said.

Naxalism, terrorism and extremism were "counting their last breath", he asserted.

At the moment, the BJP's

chief strategist said, the fight is between two ideologies -- "one that wants to make the country a developed nation and the other that nurtures dynasties".

"(Opposition) INDIA bloc is an alliance of dynastic politics. Sonia Gandhi wants her son to be the PM," he said, adding that NCP founder Sharad Pawar is keen on promoting his daughter, TMC chief Mamta Banerjee her nephew, RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav his son, DMK chief M K Stalin his son.

The upcoming Lok Sabha elections are crucial for the world's biggest democracy as about 100 crore people will exercise their franchise, he said.

Amit Shah on Tuesday further praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying he worked towards | [More on PII](#)

After 34 Yrs Muharram Processions Returned To Kashmir: LG Says Govt Will Give Statehood To J&K At Appropriate Time

KO Web Desk

New Delhi:Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended the Special Session on Jammu Kashmir at Global Summit organized by TV9 Network at New Delhi, on Tuesday.

Sinha talked at length about the changing face of Kashmir where the people now have the freedom to celebrate their respective festivals without any fear. Sinha also talked about the changing picture of Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 under the Modi government.

He said that it was after 34 years that the Muharram procession was taken out in Kashmir. "I feel that, like in



the entire country, the people of J&K should also have the independence to celebrate their festivals, and this is what happened in J&K," Sinha said. While talking about the

"Kashmir Badal Gaya Hai"

- » Transformation in Kashmir
- » Empowerment of J&K Citizens
- » Development Initiatives
- » Improved Security Situation
- » Election Preparations and Statehood
- » Focus on Heritage and Sports
- » Pakistan's Role In Kashmir
- » Vision For J&K

changes that Kashmir has witnessed in his tenure, the LG said, "J&K was that place where even the President of India could not buy a piece of land, nor could an | [More on PII](#)

3 New Criminal Laws JKP To Launch Awareness Programme

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Police will launch an awareness campaign across the Union Territory on the three new criminal laws that will come into effect from July 1.

The new laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam -- will replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively.

The laws received parliamentary approval on December 21 and presidential assent on December 25.

"In order to make the people of Jammu and Kashmir aware about these new laws, Director General of Police RR Swain has sanctioned Rs 8.23 lakh for conducting awareness programmes in all districts of the Union Territory," a police spokesperson said.

Under the programme, awareness camps and debates will be organised to enlighten the general public, especially students and women, he said.

District police heads have been directed to conduct the awareness programmes at the subdivision level to reach the maximum number of people.

"The new laws include provisions which ensure that not only the | [More on PII](#)

KPDCL Extends Power Amnesty Scheme In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has announced an extension in its amnesty scheme for domestic consumers in Jammu & Kashmir until March 31, 2025.

In an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, KPDCL outlines the extension approved by the Finance Department, in concurrence with the government's decision. KPDCL has instructed its staff to finalize a list of eligible domestic consumers who can avail benefits under the extended amnesty scheme.

The scheme allows domestic consumers to clear outstanding electricity dues in easy instalments without late payment surcharge. Consumers can also get their disconnected connections restored by paying only the principal amount.

"The said extension is in the process of approval by the competent authority for its issuance and extended concurrence accorded by the Finance Department is subject to the following conditions in addition to the conditions already envisaged in Government Order No. 103-PDD of 2022, dated: 12.09.2022," the notice from PDD reads. | [More on PII](#)

"Why Should We Surrender A Seat?" NC, Congress To Hold 2nd Round Of Talks On Seat-Sharing: Omar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference will hold a second round of discussions with Congress on seat-sharing in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union territories for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls as the two parties could not reach an understanding in the earlier round of talks held last week, party's vice president Omar Abdullah said here on Tuesday.

He said Congress-led INDIA bloc was formed to reduce the seats of BJP and not of its own alliance partners in the upcoming

Lok Sabha elections, and reiterated that the party will not "surrender" any of the three seats in Kashmir that it has won in the last general election.

"There has been one round of discussion in New Delhi. There were certain proposals put forward by the Congress which required to be discussed within the NC party. One of the proposals that they had has not found acceptance from the NC senior leadership that is there. So, we will go back. We will have a second round of | [More on PII](#)

BJP Finalises Panel Of Candidates For J&K Seats

Jammu and Kashmir BJP has finalised the panel of candidates for the three crucial seats from Kashmir as the list of probable candidates have been forwarded to the head office where the party's Parliamentary affairs panel will soon take a final call.

Reliable sources within the BJP told news agency--Kashmir News Observer | [More on PII](#)

TODAY, NAREDRABHAI HAS MADE THE ENTIRE WORLD LISTEN TO HIM ADDRESSING IN HINDI on global platforms, including G20. He worked to instil pride in the public for their language, culture, country and religion.'

'Alone for 30 Years': KP Pyare Lal Finds Unwavering Support In Muslim Neighbors

Auqib Javed

Srinagar: Every morning, before the world fully wakes, Tasleema makes her way to the home of her 'father-like figure', Pyare Lal, a Kashmiri Pandit. It's a routine born not out of duty, but out of love and respect.

As an Anganwadi worker in the social welfare department, her days are busy and demanding. But before she heads to her center, she ensures that Pyare Lal is doing fine and that he lacks nothing essential.

Not only Tasleema, a host of compassionate neighbors regularly stop by to visit the 80-year-old Kashmiri Pandit. Their visits not only serve to ensure his

wellbeing but sometimes to offer him companionship too.

Lal lives in a dilapidated house in Aamno village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Despite the decrepitude surrounding him, he leads a solitary existence, having chosen to remain in the valley even amidst the tumultuous outbreak of militancy in the 1990s. Thousands of Kashmiri Pandits, including Lal's own cousin and other relatives left the region, driven by fears for their safety.

Yet, Lal, an individual of intellect and once a respected landlord, opted to stand firm amidst the upheaval. Having lost his parents earlier in life, Lal never got married.



For the past 30 years, he has been living at his house alone, but his health has been on the decline. "He wasn't mentally stable," said his nephew,

Shuban Krishan Koul. Last week, a moving video capturing Lal's condition in the worn-down confines of his home in Aamno village,

circulated widely on social media, prompting administration to take necessary steps for his rehabilitation. Athar Aamir Khan, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, along with concerned officials rushed to Pandit's house and made necessary arrangements including his health check-up. Lal was requested to move out to

a better place where government officials would provide him with care and support, but he refused.

"I will die here," he told Athar Aamir in a video, adding, "Tasleema will get me a pheran."

Tasleema told Kashmir Observer that she along with her neighbours have been taking care of Lal since the last three decades.

"He says I am his daughter and I treat him like my father," she said, adding that Pyare Lal has named one of her sons 'Sooraj' and still calls him by this name. Lal likes to have good meals and usually asks Tasleem to cook Cheese, fish and Nadru for him.

"Be it a normal day or a Hindu festival, I cook the food

that he demands," she says.

Tasleema's husband, Ghulam Rasool Parray said that Lal possessed such intelligence that he would take the time to teach the children of his neighbors.

"His handwriting is amazing and he used to read a lot, until his mental conditions started worsening," Parray said.

Parray recalled Lal's fondness for sharing various tales and anecdotes about Kashmir, including his conversation with former Chief Minister Ghulam Mohammed Sadiq.

The neighbors say that Lal is malang (a mystic) and connected to his god.

Zahid Bhat, another neighbor of Lal, | [More on PII](#)



AI Helps Predict How Agricultural Land Suitability May Change By 2050

Press TrustOf India

Scientists have used artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse how agricultural land suitability can change in 25 years, and found that the number of croplands would increase in the northern regions.

The study, published in journal IEEE Access, predicted cropland distribution based on various climate models and shared socioeconomic pathways scenarios. It focused on the regions of Eastern Europe and Northern Asia.

By 2050, scientists predict that global demand for food will increase by 110 per cent, while today about 40 per cent of croplands and pastures are under threat due to the increasing average

temperature on the planet, high concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and many other factors.

The latest study found that in 25 years the amount of arable land will increase, but it will shift to the north, and some currently exploited agricultural regions may require increased irrigation. The research included three stages: collecting and preprocessing data, training a machine learning model, and evaluating results by predicting cropland distribution based on various climate models and shared socioeconomic pathways scenarios.

Machine learning is a type of AI that helps computers learn and improve from data analysis without explicit programming.

The researchers obtained three

data sets and analysed them for three different climate change scenarios: a sustainable, low-emission green energy future, a 'business-as-usual' trajectory with moderate emissions, and a high fossil fuel dependency scenario with significantly increased greenhouse gas emissions.

"We have obtained a model that predicts with good accuracy what is now, and used this model to predict what will happen in 2050," said Valery Shevchenko, a research engineer at Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology, Russia.

"We cannot say that this will be 100 per cent the case, because it is important to take into account many parameters here -- for example, the type of land, soil erosion," Shevchenko added.

From The Principal District Judge, Srinagar

Present: Mr. Jawad Ahmad

1. Mudasir Ahmad bhat2. Nadira 3.Salam bhat Vs Public at large

In the matter of Application for issuance of Succession certificate in favour of the petitioner(s) Notice to public at Large Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT OF ISSUANCE OF SUCCESSION certificate in favour of Petitioner(s) in respect of Rs 21,44,366 as debits and securities in name of Deceased Namely: Late Mst. Zareena Begum D/o Late Abdul Salam Sheikh W/o Late Ghulam Nabi Wani R/o Sonwar, Srinagar who died on 12-12-2023. The petition is pending disposal before this court and the next date of hearing is fixed on 16-03-2024 Public Notice is hereby issued, informing all and sundry through the drom of this proclamation that at any anyone has any objection for issuance of succession certificate, he/she / they shall appear before this court either personally or through counsel or any authorized agent and file objections on or before 16-03-2024. Failing which the petition will be taken up and appropriate orders will be passed in the same In case, the date fixed is declared as holiday the matter shall be taken on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal of this court on

Jawad Ahmad Principal District Judge, Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my Daughter, Anabia Binti Ashraf, who was born on 28-03-2022. 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.

Mohammad Ashraf Mir F/o Anabia Binti Ashraf R/O Near Jamia Masjid Bagander Humhama Sgr

NJ

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Order for registration of Date of Birth in the records of Municipal Committee Pattan

Public Notice

The registrar Births and Deaths (Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pattan) has submitted case file pertaining to birth of Danish Javid S/o Hakeem Javid Iqbal R/o Palhallan having verified the date of birth as 28-08-2011 and the event has been shown to be occurred at SDH Pattan for issuance of Delay order. In this connection if anybody having any objection to the issuance of delay order of birth certificate shall submit his/hr claim to this office within seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained

Naib Tehsildar fko

From The Office Of Advocate Waseem Shamas (Advocate Jammu And Kashmir Highcourt At Srinagar Wing)

Showkat Ahmad Turray S/O Ghulam Ahmad Turray R/O New Colony Shopian

... Caveator

Versus Public at Large

...Non-Caveator's

In the matter of: Publication for Caveat. That the Caveator is the owner and in possession of shopping complex in shopian which has been constructed by the caveator on partnership with another person

The caveator apprehends that the non-caveator whose name is not known to the Caveator may file any suit or writ or any appeal at the back of the caveator and may manage to get ex parte order, therefore the caveator submit in case of any Writ Petition/Appeal/Suit or such proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble court by the non-Caveator's against the Caveator, the Caveator's or the counsel for the Caveator may be provided an reasonable opportunity of being heard before passing any of the order in the said Writ Petition/Appeal/Suit or any Proceeding otherwise the Caveator may suffer such an irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated later on in any manner and same would be an abuse of the process of the court.

Caveator through counsel

Adv Waseem shamas Highcourt of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh at srinagar

Advertisement for a legal notice or public notice, featuring a photo of a man and text in Urdu/Hindi regarding a legal matter.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Chief Executive Officer PDA Pahalgam. E-bidding auction Notice No. 01/PDA / GeM/ e-auction of 2024 Dated 27/02/2024. Includes details of the bidding process, terms and conditions, and a table of assets to be auctioned.

Table listing auction items (03-10) with details such as location, area, bid amount, and terms of sale. Includes descriptions of assets like picnic spots, recreation areas, and parking places.

Advertisement for a legal notice or public notice, featuring a photo of a man and text in Urdu/Hindi regarding a legal matter.



RISING UTTAR PRADESH



India is fast emerging as a big economy globally. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a commitment to make India a \$ 5 trillion economy by 2027. In line with this goal, Uttar Pradesh is also progressing towards becoming a \$1 trillion economy

-Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas-Sabka Vishwas-Sabka Prayas' is being implemented in Uttar Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. With a focus on empowering youth, women, farmers, and the underprivileged, the state is achieving new heights in all aspects of social and economic development. Law and order in the state have seen remarkable improvements, with a significant reduction in organized crime, while industrial development is advancing rapidly. The expansion of infrastructure and connectivity has led to ease of living for the citizens, making everyday life more convenient. Moving from 14th place to 2nd place in the Ease of Doing Business ranking, UP has emerged as a beacon of transparent and accountable governance. Upholding principles of honesty and sensitivity in administration, Uttar Pradesh is now at the forefront of India's development trajectory, setting a model for other states.



Today UP has become a hope. If India is a bright spot for the world, then it is UP, which is driving the growth of India. Now Uttar Pradesh is known for good governance, better law and order situation, peace and stability. New opportunities for wealth creators are being made here

- Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

AIRPORT

2016-17 2 Airports	2024 : 10 airports operational (including 4 international airports), 11 airports under construction
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POWER GENERATION

2016-17 5600 MW	2023-24 8688 MW
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AGRICULTURE GROWTH RATE

2016-17 6.6%	2023-24 18.2%
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INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY

2016-17 288 MW	2023-24 2596 MW
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Favourite Investment Destination

MoUs worth more than ₹10 Lakh crore grounded at GBC-4.0, Employment opportunities to more than 34 lakh people

Poverty Eradication

6 crore people moved out of multi dimensional poverty line

Favourite Tourist Destination

44 crore tourists visited Uttar Pradesh

More than 96 lakh units

First rank in the establishment of micro, small and medium industries

REVIVING CULTURE

- Construction of Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya
- Development of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham Corridor
- Bhavaya-Divya Deepotsav in Ayodhya, Dev-Deepawali in Kashi, Shri Krishna Utsav, Rangotsav and Braj Rajotsav in Mathura
- Budget of ₹2,500 crore for Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025
- Formation of Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shri Vindhya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shri Chitrakoot Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad, Shri Naimisharanya Dham Teerth Vikas Parishad for re-establishment of cultural heritage



EMPLOYMENT THROUGH FAIR PROCESS

- Government jobs to more than 6 lakh youth
- Government jobs to more than 1.50 lakh women
- Recruitment of more than 1.26 lakh teachers in basic education
- Appointment of more than 33,000 teachers in secondary education
- Recruitment of more than 5,000 teachers in higher education
- Employment to more than 2 crore people in MSME/private sector
- More than 58,000 BC Sakhi appointed
- Skills development of more than 16.5 lakh youth



NEW IDENTITY

- ODOP mart portal launched for e-marketing of ODOP products
- 1,92,193 jobs created through 13597 beneficiaries under One District One Product financing scheme
- Sale of more than 20,000 products on e-commerce portal under One District-One Product program



INVESTMENT FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

- Projects worth more than ₹4.28 lakh crore received during UP Investors' Summit-2018 started, employment to 15.52 lakh people
- MoUs worth ₹40 lakh crore under UP Global Investors Summit-2023, employment opportunities to more than 1.10 crore people
- 479 services of 37 departments available through Single Window Portal Nivesh Mitra



ELECTRICITY TO EVERY HOUSE

- Free electricity connections to 1.58 crore houses under the Power for All scheme
- Development of Ayodhya and Varanasi as model solar cities
- Electrification of 1,21,324 villages
- 18 hours of power supply in rural areas, 21.30 hours at tehsil headquarters and 24 hours at district headquarters
- Installation of 26,805 km AB cables in 12,137 villages/majras with a population of more than 1,000
- 736 new power substations of 33/11 KV established, capacity increase of 1,528 power substations
- 176 transmission sub-stations and related lines constructed and energized with ₹21000 crore



QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

- Enrollment of more than 1.98 crore students in School Chalo Abhiyan
- Enrollment of 40 lakh additional children. Significant decline in the dropout rate
- Development of ultramodern technical and digital education system in selected schools under PM Shri Yojana
- Tablets/smartphones distributed to 25 lakh students under the Swami Vivekananda Youth Empowerment Scheme
- Atal Residential Schools operational in 18 divisions
- Construction of 39 new high schools and 14 new inter colleges in deprived areas
- Tablet distribution to more than 2.09 lakh teachers of primary schools promoting the use of technology in education
- Mukhyamantri Model Composite Schools established in 57 districts



EXPANSION OF BUSINESS



Due to lack of money, I was not able to keep enough goods in my shop. I came to know about PM SVANidhi Yojana and applied for it. Rs 10,000 as a loan was approved and with this money, I repaid my old loan and bought new goods for the shop. Customers have increased due to the increase in variety at the shop.

Geeta Devi, Varanasi

HAPPY TO GET A GOVERNMENT JOB



I am currently posted in the Department of Gastro Medicine at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. Many thanks to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Ji for conducting the examination through a completely fair and transparent recruitment process. It feels great to get a government job today.

Yogendra Kumar, Lakhimpur Khiri

EASILY AVAILABLE ELECTRICITY



There was a time when only rich houses had electricity, but now due to the efforts of the government, electricity is easily reaching the poor. The houses of the poor are being illuminated. I had not even imagined that there would ever be an electricity connection in my house, but it is now sparkling due to 'Saubhagya Yojana'.

Shivratna Yadav, Mohaba

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDIES



Through Kanya Sumangala Yojana, daughters of economically weaker sections of the state are being given financial assistance for education. I could continue my studies after getting the benefits of this scheme. It will help me to shape my career. Thanks to the Yogi government.

Riyanshi, Baghpat

Qatar "Hopeful" For Gaza War Ceasefire Before Ramadan, Says Official



Agencies

DOHA: Qatar is "hopeful" of a Gaza war ceasefire and is pushing for an agreement before Ramadan, its foreign ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday. The gas-rich Gulf state, which hosts Hamas's political bureau, has been a key mediator in negotiations involving the Palestinian militants, Israel, the United States and Egypt. "We remain hopeful, not necessarily optimistic, that we can announce something today or tomorrow, but we remain hopeful that we can get to some kind of agreement," Majed al-Ansari told a regular briefing. "Obviously, we said that Ramadan is going to be a point of contention, it's going to be a point of confrontation, that we are going to push for a pause before the beginning of Ramadan. "We are all aiming towards that target, but the situation is still fluid on the ground," he added. Ansari was speaking after US President Joe Biden said a new ceasefire and hostage release could start as soon as Monday, ahead of the Muslim

holy month that will begin around March 11. "Till now we don't have an agreement, we are still working on the negotiations on all sides," Ansari said. Israel's air, land and sea war against Hamas in retaliation for its deadly October 7 attacks on southern Israel has killed at least 29,878 people, the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says. Hamas attacked rural communities and military posts bordering the Gaza Strip, leaving at least 1,160 people dead, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Hamas attacked rural communities and military posts bordering the Gaza Strip, leaving at least 1,160 people dead, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Some 250 hostages were taken, of whom 130 are still in Gaza, although about 30 are thought to be dead, Israel says. A one-week pause in fighting in November saw more than 100 hostages released, including 80 Israelis who were freed in exchange for some 240 Palestinians jailed in Israel. Egyptian, Qatari and US mediators met in Doha on Sunday for talks also attended by Israeli and Hamas representatives, state-linked Egyptian media said.

Hostilities Mount On Lebanon Border As Hezbollah And Israel Swap Strikes



Agencies

Tensions have escalated as Hezbollah and Israel exchanged strikes on the Israel-Lebanon border. The Iran-aligned Hezbollah said on Tuesday that it had fired a "large volley" at the Meron base in northern Israel. Shortly afterwards, Israeli strikes were reported in several towns across southern Lebanon. The swap of strikes came after Israeli warplanes carried out a rare attack on targets deep inside Lebanon on Monday. The rise in hostilities revives concerns that the war in Gaza threatens escalation across the region. Hezbollah said it had targeted the "Meron air control base ... with a large salvo of rockets from several launchers". The Israeli army said about 40 rockets had been launched towards Israel from southern Lebanon. Al Jazeera's Zeina Khodr, reporting from the Lebanese capital, Beirut, said Israeli missiles

hit several towns in southern Lebanon. The Israeli army said in a statement its warplanes attacked a military compound and infrastructure for Hezbollah in Jibchit, Mansouri and other villages in the area. Tit-for-tat On Monday, Israel hit Buday village near Baalbek, about 100km (60 miles) from the border in eastern Lebanon. It was the first time the Hezbollah stronghold Bekaa Valley had been hit since hostilities in Gaza began in October. The Israeli army said the attack, which killed at least two Hezbollah members, had struck the armed group's air defences after the downing of an Israeli drone. Hezbollah said earlier in the day that it had shot down the unmanned plane with a surface-to-air missile. It also claimed to have fired 60 rockets at an army station in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in the wake of the Baalbek strikes.

Supreme Court Warns Ramdev, Patanjali, Tells Them To Stop "Misleading" Ads

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court today came down heavily on yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved for prima facie violation of the undertaking given by it in the court about its products and also about statements claiming their medicinal efficacy. A bench of justices Hima Kohli and A Amanullah issued a notice to Patanjali Ayurved and its managing director asking why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them. The bench also cautioned Patanjali Ayurved and its officers from making any statements adverse to any system of medicine in the media, both print and electronic, in any form as they said in their undertaking before the court earlier. On November 21 last year, the counsel representing the company had assured the top



court that henceforth there shall not be any violation of law, especially relating to advertising or branding of products, and no casual statements claiming medicinal efficacy of Patanjali products or against any system of medicine will be released to the media in any form. The Supreme Court had then cautioned the company, co-founded by Ramdev and

dealing in herbal products, against making "false" and "misleading" claims in advertisements about its medicines as cure of several diseases. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com The top court is hearing a plea of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) alleging a smear campaign by Ramdev against the vaccination drive and modern medicines.

Gaganyaan: IAF Fighter Pilots Earn 'Astronaut Wings'; Two Recipients Of 'Sword Of Honour'

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: IAF's four fighter pilots undergoing rigorous training for the landmark Gaganyaan mission, and who earned the 'astronaut wings' on Tuesday, have a stellar resume. They have a flying experience in the range of nearly 2,000-3,000 hours and two of them are recipients of the prestigious 'Sword of Honour'. Names of Indian astronaut-designates -- Gp Capt Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Gp Capt Ajit Krishnan, Gp Capt Angad Pratap Wg Cdr Shubhanshu Shukla were unveiled on Tuesday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A spokesperson of the Indian Air Force told PTI that all four officers are fighter pilots and it is a matter of immense pride for the IAF. Gaganyaan -- the country's maiden human space flight mission -- envisages demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for three days mission and bring them back safely to earth, by landing in Indian sea waters, according to ISRO website. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a post on X extended his wishes to the four pilots for getting selected for the groundbreaking mission. "The aspirations and ambitions of New India is set to take a giant leap as PM Shri @narendramodi unveils and hands over wings to the four Indian astronaut-designates. I extend my best wishes to Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla for getting selected for the



#Gaganyaan Mission. I am confident that they will rise to the occasion and help India in realising the dream of its first indigenous manned space flight," he posted. In a historic announcement, Prime Minister Modi unveiled the names of the four astronaut-designates who are currently undergoing rigorous training for Gaganyaan. Bestowing them with the prestigious 'astronaut wings', Modi hailed these astronauts as "four forces" representing the aspirations of India's 1.4 billion people. He emphasised the significance of this mission, noting that after four decades, an Indian is poised to venture into space. "This time around, the countdown, the timing, and even the rocket would be ours," Modi said and bestowed the 'astronaut wings' to them. Gp Capt Nair was born in Kerala in 1976 and is alumnus of the NDA, and a recipient of the 'Sword of Honour' -- an honour given to the best all-round cadet -- at the Air Force Academy, the spokesperson said. He was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF in December 1998. "A Cat A flying instructor and a test pilot with approximately 3,000 hrs of flying experience, he has flown a variety of aircraft, including Su-30

MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Hawk, Dornier and An-32," the official said. Gp Capt Nair is also "an alumnus of the United States Staff College and a DS at DSSC, Wellington and FIS, Tambaram, the spokesperson said, adding he has commanded a premier fighter Su-30 Sqn. Gp Capt Krishnan, also an alumnus of the NDA, was born in Chennai in 1982. He is a recipient of the President's Gold Medal and the 'Sword of Honour' at Air Force Academy. "He was commissioned in June 2003 in the fighter stream of the IAF. A flying instructor and a test pilot with nearly 2,900 hrs of flying experience, he has flown variety of aircraft, including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Dornier and An-32," the spokesperson said, adding, he is also an alumnus of DSSC, Wellington. Gp Capt Pratap was born in Prayagraj in 1982. Also an alumnus of the NDA, he was commissioned in December 2004 in the fighter stream of the IAF. He is a flying instructor and a test pilot with approximately 2,000 hours of flying experience and has flown Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier and An-32, among other aircraft, the spokesperson added.

BJP Suffers Setback As Two MLAs Cross-Vote For Congress In Karnataka Rajya Sabha Elections

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: In a setback to the BJP-JD(S) alliance, saffron party MLA S T Somashekhar voted for Congress candidate Ajay Maken while another MLA Arbil Shivaram Hebbar abstained from voting in the Rajya Sabha elections for four seats in Karnataka on Tuesday. Somashekhar and Hebbar, who are upset with the BJP, were seen getting closer with the Congress in recent months. Somashekhar represents Yashwanthpur assembly constituency and Hebbar from Yellapur segment. "We have got the information that Somashekhar has done cross-voting. I believe that people do not like cheating every now and then," the Leader of Opposition R Ashoka told reporters here. "I consulted with advocate Vivek Reddy who is our state legal cell president and a high court lawyer. We will ask the Speaker to initiate action against him (Somashekhar) and explore the possibilities to take steps in accordance with the law," the former deputy chief minister said. Somashekhar had quit the Congress and joined the BJP. He served as the minister (in the BJP government) and was made

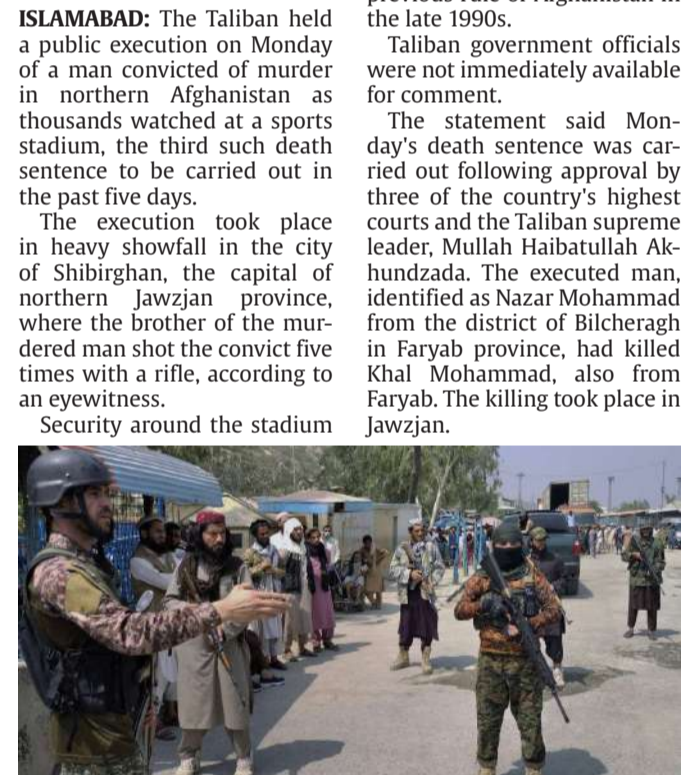


the Mysuru district in charge. Ashoka termed Somashekhar's decision as "political suicide". Soon after voting, Somashekhar told reporters that he voted as per his conscience. "I went by my conscience and voted for those who worked for building schools and carry out development works in my constituency," the rebel BJP leader said. Ashoka said Hebbar was in touch with him since morning and assured him that he would vote for the BJP candidate. "Hebbar had been telling me that he would not betray the party, but I don't know why he did not turn up to vote. He double-crossed us today, which he should not have done. We will initiate action against him," Ashoka said. Both the MLAs had defected from Congress to the BJP along with 15 others, bringing down the 14-month-old coalition government of the Congress and the JD(S) in 2019 facilitating the installation of the BJP government.

Taliban Hold Another Public Execution As Thousands Watch At Stadium In Northern Afghanistan

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban held a public execution on Monday of a man convicted of murder in northern Afghanistan as thousands watched at a sports stadium, the third such death sentence to be carried out in the past five days. The execution took place in heavy snowfall in the city of Shibirghan, the capital of northern Jawzjan province, where the brother of the murdered man shot the convict five times with a rifle, according to an eyewitness. Security around the stadium



was tight, said the witness, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to the media. It was also the fifth public execution since the Taliban seized power of Afghanistan in August 2021 as the US and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their withdrawal from the country after two decades of war. The development was ominous as the Taliban, despite initial promises of a more moderate rule, began carrying out severe punishments in public -- executions, floggings and stonings -- shortly after coming to power. The punishments

are similar to those under their previous rule of Afghanistan in the late 1990s. Taliban government officials were not immediately available for comment. The statement said Monday's death sentence was carried out following approval by three of the country's highest courts and the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. The executed man, identified as Nazar Mohammad from the district of Bilcheragh in Faryab province, had killed Khal Mohammad, also from Faryab. The killing took place in Jawzjan. On Thursday in the south-eastern Ghazni province, the Taliban executed two men convicted of stabbing their victims to death. Relatives of the victims fired guns at the two men, also at a sports stadium as thousands of people watched. Separate statements from the Taliban's supreme court said a man and a woman convicted of adultery were flogged with 35 lashes each in northern Balkh province over the weekend. Two other people were lashed in eastern Laghman province, also over the weekend; they were given each 30 lashes for allegedly committing immoral acts.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, (ICDS) POSHAN PROJECT KELLER.

Subject: - Unauthorised absence of Rayesta Jan W/O Mohd Ashraf Wani R/O Zampathri Shopian and termination notice thereof

TERMINATION NOTICE

Whereas you have been appointed as Anganwadi Helper for Anganwadi Centre Zampathri -A vide order No. 39 of 2024 Dated 18-01-2024 and you submitted your joined report on 19-01-2024; and

Whereas after submitting joining report, you were supposed to carry your work as Anganwadi Helper for the Anganwadi centre Zampathri-A; and

Whereas you remained unauthorized absent right from day of joining ; and

Whereas your unauthorized absence hampers the functioning of the Anganwadi Centre which also defeats the purpose of appointing you as Anganwadi Helper for Anganwadi Centre Zampathri -A; and

Whereas your attitude reflects clearly misconduct, unauthorized absence and non - performance of duties and lack of subordination.

Whereas two notices has been served vide this office endorsement No. No. CDPO/Poshan/Kel/23-24/1150 Dated 05-02-2024 and CDPO/Poshan/Kel/23-24/1193-96 Dated 19-02-2024

Whereas after receiving the notice you still remained unauthorizedly absent which impedes the functioning of the Anganwadi Centre besides defeats purpose of appointing you as Anganwadi Helper for Anganwadi Centre Zampathri -A

In view of the above you are hereby directed to join your duties within one month from date of issuance of notice alongwith detailed explanation failing which your services of Anganwadi helper are terminated without any further notice.

No. CDPO/Poshan/Kel/23-24/1250 -54
Dated 26-02-2024

DIPK-17085-23
DT: 27/02/2024

Child Development Project Officer
ICDS Poshan Project Keller

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TLMD II PAMPPORE, KASHMIR, J&K POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.

NOTICE INVITING e-Bids
NIT No. TLMD II/10 of 2023-24 dt:26.02.2024.

The Executive Engineer, TLMD II Pampore Kashmir, J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd, for and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites online e-bids from registered D class Civil Contractor fulfilling eligibility and qualification requirements specified hereunder for Construction of annexed pantry with Sub divisional Office and making wooden cupboards for shift staff of Control room at Grid Station Rawalpora. Submission of e-Bid shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms & conditions with full understanding of its implications. The tender is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid, submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

a	Date & Time of downloading of NIT.	The NIT Documents can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 26.02.2024 (4.00 PM)
b	e-Bid submission (start) date & time (Submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	26.02.2024 (4.00 PM)
d	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	11.03.2024 u p to 4.00PM.
F	Date & time of online opening of bids	12.03.2024 at 4:00 Pm
G	Estimated cost	Rs.2.41 Lacs
H	Venue of opening of e-Bids	The Office of Executive Engineer TLMD II Pampore Kashmir J&K.
I	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 300.00 (Three hundreds only) in the shape of non-refundable Demand Draft drawn in favor of Executive Engineer TMD-II Pampore
J	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	2% of estimated amount in the form of CDR/ FDR pledged to Executive Engineer TLMD-II Pampore
K	Status of funds	Committed

DIPK-NB-5853-23
DT: 27/02/2024

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
TLMD II Pampore.

Rangreth Locals Thank LG For Transformative Development Of Playfield

Observer News Service
Srinagar: The residents of Rangreth, Rawalpota and its surrounding areas have extended their sincere appreciation to the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and other dignitaries for their pivotal role in the development of a 70-kanal playfield at Sikh Nambal, Rangreth.
The community, especially the youth, expressed gratitude towards Lieutenant Governor for the approval of this significant project, marking a beacon of progress for the area.
Former minister and former MLA, Amira Kadal Syed Muhammad Altaf Bukhari, Administrative Secretary Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary Nuzhat Gull, Deputy Commissioner Akshay Labroo, Financial Advisor Yasir Sharief, and Executive Engineers from the Sports Department were also acknowledged for their collective support

and commitment to the demand for a playground.
The government's sanctioning of the project in 2020 has led to remarkable advancements, showcasing visionary leadership and a strong commitment to sports development. Dawood Ahmed, a sports enthusiast from Vawoosa Rangreth, expressed, "We have conducted many tournaments on this ground, and people from various areas through these grounds."
Local resident Parvez Ahmad Wani conveyed gratitude to the sports department for addressing the community's need by constructing much-needed playgrounds in the area.
The newly developed playfield, spread over more than 64 kanals of land on the right side of the Industrial area in Rangreth, has become a hub for both young and old residents who are now enjoying morning jogs.



Gunsmiths with expertise may only repair handmade rifles at the Zaroo Gun Factory in Srinagar, in view of the ban on sale and manufacture of fresh stock of weaponry. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Residents Protest Fencing Of Grazing Land In Nishat

Observer News Service
Srinagar: The locals of Nishat and adjoining areas have approached the court of law against the Forest Department for fencing the grazing land in Nishat which is being used by them to graze livestock.
The locals of Nishat, Brein, Ishbar and adjoining areas said since they have already approached the court of law, they will be staging a massive protest

against the forest department for fencing forest land.
For years, these villagers have allowed their livestock to graze within the protected area, forming a crucial part of their traditional grazing practices.
"This grazing land comprises thousands of kanals but the Urban Forest Department says they are fencing only a few hundred kilometers. We have apprehensions that the Forest Department will

go for fencing all over the land and it will prove disastrous for our cattle," said a local.
A Forest official on condition of anonymity said that the proposed fencing aims to prevent trespassing, but the villagers fear that it will impede their age-old practices and disrupt their livelihoods.
He said the Department is following the orders from the top. [KNT]

Houseboat Sinks In Jhelum In Rajbagh

Observer News Service
Srinagar: A residential house boat sank in river Jhelum and suffered damage in Rajbagh area of Srinagar this morning, officials said.
Owner of the houseboat Abdul Rehman Pakhtoon said they noticed in the morning that the houseboat was sinking.

"As we noticed it, we immediately called the administration for assistance," he said.
He said that in view of the inclement weather, the administration must provide them support and shelter.
The SDRF and Fire and Emergency Service carried out the rescue operation.

Spontaneous Power Cuts Miffs Consumers In Srinagar

Observer News Service
Srinagar: People from Kashmir capital Srinagar are miffed over the frequent and unscheduled power cuts. The problem persists both in the uptown and downtown areas of Srinagar city.
The aggrieved consumers' said KPDCCL is resorting to unscheduled power cuts in the localities fitted with smart meters.
Lateef Ahmed, a shopkeeper from Mehjoor Nagar said that for

the past many weeks, they are facing unscheduled power cuts.
"Smart meters were installed here a year back and we were assured of uninterrupted power supply. Ironically we are facing multiple power cuts, which are causing huge inconvenience to us," Ahmed said.
The locals from the Downtown area of Srinagar said that they have been equally suffering due to unscheduled power cuts for the past several weeks.
"There is no power at all.

Now we have become used to it. We know, our pleas won't yield any positive result but still, we want to let the authorities know how people have been suffering due to their negligence," he said.
Residents of Hazratbal outskirts areas like Habak, Batapora, Burzahama, Tailbal, and adjoining areas and people from uptown areas like Barzulla, Natipora, Rambagh, Ikhrajpora, etc also complained about unscheduled power cuts. [KNT]

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. As per school records my DOB is 28-03-1970. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Shakeela Bano D/o Gh Mohd Khanday R/o Kandizal laa

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the renewal of my fertilizer license. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ali Mohammad Ganaie S/o Late Ab Salam Ganaie NJ

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Jammu & Kashmir Services Selection Board
CPO Chowk Panjirthi, Jammu/Zamzam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.
www.jkssb.nic.in

NOTICE
In continuation to this office Notification No. JKSSB-Scry/5/2024-03/(7415959) dated 26.02.2024 regarding the Provisional Selection List for the Post of Accounts Assistant, (Finance Department), it is hereby informed that the e-mail address for submitting the representation(s) in reference to the provisional selection list may be read as jkssbfaa106@yahoo.com instead of jkssbfaa106@gmail.com. The candidates may submit his/her representation, if any, on the said e-mail within 5 days from the date of issuance of this notice.
Secretary
J&K Services Selection Board
No. JKSSB-Scry/5/2024-03/(7415959)
DIPK-17074/23
Dated: 27-02-2024

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Health & Medical Education Department
Office Of The Principal Government Medical College, Anantnag
(Main Campus Dialgnm, Anantnag(J&K 192210)
Phone:01932-227624 e-mail: gmcanantnag2018@gmail.com | ragmca22@gmail.com
Subject: Engagement of candidate for the post of Senior Resident/Tutor/Demonstrator in Govt. Medical College, Anantnag.
Order No. 12- GMCA (R&I) of 2024
Dated: 27-02-2024
Pursuant to the recommendations of designated selection committee in the meeting held on 24.02.2024 (Saturday) for the post of Senior Residents/tutor/Demonstrator in Government Medical College, Anantnag vide meeting Notice No. GMCA/PD/R&I/2024/118-127 dated: 17-02-2024 and GMCA/PD/R&I/2024/170-179 dated: 20.02.2024. The below mentioned candidates) are hereby selected/ engaged as Senior Residents/ Tutor/ Demonstrator (as per the merit) in the discipline shown against each on academic arrangement basis under S.O-364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020, initially for a period of 01) one year which can be extended on the basis of satisfactory performance and conduct of the individual selectees upto a maximum 03 three years
Table with 3 columns: S.NO., NAME OF THE CANDIDATE, QUALIFICATION, DISCIPLINE
All the selected Candidates are required to join the College within (21) Days from the date of issuance of this order failing which the appointment of the concerned appointee shall be cancelled ab-initio The selected Candidates will have to produce the below mentioned original documents along with a set of self attested photocopies of the same at the time of joining.
I. PG Degree/Diploma certificate issued by the Concerned University/Institution.
II. MBBS Degree Certificate issued by the Concerned University/Institution.
III. All Marks cards of MBBS/PG degree.
IV. Internship completion Certificate.
V. FMGE score card for foreign medical graduate only.
VI. J&K Medical Council Registration Certificate of MBBS and MD/MS/Diploma.
VII. Attempt Certificate 1st, 2nd, Pre-Final and Final MBBS examinations issued, by the concerned University.
VIII. Date of Birth Certificate.
X. Domicile Certificate
XI. 2 passport size photograph*.
XII. undertaking as per below prescribed format.
The appointment or above Doctors is subject to the following terms and conditions:
1. The selected candidates shall submit an affidavit duly attested by the judicial/first class Magistrate to the effect that a) If the information and the documents furnished / submitted by him/her in the application form are found wrong at any point of time, his /her engagement as Senior Resident/Tutor/Demonstrator will be terminated immediately and Action will be followed under rules, b) he/she has done/not done SR ship/Tutor/Demonstrator from any medical college/institute before joining this college. c) He/she will not participate in any kind of strike/protest etc. during the period of his /her tenure. d) He/she will follow the departmental roster strictly and maintain discipline during the tenure period. e) He/she is not involved in any criminal activity or there is no FIR pending/registered in any criminal department or in any police station against him/her. f) One month salary shall remain as deposit with the department and shall be released on the completion of sanctioned term (01 year). g) He/she will not leave the department before the completion of initial engagement term (01 year), however abandoning/ terminating after sanctioned term (one year) in the department will require one month prior notice on either side failing which the salary of one month shall not be paid to the incumbent which shall always remain in deposit with the department and shall not entitle him/her for any experience certificate. h) He/she will not indulge in any private practice during the tenure. In case he/she is found practicing in private capacity, his/her appointment shall be liable to be terminated without any notice. i) He/she will reside in the vicinity of their posted respective Associated Hospitals during their tenure at GMC Anantnag. j) That the salary will be released only after receiving satisfactory report of the selectee from the CID/police department and after document verification. The appointment/ engagement shall be terminated ab-initio without any notice if CID/police verification report of the candidate is found adverse.
2. Senior Residents/Tutor/Demonstrator appointed on academic arrangement basis shall be paid as per SO 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020.
No. GMCA/PD/R&I/SR./Eng/2024/ 204-11
DIPK-17125/23 Dated:27-02-2024
Principal Govt Medical college Anantnag

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200
AIRPORTS SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311
RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
17 Shaban 1445
PRAYERS
FAJR 5: 38
ZUHR 12:43
ASR 4: 45
Magrib 6:29
ISHA 7: 49

This Day In History
1998 - First flight of RQ-4 Global Hawk, the first unmanned aerial vehicle certified to file its own flight plans and fly regularly in U.S. civilian airspace.
2001 - The US Environmental Protection Agency announces that it intends to proceed with implementation of tighter restrictions on sulfur content in diesel fuel; the rule is opposed by many in the refining industry
2004 - Over 1 million Taiwanese participating in the 228 Hand-in-Hand Rally form a 500-kilometre (300-mile) long human chain to commemorate the 228 Incident in 1947
2005 - Lebanon's pro-Syrian prime minister, Omar Karami, resigns amid large anti-Syria street demonstrations in Beirut.
2005 - A suicide bombing at a police recruiting centre in Al Hillah, Iraq kills 127.
2007 - Jupiter flyby of the New Horizons Pluto-observer spacecraft.
2013 - 35 people are killed in violent demonstrations across Bangladesh
2013 - 28 people are killed and 60 are injured after a series of bombings across Baghdad, Iraq
2013 - The brains of two rats successfully connected so that they share information
2014 - Russia moves troops into the Crimea to protect its interests against Ukraine

From KO Archives
Valley's Token Power Supply Dips To 1 1/2 Hr A Day
Tower Restoration Yet To Pick Up
Observer News Service
SRINAGAR - Despite official claims to the contrary, there was no perceptible improvement in valley's power supply. Even after making, three units of the Pampore gas turbine operational since yesterday, the net availability of electricity to the consumers averaged a little lower one and a half hour in 21 hours. Something unprecedented, indeed.
Official sources told Kashmir Observer the valley had been divided into 18 groups to whom electricity was being provided for one hour in every 18 hours by rotation. Following the availability of another 60 mw of power from the three units of gas turbine, a 'generous' relief of two hours in given five days. This works out to a total of 8.30 hours power supply in 120 hours.
With the power minister, S S Slathia's claim of "suspected militants" having blasted three transmission towers in Banihal area emphatically blasted even by official circles, people have blamed the government of engineering the total breakdown to deprive the valley of even the bare minimum of power during winter months to the advantage of warmer Jammu.
According to reports, even the divisional commissioner, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, did not rule out the involvement of some contractors and power development department (PDD) officials in the blasting of the transmission towers. Nothing could be more damning for the power minister who has allegedly been employing circumlocution and subterfuge to the hilt to escape the blame for the valley's worst ever power crisis.
Meanwhile, according to CNS, the work on restoration of the transmission towers at Sher Bibi and Bonakat had not picked up yet. A group of officials from the power grid corporation of India (PGCI) and the power development department (PDD) besides some labourers are reported to be camping at the two sites without taking up any actual work. The official claims of the work going on "war footing" have proved to be a hoax, the report said.
Rajinder Singh reports from Jammu: Even the government promised improvement by Saturday with the temporary restoration of 220-KV tower, the power minister, S S Slathia told Kashmir Observer the valley would have to face power crisis for another week. He said restoration work was going on "war footing" but it would take about two month. However, temporary restoration will be completed by March 2. He said 370 mw of power not being supplied to the valley at present was being saved with effect from February 17.
(Kashmir Observer, 28 February, 2001)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Wednesday | 28-02-2024

Flailing Opposition

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi confidently asserts that his government's third term will commence in June, the political arena in India finds itself at an interesting crossroads. The PM Modi's unwavering confidence is rooted in his continuing and growing popularity among people. This makes him one of a kind among India's leaders. It is not a small feat to pre-empt the anti-incumbency despite being in power at the national level for ten years. Moreso, when the PM has already been a chief minister for three successive terms in Gujarat.

As speculation grows regarding the ease with which the BJP could secure victory in the upcoming parliamentary election, there appears to be a glaring lack of cohesive and spirited efforts by the Opposition to mobilize the electorate. Key developments such as the Supreme Court ruling on electoral bonds and the ongoing farmers' agitation seem to have been overshadowed by an aggressive BJP, which is not only consolidating its position but also poaching members from the Opposition.

This stark asymmetry between the approaches of the ruling party and the Opposition cannot be solely attributed to the alleged anti-democratic maneuvers of the BJP. Instead, it reflects a significant political failure on the part of the Opposition.

The coalition, cleverly named INDIA, momentarily disrupted the BJP's momentum with its naming game. However, it now stands on the verge of collapse even before the elections are announced. The Congress, in particular, continues to grapple with internal challenges, allowing the Opposition alliance to falter. The party's failure to rejuvenate itself internally has hindered its effectiveness in building a robust Opposition alliance.

The inability of Congress to effectively challenge the BJP in states where it is the main opposition threatens to stop the opposition in its tracks. As the political battleground intensifies, Congress remains a weak challenger where it is the only party capable of taking on the BJP. The party's focus on skirmishes with regional players in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh detracts from its central role in confronting the ruling party.

If they have to come good in time for the general elections, the Opposition parties must unite, setting aside differences, to uphold democratic principles, as failure to do so may result in their complete marginalization in India's democracy. As India eagerly awaits the Lok Sabha polls, the political trajectory appears to be heavily influenced by the leadership style of the PM Modi. The effectiveness of the opposition, or the lack thereof, will play a crucial role in shaping the democratic future of the world's largest democracy.

OTHER OPINION

India at MC13

Beijing, however, is busy exploring all strategic options at its disposal, to further its economic and trade interests, including the strengthening of the Asia-Pacific axis (RCEP and CPTPP), and the stage provided by the WTO. So, as the WTO's 13th ministerial conference (MC13) begins in Abu Dhabi today, it looks certain that with nearly 130 countries on board, the China-led Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) plan would pass muster, and carve out a legitimate "plurilateral" space within the WTO framework. It's interesting that the US finds itself on the side of key emerging market economies like India, Brazil and South Africa that oppose the IFD. But the "Doha Agenda" or further liberalisation of world trade via a rule-based, inclusive system, would likely remain in deep freeze for a longer period.

To be sure, a key Doha mandate was "to reduce, or... eliminate tariffs... as well as non-tariff barriers, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries." MC13 is seen to offer precious little to this end. With the core mandate intractable, the conference is expected to focus on issues like "trade and environment", labour and gender. These are fast becoming important tools to influence trade, but aren't going to do as much to impart a strong impetus to the stagnant world trade, and could hurt the interests of India. The good thing is that New Delhi is now much wiser and is keenly aware of the pitfalls of bad trade deals, as much as of the potential gains from "free trade" in the real sense of the term.

At MC13, India has a high stake to protect, and that is the integrity of WTO. As a low middle income economy still at the early high-growth phase, WTO remedies for dumping, non-tariff barriers etc. are very useful for the country. It's crucial for India to get the dispute settlement body revived, as a reasonably neutral arbiter. The country would continue to need reprieve on public stock-holding of food grains, though this is an issue that was unfairly pitted against it, in the first place. The discontinuation of PMGKAY, the scheme for extra free grains for PDS, and the likely expansion of the cash-transfer-for-food-subsidy project would reduce public grain stocks, and resolve the issue over time. Liberal trade helps only if the economy is globally competitive, and here is where India's policymakers still have a big task at hand. The stunted growth in labour-intensive exports doesn't behave a fast-growing country.

Financial Express

Farmers' Agitation Not Focused on Landless Peasants



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The farmers' agitation seems like an unending affair. The agitating farmers, most of whom are from Punjab, Haryana, UP and Rajasthan, and are participating in the 'Delhi Chalo' march have said that they will not end their agitation until their demands are met. Noted farmer leader from Punjab, Sarwan Singh Pandher, has said that agitation will continue even after the model code of conduct for the Lok elections 2024 is pronounced. The deadlock in talks between Union ministers and farmer leaders has continued even after four rounds of dialogue.

The protesters took out a candle march at Shambhu and Khanauri on Punjab's border with Haryana. The march was organised in memory of a young farmer from Bathinda Punjab namely Shubkaran Singh-21 who died during the agitation after he was hit by a teargas shell at Khanauri last week. Shubkaran's cremation has not taken place yet with farmer leaders being adamant that the Punjab government orders registration of an FIR against those responsible for his death.

The farmers have now paused their 'Dilli Chalo' march until February 29 and are holding multiple events at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders. Thousands of farmers are putting up at Khanauri and Shambhu after police stopped their march to Delhi to press the Centre for various demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops, implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21 among other demands.

41% of India's total grain is produced from small farms which includes 49% of rice, 40% of wheat, 29% of coarse cereals and 27% of pulses and over half of total fruits and vegetables despite being dependent on monsoon. The marginal holdings also had higher cropping intensity compared with that of the small, medium and large farmers. Dairying accounts for more than 50% of the household income of the landless and 30% of that of the marginal and small landholders. In fact, at the lower end of marginal and small farmer category are those who are 'near landless' i.e. they owned land between 0.002 and 0.200 hectares only and accounted for more than 31% of rural households in 1991-92. This is again down as of now.

IIM Ahmedabad's recommendations

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad in a detailed report published in 2006 suggested that a peasant farming system using modern technology of production was better than allocating the land to corporates for farming. The paper titled "Corporate Farming in India: Is it a must for Agricultural Development" (by Prof Sukhpal) Singh says that corporate farming should be discouraged in India and instead suggested farming by marginal farmers and peasants. The paper reads:

"If agricultural growth is to realise the virtuous circle of growth and distribution, only a peasant farming system using modern technology of production can achieve it, as the East-Asian experience has shown. Not only is it more competitive compared to the capitalist/corporate farming system, but also peasants do respond and adopt new technologies of production whenever opportunity arises. The experience of the Green Revolution in Punjab is an excellent example of this."

The IIM Ahmedabad report by Prof Sukhpal Singh quoting the findings of noted agri economists Mani and Pandey also suggested increasing the land holding size at the lower end to make the holdings viable. The report further reads:

"This can be done by provision of term credit through Land Development Banks to the small/marginal farmers below the poverty line, so that those willing could purchase land and increase the size of their ownership holdings (Rao, 1995)"

Swaminathan Commission Report

The Swaminathan Commission or Swaminathan Committee report is discussed a lot these days in the media as agitating farmers want implementation of the said report. On 18th November 2004 Govt of India constituted a 10 member National Commission on Farmers -NSF under the chairmanship of Dr M S Swaminathan (1925 to 2023) a noted agriculture scientist, agronomist and father of green revolution in India who was recently given Bharat Ratna posthumously.



Farmers at the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border during their Delhi Chalo/Photo by PTI

Dr Swaminathan in his 5th and final report published on Oct 5th 2006 put forward many suggestions and this included suggestions for land reforms in addition to other suggestions.

Like IIM Ahmedabad's suggestions, the Swaminathan Commission also said that large lands have been given away at throw away prices for corporate farming which was undesirable. The report suggested that landless farm labourers should be allotted 1 acre of farmland by Govt with assured water supply. He also suggested Govt for disallowing conversion of land for real estate at an unprecedented scale. He said no investments were made for land development and also sought large scale Public Investments to make land productive. He also suggested that Agri Land should be allotted to landless and not given to big firms for growing biofuels. Other recommendations included asset reforms with respect to various natural resources, supply of good quality seeds, timely & adequate reach of institutional credit, coverage of farmers under a comprehensive national social security scheme like family pension, effective implementation of Minimum Support Price. The agitating farmers are demanding legal guarantee for MSP but Govt of India is adamant to accept this.

What is MSP & challenges for the Government

The Minimum Support Price -MSP is the price at which the government purchases crops from the farmers. This is meant for 22 crops which includes cereals, pulses, oil seeds, raw jute, raw cotton, sugarcane, coconut, tobacco. This doesn't include the fruits. The MSP is fixed to protect the farmers against excessive drop in price during market fluctuations.

The Swaminathan Commission Report has suggested that the government should raise the

ment would also be faced with another concern of procurement and the expenditure to make those procurements.

Land Reforms in J&K

Since Independence the agrarian reforms in India have been a major topic of government policy. The effective land reforms haven't taken place in India even as the country has been following a socialist constitution. In Pakistan the situation is worse as the Jagirdari & Zamindari system controls all institutions. Dozens of the politicians in Pakistan own thousands of acres of land. On contrary to this the land reforms in Jammu & Kashmir post 1947 is said to be the best not only in India but many agrarian experts say this Land to Tiller Policy of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was the best in South Asian. The Big Landed Estates Abolition Act 1950 passed by the J&K Govt headed by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah placed a ceiling of land ownership at 186 kanals (22 acres) for agricultural land. This was seen as an end to the Jagirdari and Zamindari system in J&K. The rest of the land of a landlord was redistributed among the share-croppers and landless farm labourers without any compensation to the landlord. The peasants of India strongly backed the independence movement and the "Land to the Tiller" policy of the Congress Party but the desired results could not be achieved even 75 years of independence now.

Conclusion

As farmers are protesting around Delhi, the voice of marginal farmers or landless peasants isn't visible at all. Even the Swaminathan Commission has highlighted their plight in several of its reports and suggested many reforms including land distribution to them as explained above.

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MSP to at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production, also known as the C2+50% formula. It includes the imputed cost of capital and the rent on the land (called 'C2') to give farmers 50% returns.

The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare told Rajya Sabha in December last year that the Government had formed an MSP Committee in July 2022, which consists of farmers' representatives, the Central Government, State Governments, Agricultural Economists, and Scientists, etc. The committee's mandate was to frame suggestions to make MSP more effective and transparent. The central government announces MSP based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). Govt claims that CACP takes into account various factors when suggesting MSP, including overall demand-supply conditions, cost of production, domestic and international prices, intercrop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, and the potential impact on the country's economy.

The Govt is adamant to give MSP a legal status as they find it difficult to implement the same once this becomes a law. MSP was introduced in India in the year 1966-67 to ensure food security amid food scarcity. Despite broad political support for a legal guarantee for MSP, successive governments have failed to make this a law.

The government says that they may not have the necessary physical resources to store the large quantities of agricultural produce for situations when there are no buyers willing to pay the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The govern-

The farmers with large landholdings (15 acres plus) are mere 2% of the Indian population but they own more than 26% of farmlands in India as per 1991-92 report. This is almost the same even now. On the contrary 40% of submarginal farmers owned mere 3.80% of farm land in India 30 years back and this also hasn't changed much as of now. As per the 2011 data 263 million persons (26.3 crore) households are involved in farming activities. Out of this 119 million persons are land-owning farmers while 144 million are landless workers and peasants. Unfortunately nobody speaks for these 114 million landless peasants or farm labourers. Even the agitating farmers who are protesting nowadays also don't pitch their voice for poor farm labourers. In the coming days if the Govt plans to hold any dialogue with the agitating farmers I would suggest that the Govt of India must actively consider distribution of ceiling surplus, wasteland and other types of state land to these landless peasants and submarginal farmers. These people are highly experienced and the Govt must empower them rather than empowering corporates by allocating them small parcels of land. I believe that would be a revolutionary step Modi Govt can take before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is an Acumen Fellow. He is Founder & Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information Movement

On Innovation

What Makes People Creative

Muzamil Farooq

KNOWING what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example, the well-known 15th-century artist and scientist? He created beautiful paintings as well as nice blueprints for various types of innovations, such as aeroplanes, long before they were built. He is regarded as one of the greatest minds that ever lived. How about Thomas Edison? Among many of his novel inventions, he invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which were implemented in various products and found to be extremely useful. What about the well-known artist Salvador Dali? He was well-known not only for his beautiful surrealist paintings, but also for his sculptures and jewellery. What do these individuals have in common? What inspires these creative geniuses? Some argue that creative geniuses are slightly insane, and that it is the madness that drives them to be creative.

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on some-



“IT'S A FORTRESS. IT'S A SHIP. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements

thing that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing moti-

vation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward. There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to over-

come obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them; we just do them. While this is beneficial because it is efficient, it works against you if you want to come up with a creative solution. Being creative may be difficult if you behave like a robot. When you use automatic scripts and schemas from your head, you stop thinking too soon before you find the best solution. You also make far too many assumptions about what is going on. In some ways, it's better to think like a child, like someone who hasn't learned all of these assumptions, all of these automatic scripts and schemas, a person who sees a box and thinks it's more than just a box.

It's a fortress. It's a ship. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements. Having enough knowledge, being intrinsically motivated, and having creative thinking skills are all necessary for being creative. Creativity is the generation of novel and useful ideas, while innovation is the successful implementation of these ideas within a company. In other words, every innovation begins with a creative idea, and with the mentioned three elements of creativity, the good news is that everyone has the ability to be creative.

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar

HAMEEDA

A Woman Of Grace And Dignity

Her resilience and unwavering joy amidst adversity stand as a testament to the indomitable spirit that defined her and the enduring legacy she leaves behind

Hamid Ansari

A heartfelt homage from a devoted son to his cherished mother. Mother is a profound word that resonates with a spectrum of emotions, touching the depths of our souls. Undoubtedly, a mother holds a paramount position in every individual's existence. Her capacity for forgiveness knows no bounds, surpassing any measure known to humanity.

Within the tapestry of life, a mother shines as an irreplaceable gem, illuminating our paths with her unwavering presence. She stands as the quintessential source of joy and contentment for her child, nurturing their growth with boundless love and care. The magnitude of mother's contributions transcends imagination, shaping lives and molding destinies with her selfless devotion. Above all, her love radiates with purity and innocence, a beacon of light in the journey of life.

Hameeda – a name of exquisite beauty and profound significance, echoing the timeless sentiment of “Be praised” – is the cherished appellation of my mother. Throughout her lifetime, she garnered acclaim for embodying the virtues of simplicity and enduring affection, extending her boundless love and care to all who crossed her path.

Her presence radiated warmth and solace to those who sought her company, fostering a sanctuary of trust and compassion. Never once did she allow anyone to taste the bitterness of betrayal, for her heart overflowed with a steadfast commitment to honor and loyalty.

Her unwavering commitment to truthfulness throughout her lifetime not only elevated her name but also added an en-



chanting charm to her persona. With each passing day, she exemplified true success in every endeavor she undertook.

Although I regret the time not spent with her, she physically held my hand through life's journey. It is her enduring affection that will forever imbue my heart with warmth and comfort, a flame that shall flicker brightly within me as long as I draw breath.

She epitomized grace and dignity, a

timeless essence that continues to resonate, for in my heart, she remains ever-present. Even amidst the harshest trials, she adorned herself with laughter, a courageous spirit unyielding to fear, shielding her children from the burdens of tomorrow with her unwavering strength. Her resilience and unwavering joy during adversity stand as a testament to her indomitable spirit and enduring legacy.

She exemplified unparalleled diligence, her tireless efforts serving as a beacon of inspiration. To me, she occupies a revered position next to the Almighty, her selflessness and dedication illuminating the path of righteousness. Playing a pivotal role in my holistic development, she unfailingly tended to the fundamental needs of her family, embodying the essence of unconditional love and care.

Her influence transcended mere existence; she instilled within me the pursuit of happiness and the desire to contribute meaningfully to society. Guiding me with unwavering support, she nurtured a vision of a world enriched by kindness and compassion. Through her teachings of wisdom, truth, peace, and joy, she sculpted my character, fostering a spiritual harvest that continues to shape my journey.

The trials we face in life are a testament to our strength, for Allah, in His wisdom, only bestows upon us what we are capable of enduring. Those who grapple with the most arduous challenges have been hand-picked by the Almighty to exemplify resilience and fortitude.

Throughout her life, my mother encountered myriad challenges, each presenting its own set of trials and tribulations. Yet, in her unwavering faith and resilient spirit, she found solace in the belief that these challenges, though arduous, paved the path to a greater reward.

With each obstacle she faced, she embraced the journey, recognizing that every hardship was a stepping stone towards a more profound fulfillment. Through her perseverance and unwavering optimism, she demonstrated the transformative power of resilience, turning adversity into opportunities for growth and blessings in disguise.

A mother's touch may be fleeting, but the imprint on her children's hearts lasts for eternity. She embodied inspiration in every gesture, a beacon of wisdom guiding me through life's intricate pathways. Her selfless devotion knew no bounds, a guiding force whose sacrifices illuminated the way forward, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of her children above all else. Her legacy of love and guidance continues to shape my journey, a testament to the enduring strength of a mother's unwavering love.

Losing a mother is a profound and deeply challenging experience, one that leaves an indelible void in the fabric of one's being. In the wake of such a loss, words often fail to capture the depth of emotions swirling within – the overwhelming love, profound gratitude, and poignant grief that intertwine in a tumultuous whirlwind of emotions. Finding solace amidst the storm seems almost insurmountable as we grapple with the enormity of our loss.

To my beloved mother in heaven, with every beat of my heart, I am reminded of your unwavering love and gentle guidance that shaped my path. Though your physical presence is no longer by my side, the warmth of your affection continues to envelop me, guiding me through life's twists and turns.

Your soul resides eternally within the chambers of my heart, a beacon of love and strength that illuminates my journey. I cherish the memories we shared, and your absence is keenly felt every passing day. I carry your love with me always, and though words cannot convey the depth of my longing, know that you are deeply missed, and your legacy of love lives on within me.

A mother holds her children's hands for a while, their hearts forever.

3 Managers Of Reputed Private Bank Arrested For Cyber Fraud In Gurugram

Press Trust Of India

GURUGRAM: Four people, including three managers of a private bank, have been arrested in Gurugram for their alleged involvement in cyber fraud, police said today.

Those arrested have been identified as Mohit Rathi (25) from Haryana, Mahesh Kumar (27) from Gurugram, Uttar Pradesh native Vishwakarma Maurya (26), and Hayat (23) from Haryana's Nuh, they said.

The three men worked at MG road branch of Kotak Mahindra Bank where Mr Rathi was an assistant manager while Mr Kumar and Mr Maurya were deputy managers.

Mr Hayat was in close contact with the mastermind of a cyber fraud gang and used to procure the bank account details from the managers and pass on the information to them, DCP (Cyber) Siddhant Jain said.

"The three accused have been working in Kotak Mahindra Bank for the last 7 months and during this period they had opened about 2,000 bank accounts," DCP Jain said.

They would mislead the locals from Bilaspur and open new bank accounts under their name to procure the bank account kit, which was then used



to commit cyber frauds, the official said.

The matter came to light when a resident filed a complaint in the cyber crime police station, Manesar on November 18 last year, officials said.

The complainant reported that he received a call claiming that his son had been admitted to a hospital and was asked to transfer ₹10,000 for help. Following this, he transferred the money and later realised that he had been cheated, officials said.

On his complaint, an FIR was registered and Mr Rathi was arrested on February 21, Mr Kumar on February 22 and Mr Vishwakarma and Mr Hayat on Monday, police said.

Two mobile phones were recovered from their possession, police added.

"We are questioning the accused and details of bank accounts opened by the accused are being obtained," the DCP said.

Domestic Commercial Vehicle Industry To See 4-7% Dip In Volumes: ICRA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Domestic Commercial Vehicle (CV) volumes are expected to dip 4-7 per cent year-on-year next fiscal with high base effect kicking in, rating agency IcrA said on Tuesday.

The volumes are expected to remain muted through the January-March quarter on account of a perceived pause in the infrastructural activities as the model code of conduct kicks in ahead of the general elections.

"IcrA estimates the domestic CV industry volumes to register 2-5 per cent year-on-year growth in volumes in FY24. Subsequently, the industry's sharp upcycle is expected to plateau in FY25,

with a decline of 4-7 per cent in volumes," the rating agency stated.

IcrA Ratings Vice President & Co-Group Head Kinjal Shah said he expects the long-term demand for CVs to remain intact.

The continued focus on infrastructure capex, emphasis on private participation in infrastructure, construction, defence and manufacturing activities would remain a long-term positive for the CV industry, he said.

"However, in the near term, IcrA expects the volumes to plateau on a high base, amid the transient moderation in economic activity in some sectors with the onset of the general elections," he added.

Stock Markets Rebound On Gains In Index Heavyweights, Firm Global Trends

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded on Tuesday following buying in index major Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Sun Pharma amid mostly firm global markets.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 305.09 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 73,095.22. The index was hit by volatility in the first half of the session but gains in index heavyweights helped the barometer end two sessions of losses. During the day, the Sensex jumped 371.17 points or 0.50 per cent to a high of 73,161.30.

Snapping its two-day falling streak, the broader Nifty ended 76.30 points or 0.34 per cent up at 22,198.35.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, JSW Steel and Tata



Steel were the major gainers.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finserv, Axis Bank and NTPC were among the laggards.

"Markets rebounded from 2-session losses as selective buying in frontline stocks aided recovery from early weakness. There is no major trigger and investors are taking cues from global markets. As we approach F&O expiry day on Thursday, volatility will begin to kick-in as traders will roll over their positions to next expiry day," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research),

Mehta Equities Ltd.

"The hopes for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war and the drop in crude oil prices supported the sentiment," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.25 per cent and the midcap index dipped 0.10 per cent.

Among the indices, realty jumped 1.02 per cent, consumer durables climbed 1.01 per cent, tech (0.85 per cent), capital goods (0.79 per cent), IT (0.76 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.45 per cent).

Bitcoin Hits Above \$57,000 For First Time In Two Years

Reuters

SINGAPORE: Cryptocurrency bitcoin hit a two-year high above \$57,000 in Asia trade on Tuesday on signs of heavy institutional buying, while smaller rival ether topped \$3,200 for the first time in two years.

Bitcoin has rallied more than 10% in two sessions, helped by a Monday disclosure from crypto investor and software firm MicroStrategy that it had recently purchased about 3,000 bitcoins for an outlay of \$155 million.

The original and largest cryptocurrency by market

value has also been buoyed recently by the approval of bitcoin-owning exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in the United States. On Monday, trading volumes in several of the funds spiked and crypto-linked firms rallied too, in contrast to nervous broader markets.

Sitharaman Confident Of India Inc Aligning To Country's Developmental Goals

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday exuded confidence that India Inc will align itself to the developmental goals of the nation with an objective of making the country a developed nation or 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 on the 100th anniversary of independence.

Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has clearly indicated that the goal of Viksit Bharat is to be attained to provide the future generations a better India.

Addressing a session on 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047: Viksit Bharat & industry', organised by Ficci, the minister said that industry's role is critical in achieving the goal by 2047.

"You were with India during the freedom struggle, you built industry and capacity despite the colonial pressure...So Indian industry has always kept that spirit up and against terrible odds kept moving along on national interest.

"I can't see how they will be left out in this game of building a developed India by 2047. So it should be natural to India's industry to align itself with India's developmental interests, and after all industry will be the first contributor as much as the first beneficiary..." the minister said.

The finance minister also assured the industry that reforms will continue in the third term of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government.

The new government will be formed after the general elections due in April-May and the BJP is confident that Prime



Minister Modi will return to power with a greater majority. Sitharaman said that India has moved up to become the fifth largest economy and is on the way to become the third largest global economy.

Even after Covid, she emphasised that the government showed its commitment by ramping up capital expenditure. Indian industry can now surely move forward with a great speed globally as investments are coming in.

It is time for the Indian industry to also capitalise, the finance minister said.

She said that several reforms were undertaken by the government during the last 10 years and the trend will continue.

She said that the reforms to be undertaken by the next Modi government will touch on factors of production.

The minister further said today, without digital infrastructure, no country can move at a pace at which it wants to achieve developmental goals for its own citizens.

India, she said, has shown how making investment in creating the digital infrastructure at the bottom, and scaling it up, led to creation of 'India Stack'.

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

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject: **Admission for B.Ed. Courses - 2024 at Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE), Srinagar/Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu/B.Ed. Special Education in Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Srinagar: Invitation of online applications thereof**

**Notification No. 014-BOPEE of 2024
Dated: 27-02-2024**

Online Applications are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates for appearing in the Entrance Test for admission to B.Ed. Course in the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) (formerly Govt. College of Education) M. A. Road, Srinagar, Govt. College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu & B.Ed. Special Education at Composite Regional Centre (CRC), Bemina, Srinagar respectively for academic session 2024. The selection of the candidates shall be governed by the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations Act, 2002 and the Rules and Regulations there under; the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 as amended vide J&K Reorganization Act, 2019 and the Rules there under as amended vide SRO-518 of 2019 dated 02-09-2019 and S.O. 127 of 2020 dated 20th April, 2020, read with S.O. 249 dated 23-07-2021 and S.O. 277 of 2021 dated 13-08-2021 subject to further amendments, if any, made by the competent authority, from time to time and guidelines as contained in the Electronic Information Brochure-2024.

Important Information

1. Receipt of Online Application Forms: w.e.f. 02-03-2024.
2. Last date for filling up of the Online Application Forms: 16-03-2024.
3. The non-refundable Fee Rs.1200/ (Rupees one thousand and two hundred only) to be paid online through National Credit Card/Debit Card /Net Banking.
4. Date of Entrance Test (Tentatively): 14-04-2024
5. The candidates, in their own interest, are advised to go through the e-Information Brochure before filling up of Online Application Forms. Board shall not be responsible for any act of omission or commission in filling up of the Online Application Form by the candidate. It shall be presumed that the candidate has gone through the information contained in the Information Brochure and has agreed to follow the conditions contained therein. No candidate can claim any alteration in conditions which have been incorporated in the Information Brochure and notified in advance. Any wrong information filled by the candidate during submission of Online Application Form shall be the sole responsibility of concerned candidate and Form is likely to be rejected.
6. The candidates are further advised to remain in touch with the BOPEE website www.jkbopee.gov.in. The Board does not undertake any responsibility for any delay caused in the publication of Notices/Notifications in the Print Media (newspapers) as delay, if any, in such publication(s) is not within the control of the Board, notwithstanding that the Board notifies the same on the official website and for publication simultaneously on the date of issue of the said notifications/notices etc.
7. The entrance examination, if any, conducted by the Board shall be through offline mode.

Help Desk:

The applicants can also contact the Help Desk of I.T. Section of BOPEE during office hours only on 0194-2437647 / 0194-2433590 / 0191-2479371 / 0191-2470102 and/or email at helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com / coejakbopee@gmail.com for any assistance/guidance in this regard on any working day within the prescribed last date.

Eligibility

- i) Candidates with at least 50% marks either in the Bachelor's Degree and or in the Master's Degree in Sciences/Social Sciences/Humanity, Bachelor's in Engineering or Technology with specialization in Science and Mathematics with 55% marks or any other qualification equivalent thereto, are eligible for admission to the programme & 5% relaxation for SC/ST/RBA/ALC/IB/PSP/OSC.
- ii) Should be a Domicile of UT of J&K/UT of Ladakh.
- iii) The candidates appearing/appeared in the qualifying examinations are also eligible to apply and appear in the Entrance Test but they have to upload/submit the qualifying examination certificate within the prescribed date to be notified separately. Further, such candidates must have to pass their qualifying examination as per the above eligibility on or before the issuance of Provisional Selection List, otherwise their candidature shall be deemed to be cancelled without any notice.

NOTES:

- I) The sports category candidates have to indicate their sports category on the Application Form. They are also required to submit their Sports Certificate(s) in the office of the Secretary, J&K Sports Council for determining their sports points which shall later on be officially forwarded by the Council to the BOPEE. The BOPEE, however, shall not be responsible for non-inclusion of any candidate in the list forwarded by the Sports Council or delay on their part for submission of sports points to the BOPEE.
- II) The candidates having more than one reserved category certificates can get benefit of only one category indicated and uploaded along with the Application Form which in no case shall be changed afterwards. The candidate, whose Category Certificate has not been found valid, will be considered in open merit, if otherwise found eligible, without any further notice.
- III) The CDP/EWS/OSC category candidates are advised to upload their respective category certificate on prescribed format annexed as Annexure "A", "B", "C" to this Notification.
- IV) The candidate(s) who have filled wrong category in his/her own Online Application Form during submission of the same shall be considered for selection against the category filled by him/her in the Online Application, unless rectified by the Board after the representation submitted by the candidate(s) physically at BOPEE office Jammu/Srinagar before issuance of Provisional Selection List.
- V) The candidates will be considered for admission to B.Ed. Courses offered at different Colleges/Institutions strictly as per their merit cum preferences filled by them during submission of Online Application Form. Candidates who select single choice/preference shall be considered for that course/college only.
- VI) The Entrance Examination shall be conducted at Jammu/Srinagar Centres simultaneously, if need arises or as may be decided by the Board in the matter.
- VII) The online submitted Application Form is purely provisional and is liable to be cancelled at any stage subject to the final verification of the documents and even at any stage where such a document is proved to be fake/false.
- VIII) The seats in the above Institutions shall be filled by the Board, only after production of the approval/permission from the Regulatory Authority(NRC/NCET) for running the B.Ed. Course-2024 by the Government College of Education, at Srinagar/Jammu. However, the candidates shall submit the Online Application form keeping in view the above condition & their own risk & responsibility.
- IX) Mere filling up of online application forms and appearing in the Common Entrance Test shall not confer any right to such candidates for admission to these courses unless the eligibility is verified by the Board or Institutions where the candidate shall be provisionally admitted. The Annexure "A", "B", "C" shall be available only on the website of the Board (www.jkbopee.gov.in).

No. BOPEE/Exam-02/2024(7412248)
DIPK-NB-5845/23 Dated: 27-02-2024

E & O E

Sd/-
Controller of Examinations,
J&K, BOPEE

electricdivisionrnb@gmail.com

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir, Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh.

Corrigendum Date of Extension

Subject:- Strengthening and Upgradation of FANDV Market Parimpora Srinagar by way of providing Lighting facility to Retail vegetable Market at Parimpora Srinagar.

Reference:- FRESH/ 56/R&B/Electric Division Kashmir of 2023-24 issued under
Endorsement No: ERB/ 3149-57 DATED: 13-02-2024 & this office corrigendum no. ERB/3650-59 Dated: 22-02-2024.

Please read

1. Bid Submission End Date (01-03-2024, 04:00 Pm) &
2. Date & Time opening of Bids Online (02-03-2024, 02:00 Pm)

Instead of

1. Bid Submission End Date (26-02-2024, 04:00 Pm) &
2. Date & Time opening of Bids Online (27-02-2024, 02:00 Pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.ERB/3909-17
DIPK-17070/23
Dtd: 27-02-2024.

Sd/= Executive Engineer, (R&B) Electric Division Kashmir Engineering Complex Srinagar Rajbagh

NHM Releases Ranking Of Public Health Facilities

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27: National Health Mission, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday released ranking of Public Health facilities on Hospital Management Information System (JK e Sahaj) for the month of January 2024.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Chest Disease Hospital, Jammu followed by Psychiatric Disease Hospital Jammu, Government L D Hospital Srinagar, Kashmir Nursing Home Srinagar, Govt Medical College, Jammu.

The bottom five in this category included Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, GMC Handwara, Government Medical College, Baramulla, Government Dental College, Srinagar and Government Medical College, Rajouri.

In the category of District Hospitals, DH Shopian, secured the first rank followed by DH Ganderbal, Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, ASYM DH Budgam and DH JLNM Srinagar.

The bottom five in this category included DH Ramban, DH Bandipora, DH Gulgam, DH Samba and DH Reasi.

In the category of Community Health Centres (CHCs), the first rank has been bagged by CHC Charie-Sharief Budgam, followed by CHC Banihal, Ramban, Government Hospital



Sarwal, Jammu, AH Gagwal, Samba and CHC Pakherpora, Budgam. The bottom five in this category included CHC Thanamandi, Rajouri, Rajeev Gandhi Hospital, Jammu, CHC Langate, Kupwara, CHC Zachaldara Kupwara and CHC DH Pora Kulgam.

JK e-sahaj (Electronic System for Automation of Hospital Administration in J&K) initiative was formally launched on 4th November 2022 as part of Jashn-e-Sehat, by the Lt Governor, J&K having integration with Rapid Assessment System (RAS), 104 Centralised Health Helpline for outbound calling and RCH portal of MoHFW, Government of India.

The hospital ranking has been done on the basis of registration, conversion of EMR (Electronic Medical Record), registration of IPD patients and patient feedback uploaded on the portal of JK e Sahaj for the month of January 2024, on real time basis. The detailed list of facilities has been shared on NHM website.

Ganderbal Embarks On Tourism Development Plan

Agencies

GANDERBAL: In a significant move towards boosting the tourism sector, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Ganderbal, Shyambir Tuesday chaired a pivotal meeting on the preparation of the District Tourism Plan at VC Room DC Office, here.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Mushtaq Ahmad Simnani; CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, Farooq Ahmad Baba; CPO, DFO Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal, Tourist Officers of Sonamarg Development Authority and Wullar Manasbal Development Authority and Assistant Faculty JKEDI Ganderbal.

The meeting's core objective was to harness the collective expertise and perspectives of a diverse group of professionals, each bringing their unique insights to the table.

This collaborative effort aimed at formulating a comprehensive strategy to elevate Ganderbal's tourism infrastructure, promote sustainable tourism practices, and spotlight the district's distinctive attractions to both do-

mestic and international tourists. At the outset, a detailed discussion was held on potential unexplored soft and hard tourism zones within the district, setting the stage for an in-depth discussion on leveraging these areas for tourism development.

The meeting saw active participation from various key stakeholders including President Adventure Tour Operators, Rouf Ahmad Trambo; renowned trekking and expedition specialist, Manzoor Wangnoo; Ex. President Travel Agents Association Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Kuthoo; Founder of Discover Kashmir, Sajad Kralyari and tourism vlogger, Mohammad Sharif Bhat who shared insights on the industry's challenges and opportunities, and discussed strategies for marketing Ganderbal as a top-tier destination.

The meeting served as a vibrant forum for exchanging ideas and recommendations, setting a positive trajectory for the development of a tourism plan that not only aims to enhance Ganderbal's tourism appeal but also ensures the sustainability of its natural and cultural heritage.



A GROUP OF TOURISTS enjoying skiing amidst the scenic beauty of Gulmarg.

KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

'J&K To Produce High-Density Plantation Material For 12 Fruits'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government is set to produce the quality high density plantation material of 12 fruits in Jammu and Kashmir.

Director Horticulture Kashmir Gh Rasool Mir told the news agency that with the introduction of the High-Density Plantation (HDP) system and production of quality planting material, the government is set to revolutionize its fruit industry.

"High density orchards have proved very beneficial for the people of Jammu and Kashmir but the plantation material being brought to J&K from Europe isn't enough to cater to the demand," he said.

He said that the government has decided to produce planting material of 12 fruits in J&K and in next five years J&K will become a self-reliant bio-economy by harnessing the economic potential of its diversified fruit crops.

He said that the 12 fruits of which plantation material will



be produced here include apple, pear, cherry, peach, dragon fruit, almond, walnut, Kiwi, mango, lichi, citrus and gauva. For all these high density plantations, a scheme is in progress and now planting material of all these fruits will be produced here, Mir said.

He said that this year the government is importing 15.6 lakh root stock from Europe and it is expected to reach here in the first week of March. He said that mother orchards are being developed and in this regard 390 hectare of nurseries in public and private sectors are being developed that will help in producing material here

According to him, people developing nurseries under private sector will be given subsidies from 50 to 80 percent so as to encourage people to come in this stage. Officials of the department said that the Department of Horticulture, in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (ICAR-CITH) have ventured together to provide technological intervention for the new project. They said that the project shall create 200 new enterprises in the form of HD nurseries and provide potential jobs to 25000 persons. They further added that the project aims to strengthen plant testing and quality control, tissue culture and virus indexing labs besides building capacity by training 5,000 farmers and 150 technical manpower from SKUAST and the Department of Horticulture--(KNO)

CCTV Cameras With Night Vision Installed On Udhampur-Banihal Highway

Agencies

SRINAGAR:- Traffic police authorities along the Udhampur-Banihal highway stretch have installed high-end Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras equipped with night vision capabilities.

Rohit Baskotra, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) for Traffic National Highway Ramban, speaking to the news agency, highlighted the significance of camera installation, saying it will ensure enforcement and regulation.

"We have installed night vision-enabled high-end cameras on those points which wit-

ness the traffic congestion. The points include Dalwas, Mehar, Jakhani Chowk and other places," he said, adding that the cameras have been installed at strategic locations so that they can give a view of at least 3-4 kilometres.

Rohit said the functioning of the cameras will be monitored by the traffic control Ramban, and that with the help of these cameras, the field agencies will get to know where exactly they have to reach to address any issue arising due to traffic jams, accidents or breaking down of any vehicle.

"The cameras are strategically positioned at multiple locations

along the particular stretch to facilitate smoother traffic management and address congestion effectively," he said.

SSP Traffic NHW Ramban underscored the significance of these cameras in addressing hit-and-run cases, saying they serve as a valuable tool for tracking down vehicles involved in such incidents.

Currently, 10 cameras have been installed, with plans to add more soon, he said.

"We are looking to expand the coverage by installing cameras at an additional 5-6 locations, thereby further enhancing traffic regulation and enforcement," the SSP added. (KNO)

Security Officers Trained Ahead of Polls

Agencies

JAMMU: Officers of enforcement agencies, including police, Army and BSF, were imparted training by the Jammu and Kashmir Election Office here to strengthen the election expenditure monitoring mechanism and ensure peaceful conduct of upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory, an official said on Tuesday.

The comprehensive one-day training programme was inaugurated by Chief Electoral Officer, J-K Pandurang K Pole who called for better coordination and enhanced surveillance before and during the elections.

The programme, conducted on Monday, was attended by officers of enforcement agencies including the Police, Army,

at the district level for round-the-clock scrutiny and effective monitoring.

The chief electoral officer called for better coordination among the agencies for ensuring free and inducement-free elections.

Specifically targeting potential threats, Pole tasked the BSF and other intelligence agencies with combating narcotics smuggling along the international border and thwarting the circulation of counterfeit currency.

Additionally, a call to action was extended to curtail illicit financial activities, including hawala transactions, the official said.

He said the excise department was tasked with enforcing stringent regulations on li-



and BSF, the official said, adding that the officers presented a brief overview of the major actions undertaken by their departments in the past two general elections with a road-map of action for Lok Sabha elections likely to be held in April-May.

The official said participants were briefed about all the important aspects of expenditure management and were asked to bolster surveillance by establishing control rooms

quor stocking and distribution, with a mandate to eradicate illicit alcohol production. Concurrently, directions were also issued to extend vigilance to prevent the misuse of cash transportation before and during the election period, the official said.

Pole apprised the officers of various election-related aspects, highlighting the need for better vigilance and enhanced surveillance for peaceful and incident-free elections.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the General public that my son/ward namely Mohammad Ziyaad S/O Arshid Ahmad Lanker R/O Buchpora 90 feet Srinagar is Studying at Bumhall school in class 7th c where in the school records the name of my ward has been recorded as Mohammad Ziyaad instead of Mohammad Ziyaad Lanker as such I want to rectify the said error in the school records of my above referred ward. In this regard if anybody has any objection may kindly contact the school authorities within 7 days.

With regards
Arshid Ahmad Lanker S/O Ghulam Nabi Lanker (Father of
Mohammad Ziyaad Lanker) R/O Buchpora 90 feet Srinagar

NOTICE

It is informed to general public that I have lost my wards passport bearing passport No Y9603808 under the name of Murfa Yaseen anywhere now I have applied for the duplicate copy of the same so, in this regard have any body any objection he/she may file his/her objection report at Regional passport office Srinagar within a period of seven days after the publication of this notice after due that no objection will/ Shall be accepted or entertaine.

Name: Mohammad Yaseen Wani.
F/O: Murfa Yaseen
R/O: Near rice mill Lethapora , Pulwama

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE, PULWAMA WITH ADDITIONAL POWERS OF SPECIAL DESIGNATED COURT UNDER NIA ACT, PULWAMA

Present: Naseer Ahmad Dar

"DECLARATION AS PROCLAIMED OFFENDER"

WHEREAS, one Ashiq Ahmad Nengroo S/o Ghulam Ahmad Nengroo R/o Village Hanjan Bala Tehsil Rajpura District Pulwama whose photograph in pasted at Mark "A" below in involved in the commission of crime which is covered by Case FIR No. 50/2023 U/Ss 18, 20 and 38 UA (P) Act of P/S Rajpura.

WHEREAS, the above named accused presumably owing to his involvement in terrorist activities and his association with proscribed organization "Jaish-e-Mohammad" has been declared as individual terrorist under the relevant provisions of UA (P) Act by Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India Vide Notification S.O. 1737 (E) Dated 18 April 2022 and his name has been entered in Fourth Schedule of UA (P) Act at Serial No. 36.

WHEREAS, owing to the non-cooperation of the above named accused in the investigation of the above captioned case and owing to his absconding, this court on the request of investigating agency issued a non-bailable warrant of arrest against the above named accused in terms of section 73 Cr. P.C on 14.09.2023.

WHEREAS, investigating agency despite employing all possible and available human and technical resources, could not affect the arrest of the above named accused and for the reason of his continuous absconding, this court on the request of investigating agency issued a proclamation in terms of section 82 Cr. P.C against the said accused vide order dated 01.11.2023.

WHEREAS, the perusal of record makes it writ large that the proclamation so issued by this court was pasted at a conspicuous place of the house of the accused besides at a public place in the native village of the accused and District Court Complex Pulwama.

WHEREAS, the proclamation so issued by this court in terms of section 82 Cr. P.C vide order dated 01.11.2023 has also been published in Daily "Srinagar News and Urdu Daily "Uqab" in their issue dated 11.11.2023.

WHEREAS, despite issuance of all coercive process detailed in the fore-going paras and even after employing diligence and utilizing all available technical and human resources, the arrest of the above named accused could not be affected.

WHEREAS, this court on the analysis of the material placed by the investigating agency is of the opinion that to take the investigation of the above captioned case to its logical conclusion and to advance the course of justice, making a declaration aimed at declaring the above named accused as proclaimed offender has become imperative.

Now therefore through the medium of this declaration, accused namely Ashiq Ahmad Nengroo S/o Ghulam Ahmad Nengroo R/o Village Hanjan Bala Tehsil Rajpura District Pulwama involved in Case FIR No. 50/2023 of P/S Rajpura is hereby declared as "Proclaimed Offender". Issued today this 20th day of February 2024 under the hand and seal of this court.

Mark "A"

Principal Sessions Judge, Pulwama with additional powers of Special Designated Court Under NIA Act, Pulwama:

Announced 20.02.2024
DIPK-17113-23
DT: 27/02/2024

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT H S BUGH

Phone/Fax No: +91-1931-465044 Email Id: cdphsbugh@gmail.com

Subject: - General revised Merit Cum Provisional Selection List of Laktipora Hafizabad Ward No: 04 for calling of Objections

This revised General merit and Provisional selection list of Sangni for AWC Laktipora Hafizabad Ward No: 04 is calling for objections if anybody have within a period of Ten days for selection of Sangini advertised by this office vide advertised Notice No: -01 of 2023 Dated 13-05-2023. The objection should reach within a period of Ten days from the date of publishing of this notice after the date of expiry no objection will be accepted.

General revised Merit of Applicants for the posts of Saginis Advertised by this office 01 of 2023 Dated: - 13-05-2023 of Village Laktipora Hafizabad Ward No: 04									
S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage W/O	Residence	Married/ Unmarried	DOB	Qual.	Max Marks/ Marks obtained	Percentage	Final Merit
1	Sameera Khursheed	Manzoor Ahmad Mir	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	21-02-1991	12 th	750/546	72.80%	72.80
2	Asmath Bashir	Shafeeq Ahmad Ganie	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	02-11-1994	12 th	500/277	55.40%	55.40
3	Afroza Akhter	Tariq Ahmad Mir	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	12-04-1986	12 th	600/309	51.50%	51.50
4	Rehyana Manzoor	Bilal Ahmad Ganie	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	15-07-1995	12 th	500/253	50.60%	50.60
5	Subreena Yousuf	Mohd Yousuf Mir	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Un-Married	04-11-1990	12 th	750/333	44.40%	44.40
6	Shanie Akhter	Jahingeer Hus-sain Ganie	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	11-11-2002	12 th	500/329	65.80%	65.80
7	Firdousa Akhter	Touseef Ahmad Ganie	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	28-12-1990	12 th	750/327	43.60%	43.60
8	Rohi Akhter	Amir Hussain Bhat	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	12-05-1992	12 th	750/321	42.80%	42.80
9	Shabina Akhter	Mohd Yousuf Mir	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Un-Married	20-06-1992	12 th	750/295	39.33%	39.33

Final Selection List of post of Sangini for Laktipora Hafizabad Ward No: 04

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage W/O	Residence	Married/ Unmarried	DOB	Qual.	Max Marks/ Marks obtained	Percentage	Final Merit
1	Sameera Khursheed	Manzoor Ahmad Mir	Laktipora Ward No: 04	Married	21-02-1991	12 th	750/546	72.80%	72.80

NO: - CDPO/Estt/Sel/HSB/2023-24/1263-71
Dated: 26-02-2024
DIPK-17101-23
DT: 27/02/2024

Sd/= Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project H S Bugh. (Member secretary)

Shami To Miss IPL 2024

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Senior India pacer Mohammed Shami has undergone a successful surgery on his left achilles tendon, which rules him out of next month's Indian Premier League and possibly the T20 World Cup in June.

The 33-year-old, who last played for India in the ODI World Cup final against Australia on November 19, went under the knife in London on Monday.

Shami, who is eager to "get back on my feet soon" stares at a recovery time of a minimum of three months.

He will thus miss the IPL slated to be played from March 22 to May 26, as reported by PTI last week. Shami is also a doubtful starter for the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean and USA.

"Just had a successful heel operation on my achilles tendon! Recovery is going to take some time, but looking forward to getting back on my feet," Shami tweeted,



along with several pictures of him in the hospital, on X on Monday.

Shami, who was one of the architects of India's stupendous ODI World Cup campaign with 24 wickets, had played through pain as he had problems with his landing but didn't let it affect his performance.

He had flown to London in January to take special ankle injections.

However, the medication didn't work and the fast bowler had to opt for surgery.

The absence of Shami is a major blow for Gujarat Titans, who have also traded all-rounder Hardik Pandya to Mumbai Indians in an all-cash deal.

Shami was the side's highest wicket-taker during their runner-up finish in IPL last year.

Shami, who was re-

cently conferred with the Arjuna Award, has 229 Test, 195 ODI and 24 T20 wickets in his decade-long career.

It is also highly unlikely that the pacer would be able to make a comeback before India's Test matches at home against Bangladesh and New Zealand (October-November).

His target could be the marquee away series against Australia.

We Didn't Have A Chance In Hell Of Competing With India: Stokes

Press Trust of India

RANCHI: Skipper Ben Stokes expressed pride in how England have fought toe to toe with India despite not having "a chance in hell of competing" with the hosts in the ongoing series.

India registered a five-wicket win in the fourth and penultimate Test to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series against England, who suffered their first Test series defeat under the leadership of captain Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum.

"3-1 doesn't look great, but the way in which we've come at India is what I'm most proud of," Stokes told British media.

"We didn't have a chance in hell of even competing with India. But even today (Monday), that wasn't an easy win for India, and I think they would admit that," he added. In the fourth Test, England tried to fashion a fight-back before India crossed the line on the fourth day in Ranchi.

Chasing 192, India slipped to 120/5, before Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel stitched a 72-run unbroken partnership.

"I'm very proud of the way every player has thrown everything at India. No one has ever taken a backward step," Stokes said. England have let slip several promising opportunities in the series. Their batters have displayed



"The way in which we have reacted to everything, even being on the wrong end of three results, is something I'm incredibly proud of."

The visitors had started off with a thrilling win in the opener but the hosts have come back strongly taking the next three fixtures in an emphatic manner.

"I'm very proud of the way every player has thrown everything at India. No one has ever taken a backward step," Stokes said.

England have let slip several promising opportunities in the series. Their batters have displayed

poor judgement, giving away the advantage to the hosts.

Stokes conceded that the Indian spinners' skill in those conditions made it "nigh-on impossible" to play with their attacking game.

"Looking back at when we had our chance to bat yesterday, cricket is always skill against skill. Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep and the conditions we found ourselves in against them was very, very challenging."

"Nothing is impossible, I wouldn't say that. But it was nigh on impossible to operate how we wanted to," he added.

Ansa, Ayeera Win Gold In Senior Wushu League

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: Srinagar's martial arts twins, Ansa Hassan Chishty and Ayeera Hassan Chishty, have clinched two gold medals in the Khelo India Senior Women Wushu League.

Their remarkable victory came after they defeated top Wushu athletes from states such as Manipur, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan in the competition taking place at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

The sisters have been selected to represent India at the Moscow Stars International Wushu Championship. They are set to depart for Russia on Wednesday, and have been categorized as the most accomplished Wushu athletes from J&K to date.

J&K Fencers Dominate Khelo India University Games

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Fencers have been dominant in the ongoing Khelo India University Games being held at Guwahati, Assam, winning five medals in individual fencing events including one Gold, two Silver and two Bronze.

Amit Chib won the gold

medal in individual Sabre event, while Sufiyan Wahid claimed individual silver medal in the Epee event. Riya Bakshi won individual silver medal in the Foil event, while Rishika Khajuria won Bronze in the Sabre event (gndu). Yuvraj Singh Chandell (gndu) claimed individual bronze medal in the Sabre event.



A SKIING BEGINNER being helped down a slope by a trainer in Gulmarg on Tuesday.
Pic: Abid Bhat/KO

Hockey India CEO Elena Norman Resigns Citing Unpaid Dues

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Fresh turmoil hit Hockey India on Tuesday when its long-serving CEO Elena Norman resigned from her position owing to non-payment of dues for the past few months, sources in the national federation told PTI.

The Australian held the post for nearly 13 years and had not

been paid for the last three months.

Norman's resignation comes days after the chief coach of the Indian women's hockey team Janneke Schopman who claimed that she was not valued and respected by the national federation.

Norman's resignation is another setback for the body, which did not give the exact

reason for her departure in the official statement. However, a top source said Norman was upset about 'non-payment of her dues for the last three months.' "She was also unhappy with the work environment," the source added.

During the time she held the top job, the country's men and women's teams achieved career-best world rankings.

8-Team Knockout Football Tourney From Today At TRC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K's top tier team J&K Bank FC will lock horns with seven other teams from Kashmir Valley in the 92.7 Big FM Knockout Football Tournament 2024 at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

Two matches will be played on Wednesday. In the first

in 2024's first official football tournament include Galaxy FC, SSB, DFA Baramulla and STFC Natipora.

J&K Bank is fresh off its Christmas Gold Cup triumph in Jammu. The team beat Downtown Heroes FC 1-0 in the final. However, the Heroes were successful in clinching the 2023 Srinagar Premier



game, J&K Bank will take on Ali Jana FC at 12:00 PM. In the second contest of the day, Sports Council Football Academy will battle Jhelum FC, with kick off at 2:30 PM.

The tourney is being organised by J&K Football Association, J&K Sports Council and 92.7 Big FM.

The other teams taking part

League title, and sounding off J&K Bank about its lone powerhouse status in local football.

STFC Natipora is another fantastic football club to watch out for in this tournament. The Syed Tajudin boys won the All India Gold Cup Football Tournament, beating Dhanbad FC 1-0 in the final.

Hamilton Didn't Even Tell His Parents About Ferrari Move

Agencies

BAHRAIN: Formula 1 great Lewis Hamilton kept his Ferrari move so closely guarded that he didn't even tell his parents until the day it was announced.

The British driver rocked the F1 world when it was announced on Feb. 1 he was joining the Italian manufacturer next year, despite signing a new contract with Mercedes last summer.

"I didn't speak to anybody. I didn't tell my parents till the day of it being announced. So, no one knew," Hamilton told a BBC podcast. "I really wanted to do it for myself. Ultimately, I had to find out what would be the best for me."

It then emerged that the two-year deal penned with Mercedes and announced last August was actually for one year with an option for a second year, which Hamilton did not take.

Hamilton informed Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff of his decision to



leave only the day before over breakfast at Wolff's home. They have become close friends over the years after Hamilton joined Mercedes from McLaren in 2013.

The 39-year-old Hamilton and Michael Schumacher have a record seven F1 titles each, and Hamilton is the outright leader with 103 race wins and 104

pole positions. Hamilton has spoken in the past of the lure of racing with Ferrari, where Schumacher won five of his world titles.

"I mean, the opportunity just popped up and I was like, OK, I've got to think for a second," Hamilton said. "(But) I didn't have a lot of time to think and I had to just go with my gut

feeling and I decided to take the opportunity."

Hamilton begins his last season with Mercedes on Saturday at the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix.

His last win was at the Saudi Arabian GP in the penultimate race of the 2021 campaign, where Max Verstappen won the first of his three straight titles with Red Bull. (AP)

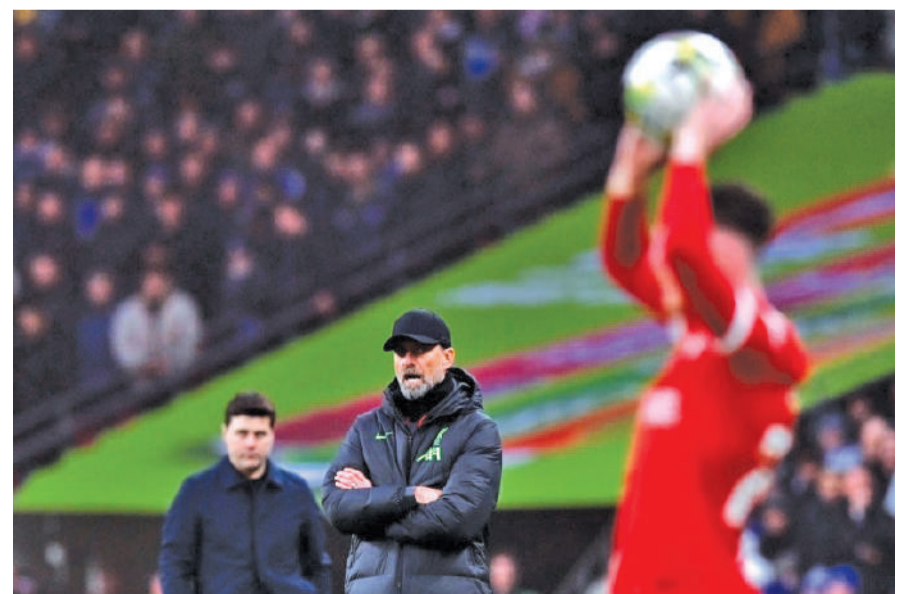
Liverpool Need A 'Miracle' Without Key Players, Says Klopp

Agencies

LONDON: Injury-hit Liverpool need a "miracle" with several prominent players in doubt for Wednesday's FA Cup fifth round tie against Southampton, manager Jurgen Klopp said. Midfielder Ryan Gravenberch, injured during Sunday's League Cup final victory over Chelsea, is the latest player from the Premier League leaders to be sidelined for this week's clash.

"Ryan's not available... it's a ligament injury. Could have been much worse. But bad enough to be ruled out for this game, next game... we'll see," he said. "We need miracles with a few players. That's why I don't want to rule (them) out for too long. But it's touch and go with a lot of players."

Klopp said forwards Mohamed Salah and Darwin Nunez, who missed the League Cup final, are also not a certainty for Wednesday. "We have to see what they can do today," he said.



The German credited the depth of the squad and its young talent for the way the team has performed this season, including the League Cup triumph. "Our squad is deeper than we thought. I've said it plenty of times, without the kids we would not be here," Klopp said.

"The story of Sunday was one of the best football stories ever. Our boys play youth football, only came up recently, nil experience and a lot of talent," he added. However, Klopp was concerned that a lack of recovery time could be an issue when facing Southampton, who are fourth in

the second tier standings. "I love the Championship... the intensity of football played there is insane. The league is incredible, and difficult," he said. "Liverpool is (talked up as) massive favourite(s), but that is not the case. We need a competitive team and to fight for it."

Kashmir Feels

reaches of Kashmir Division (Anantnag-Pahalgam, Kulgam, Srinthang Pass, Shopian-Pir Ki Gali, Sonamarg-Zojila, Bandipora-Razdan Pass, Gulmarg and Kupwara- Sadhna Pass),” the advisory read.

The weather system may further lead to disruption of surface and air transport including Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and other major roads of middle and higher reaches of J&K, it said.

The advisory further warned people in snow-bound areas to avoid venturing into sloppy and avalanche-prone areas and cautioned of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones in vulnerable areas.

PM Modi To Address

of the constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, Anantnag seat comprised only of the four south Kashmir districts -- Shopian, Kulgam, Pulwama and Anantnag.

The seat was won by National Conference's Justice (ret'd) Hasnain Masoodi in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The visit would be the prime minister's first visit to the Kashmir Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories in August 2019 by the Centre.

However, this would be Modi's second visit to J&K in two months. The PM addressed a public rally in Jammu on February 20 during which he also unveiled multiple development projects totalling over RS 32,000 crore.

INDIA Bloc Has

Jayalithaa ji who gave her entire life for the people's welfare,” Modi said.

Criticising the opposition, he said those “looted Tamil Nadu for decades are now scared of the growing power of the BJP”.

“They want to save their power by lying, dividing people and making people fight amongst each other,” the Prime Minister further said. “But the people of Tamil Nadu are as intelligent as they are pure of heart. They know the truth, they know the reality.”

In a bid to strike a chord with the people of the state who did not send any BJP member to the current Lok Sabha, Modi said he has an emotional connect with Tamil Nadu and installed the ‘sengol’ in Parliament respecting the grand heritage of the country and the state as well.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed on Tuesday that the opposition, convinced it won't win the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, resorts to abusing him as it allegedly lacks a roadmap for the nation's progress.

Modi, speaking at the conclusion ceremony of the BJP state unit's padayatra at the Central Stadium here, urged Kerala's people to bless the saffron party with seats in double digits in the 2024 LS polls.

He further said the BJP never sees a state from the perspective of vote-bank.

He said it was his guarantee to make all possible efforts to realise the dreams and expectations of the people of Kerala.

The PM said it was ‘Modiyude guarantee’ (Modi's guarantee) to make India the third largest economy in the world as well as eradicate poverty and corruption from the country.

Attacking the Congress, Modi, in an apparent reference to the Gandhi family, said the track record of the grand old party shows how it managed to keep the country under the control of one family for decades.

“For them (Congress) the interests of that family are above that of all the other families in the country,” he alleged, adding that the Communists were now showing the same colours.

In a veiled reference to Rahul Gandhi, who represents Wayanad seat in Lok Sabha, Modi also said that the Communists were advising the Congress to keep its ‘Yuvraj’ (prince) out of Kerala.

Insisting that the BJP never sees a state from the perspective of a vote bank, Modi claimed that over the past 10 years, Kerala has benefited from development like other BJP-ruled states.

He said it was his guarantee to make all possible efforts to help the people of Kerala realise their dreams and expectations.

The PM said it was ‘Modiyude guarantee’ (Modi's guarantee) to make India the third-largest economy in the world as well as eradicate poverty and corruption from the country.

Apparently responding to Kerala's CPI(M)-led Left government's allegations that the state was discriminated against by the Centre, Modi said the BJP has never seen any Indian state from the perspective of a vote bank.

“Even when the BJP was not strong in Kerala, even then we worked day in and day out to empower Kerala. Over the past 10 years, the benefits of development have been reaped by Kerala as much as by the BJP-ruled states,” the Prime Minister said.

He said despite the “constant non-cooperation by the state government, Kerala has still remained our priority.”

Recounting the steps taken by the Centre for the development of Kerala, Modi said the BJP government connected the world with India's traditional knowledge of Ayurveda. Forty thousand farmers of Kerala have received direct financial assistance through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and over 50 lakh MUDRA loans have been disbursed in the state to help young entrepreneurs.

He also said works are being done for new-generation infrastructure projects in Kerala.

“The people of Kerala have a new enthusiasm. The ‘hope’ that emerged in the hearts of the people of Kerala in 2019 has now become their ‘faith’ in 2024. In 2019, the BJP-led NDA received votes in double digits in Kerala. It seems like in 2024, Kerala has decided to give ‘seats’ in double digits,” Modi said.

He said what is going to happen a few months later is not a secret anymore.

“In 2019, the talk of the town was ‘Fir Ek Baar, Modi Sarkaar’; In 2024, the talk of the town was ‘Abki Baar, 400 Paar’.

He said everyone is talking about the third

term of the Modi government.

“In our third term, India is set to become the world's third-largest economy. This is Modi Ki Guarantee. In our third term, our fight against corruption is going to be more defined,” he said.

Alleging that the LDF and the UDF rule did not do anything for the education system in Kerala, Modi said everyone knows about the struggle faced by the students of the poor and the middle class of the state while pursuing higher education.

“Our third term will work on the development of educational institutions in Kerala. This will pave the way for opportunities for students hailing from poor and middle-class families,” he said.

“We live by one mantra—‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas’. For us, every community, caste, and region is important. We have worked for the progress of every citizen. In our third term too, we will work with the same intentions,” he added.

PM Announces Names

training at various facilities in the country. They also underwent training for 13 months in Russia.

Addressing the audience at the space centre, the prime minister introduced to the nation Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Angad Pratap, Ajit Krishnan, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla. The IAF pilots aged between 39-48 years have a flying experience in the range of nearly 2,000-3,000 hours, according to IAF officials. Two of them are recipients of the prestigious ‘Sword of Honour’.

Modi hailed the astronauts as “four forces” representing the aspirations of India's 140 crore people.

He also emphasised the significance of the country's first crewed space mission, noting that after four decades, an Indian is poised to venture into space.

“This time around, the countdown, the timing, and even the rocket would be ours.”

Reflecting on the symbolic importance of the mission, Modi described the astronauts as not merely individuals but as four ‘Shakti’ carrying the hopes and dreams of 140 crore Indians into space. He asserted that their names have become intertwined with India's success.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan and ISRO chairman S Somanath were among others who were present at the ceremony.

Modi expressed immense satisfaction that the majority of components for the Gaganyaan mission are manufactured in India, underscoring the nation's self-reliance in space exploration.

He lauded the dedication of the pilots to training, which included the practice of Yoga, and hailed them as representatives of India's resilient ‘Amrit’ generation, known for their unwavering determination and ability to overcome challenges.

Modi also inaugurated ISRO's three major space infrastructure projects worth around Rs 1,800 crore during his visit to the VSSC.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in a post on X extended his wishes to the four pilots for getting selected for the ground-breaking mission.

“I am confident that they will rise to the occasion and help India in realising the dream of its first indigenous manned space flight.” Neighbours of Gp Capt Nair's home in Nemmara village in Palakkad broke into cheers after the prime minister's announcement.

“I was sitting in front of the television till now to see the prime minister announcing his name. Prasanth was such a good child...I have known him since he was four or five years old,” an elated neighbour told a television channel.

Gp Capt Nair was born in Kerala in 1976 and is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy(NDA), and also a recipient of the ‘Sword of Honour’ -- an honour given to the best all-round cadet -- at the Air Force Academy, an IAF spokesperson said.

He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF in December 1998.

“A Cat A flying instructor and a test pilot with approximately 3,000 hrs of flying experience, he has flown a variety of aircraft, including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Hawk, Dornier and An-32,” the official said.

Gp Capt Nair is also an alumnus of the United States Staff College, the official said, adding he has commanded a premier fighter Su-30 Squadron.

Gp Capt Krishnan, also an alumnus of the NDA, was born in Chennai in 1982. He is a recipient of the President's Gold Medal and the ‘Sword of Honour’ at Air Force Academy.

“He was commissioned in June 2003 in the fighter stream of the IAF. A flying instructor and a test pilot with nearly 2,900 hrs of flying experience, he has flown variety of aircraft, including Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-21, Mig-29, Jaguar, Dornier and An-32,” the official said.

Gp Capt Pratap was born in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh in 1982. Also an alumnus of the NDA, he was commissioned in December 2004 in the fighter stream of the IAF.

He is a flying instructor and a test pilot with approximately 2,000 hours of flying experience and has flown Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier and An-32, among other aircraft, the official said.

Wg Cdr Shukla was born in Lucknow in 1985 and an alumnus of the NDA who was commissioned in June 2006 into the fighter stream of the IAF.

A fighter combat leader and a test pilot with nearly 2,000 hours of flying experience, he has flown Su-30 MKI, MiG-21, MiG-29, Jaguar, Hawk, Dornier and An-32, among other aircraft.

According to the ISRO website, the pre-requisites for Gaganyaan mission include development of many critical technologies including human-rated launch vehicle for carrying crew safely to space, life support system to provide an earth-like environment to crew in space, crew emergency escape provision and

evolving crew management aspects for training, recovery and rehabilitation of crew.

In his speech, Modi said India's space sector's contributions were not only sowing the seeds of scientific temperament among the younger generations, but also providing an impetus for the country to emerge as a global player in the 21st century.

Modi Ended

ending the linguistic inferiority complex from the minds of children and instilling a sense of pride among people for their language, culture, country and religion.

He said PM Modi also made the world listen to him give speeches in Hindi on global platforms, including G20.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a medical college run by Shree Swaminarayan Vishwamangal Gurukul at Kalol in his Lok Sabha constituency of Gandhinagar, Shah said that in the last one decade of the Modi government, improvement to medical services took place at a fast pace in the country.

There is no doubt that Modi will become the prime minister for another five years, he said.

“For the first time, the Modi government made arrangements for students to study medical and engineering courses in their mother tongues. In a short time, students who wish to study medical science in Gujarat can become a world-class doctor. PM Modi worked towards ending the linguistic inferiority complex from the minds of children,” he said.

Shah said he has seen leaders from India, who talked about patriotism, speak in fluent English abroad.

“Today, Narendrabhai has made the entire world listen to him addressing in Hindi on global platforms, including G20. He worked to instil pride in the public for their language, culture, country and religion,” Shah said.

For the first time, the youth of the country are confident that India will be on top of the world in 2047 when it completes its centenary year of independence, the Union minister said.

“In 2047, the youth sitting here will see how people abroad will line up for Indian visas. This kind of India is being created under the leadership of Modi,” he said.

From seven All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in 70 years, their number went up to 23 in 10 years of the Modi government, he added.

From 387 medical colleges, the number increased to 706 when the country celebrated 75 years of independence. Also, from 51,000 medical seats, the number rose to 1.07 lakh, Shah said, adding that from 31,000 post-graduate seats, the number rose to 70,000.

The Modi government improved the standard of higher education, revived the syllabi to make it world class and offered the youth a platform to compete globally, he said.

“As a result, lakhs of youth created start-ups and hoisted the Indian flag high in the world. All this happened in the last 10 years,” Shah said.

After 34 Yrs Muharram

Indian soldier, who could lay down his life to protect the people but... could not construct even a small house there. An immense change has come now in this regard. Now 1.25 crore people of J&K have been empowered under PM Modi. The refugees who have come from west Pakistan had all the rights as citizens in other Indian states but J&K. Now they have been empowered. Secondly, J&K girls who got married outside the state lost the right...now they are empowered, so the Kashmiri Pandits have become empowered.”

The Backward Classes had quotas in jobs etc in other states but not J&K. Now they have got this and even the tribals of J&K and about 14 lakh pahadis also got quota.

Sinha added, “On the economic front, activities have started in Jammu and Kashmir and also the tourist influx has increased. The G20 also saw an increase in foreign tourists by 2.5 times.”

While talking about the changing face of Kashmir, Sinha stressed that “the state tax revenue is better than the average of other states, while in terms of infrastructure development today, Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of highways and tunnels is going on in the state. Additionally, the state is working at a speed of 10 times more than the national average in completing projects.”

He said, “The land laws in the state were regressive but now we have digitised the land records which are available in three languages namely Hindi, English and Urdu.” Similarly while talking about the agricultural development of the state, Sinha said that stress has been laid on a “holistic agriculture development plan after which the state is fifth in terms of the earnings of farmers”.

To a question on peace in the Valley, the LG said, “Today, the youth in Kashmir play guitar on the banks of Jhelum river at 11 pm. Kashmir has changed a lot after the removal of Article 370. Peace can no longer be bought here. There is good governance here. Pattharbaazi is a thing of the past.”

He recalled that a group came to meet him and thanked me saying that they got their graduation degree in three years against seven years.”This is because earlier on the direction of Pakistan, things used to remain shut after bandh calls given by the neighbours. It is history, as now Pakistan does not give bandh calls but the J&K government releases the education and religious calendar and not Pakistan.”

“There has been a huge reduction in terror activities in J&K and now the youth of J&K are taking out Tiranga Yatra and shouting slogans like Bharat Mata Ki Jai. This change many will not understand. Even the deployment of forces has reduced a lot in the past. These are some indications that things are changing. Now you can enjoy nightlife in the state.”

He added, “The government is trying to end the entire terror ecosystem. Soon we will be able to end it completely and people will see that J&K has been rid of this problem. Earlier, we used to buy peace in the Valley by talking

to those who impeded peace. But now things have changed. The families of big terrorists were in government jobs but we changed this and threw them out.”

Sinha went on to say, “Many terrorists from Pakistan enter by taking advantage of the ceasefire, but these terrorists now carry out incidents just to register their presence.”

On the question of talks with Pakistan, Manoj Sinha said, “Talk and terror can't go together. We will only talk to the youth of Kashmir and the people here and try to give them all help and all the facilities they want.”

Regarding the question of statehood, LG Sinha said, “Election preparations are an ongoing process and after removal of Article 370 the work of delimitation started, now the voter list has been revised, names added and soon Lok Sabha polls will take place. After this, hopefully by September this year, Assembly polls will take place. A full team of the Election Commission is coming to J&K on March 12. I am sure that the government of India will give statehood at an appropriate time.”

He also refused to talk about PoK saying, “It is MEA's work and we should let it do the work.” He also added that there is complete freedom to everyone for political activities in the state.

Sinha told the gathering that “the state's sports budget is the highest in the country”. He said that Sachin Tendulkar who was on a visit to Kashmir told him that ‘Kashmir badal gaya hai!’

Temple renovation in J&K is on and for the restoration of heritage sites Rs 200 crore have been earmarked, be it temple, church, mosque or gurudwara. He also said, “Pakistan polls do not have any effect in J&K and the people of the state are aware that their future is only with India. Pakistan has only misguided the youth here, killed innocents and done nothing.”

LG Manoj Sinha signed off by saying, “I have an important work of J&K which I am doing with honesty. I feel it is Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Amarnath's aashirvad that I have been given this work. It will be great for me if I am able to make Jammu and Kashmir like another state of the country.”

JKP To Launch

accused but the victims of crimes and the society in general receive justice, and thrust has been given to modernise the investigation process by using technology,” the spokesperson said.

“These laws have provisions to tackle terrorism and organised crimes more effectively and incorporate advancements in modern and scientific technology to improve the quality of investigation, besides timeline for trials,” he said.

Additionally, the laws have provisions for increased punishment in certain offences.

The new criminal laws have introduced new offences, including offences against the state; organised crime; and offences related to terrorism, mob-lynching, non-reporting of rash and negligent acts, snatching, ATM theft, Ponzi schemes, and question paper leaks, according to the police spokesperson.

The laws expand the definition of documents to include electronic or digital records, e-mails, server logs, computers, smartphones, laptops, SMS, websites, locational evidence, mails, messages on devices. A provision has been made to digitise the entire process from FIR to case diary, case diary to charge sheet and charge sheet to judgment, he added.

The official said videography has been made compulsory at the time of search and seizure that will be part of the case and will not implicate innocent citizens. Without such recordings by the police, no charge sheet will be valid.

He added a provision of e-FIR is being added for the first time, every district and police station will designate a police officer who will officially inform the family of the arrested person about his arrest online and in person.

The statement of the victim has been made compulsory in the cases of sexual violence and the video recording of the statement has also been made compulsory in cases of sexual harassment, the police spokesperson said.

According to three identical notifications issued by the Union home ministry on February 24, provisions of the new laws will come into force from July 1.

The legislations aim at completely overhauling the criminal justice system by giving definitions of various offences and their punishments.

However, the provision related to cases of hit and run by vehicle drivers will not be implemented immediately.

KPDCL Extends

According to the notice the department shall ensure recovery of arrears in full by covering all eligible consumers and shall disconnect the connections of the consumers who do not avail the scheme and fail to pay the power dues.

It also states that the failure of payment of outstanding dues within the prescribed twelve (12) months period shall invite penalty and legal action against the defaulter Consumer and power Amnesty Scheme shall be considered in future.

“The Department shall apprise the FD, on monthly basis, of the recoveries made under the scheme. The Department, JPDC and KPDCL vigorously implement loss reduction, metering and energy audit measures to lower the ATC losses as per the trajectory committed to MHA/MoF.”

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, a senior official of the PDD said that the amnesty scheme is expected to be announced soon and the government will come up with a formal order in this regard.

“It will be similar to the amnesty scheme that was in place last year. Under this scheme, no interest will be charged if the consumer pays all the dues in 12 installments within a one-year timeframe,” he explained.

“However, if the consumer fails to pay even one installment, the surcharge will not be waived,” he added.

The extension of the Amnesty Scheme aims to provide relief to domestic consumers while ensuring the efficient recovery of dues and reduction of losses in the power distribution system.

NC, Congress

discussion,” Abdullah told PTI Videos.

The former chief minister was reacting to speculations that INDIA bloc has reached an agreement on seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh with Congress fighting on Jammu, Udhampur (in Jammu region) and Ladakh constituencies, National Conference (NC) in Srinagar and Baramulla and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Anantnag seat.

NC had won Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag seats and BJP was victorious on Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh in the 2019 general elections.

“Why should we surrender a seat? The aim of the INDIA alliance is to reduce the seats of BJP and not reduce the seats of INDIA alliance members. We are discussing only three seats,” Abdullah said.

He said there has been only one round of discussions in New Delhi recently on the seat-sharing agreement among the INDIA bloc partners.

He said there will be a second round of discussions and “I am going to Delhi in a few days”.

However, he reiterated that his party would be only discussing those seats which are presently held by the BJP.

“There are only six seats including Ladakh. Three seats are anyway held by NC. So we are only discussing three seats - Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh. So I do not think it will be too difficult,” Abdullah said.

“I am sure in the next round of discussion, we will have it (seat-sharing arrangement) concluded. I am going to Delhi in a few days and I will have another round of discussion with the people there,” he said.

Asked about the delay in conducting the assembly elections in the Union Territory, Abdullah expressed the hope that there would be some good news from the Election Commission of India's (ECI's) visit to J-K next month.

Abdullah said, “J-K has not had assembly elections since 2014. This is the tenth year now. As I have said earlier, it is a matter of shame that assembly elections in J&K had to be announced by the Supreme Court.”

“They should have been announced by the ECI. Now the ECI is coming here in the middle of March. I hope we get to hear some good news from that (visit),” he said.

BJP Finalises

(KNO) said that the BJP has shortlisted Darakshan Andrabi, Altaf Thakur, Ashok Bhat and Arif Raja for Central Kashmir parliamentary seat while for the North Kashmir seat, there are three probabilities that include Anwar Khan, Surinder Ambardar, and Fakir Muhammad Khan.

For Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, J&K BJP chief Ravinder Raina has expressed his desire to contest himself while former National Conference MLC Shehaz Ganai, who joined BJP in New Delhi recently, is also in the panel. “There is every possibility that Shehaz Ganai would be given the party ticket for the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency given her father's legacy and huge fan following,” said a source in the BJP.

The party leadership in J&K is in constant touch with the BJP leadership in New Delhi. “The list of candidates has been sent to the parliamentary panel of BJP and final call is expected shortly so that candidates are given time to campaign,” a senior BJP leader said.

He said BJP is confident to bag all three seats in Kashmir. “Joining of prominent faces has given a new impetus to the party and more influential and protuberant people are in the list to join the party in the days ahead,” the leader said.

For two seats in Jammu, the names are being finalised and will soon be sent to the parliamentary affairs panel of BJP in New Delhi. For Kathua-Udhampur Lok Sabha seat, MoS in PMO and incumbent MP Dr Jitendera Singh is all set to be repeated for seat while as for Jammu seat, there is a likelihood to replace incumbent MP Jugal Kishore. “Former J&K Assembly speaker Kavinder Gupta and Devender Singh Rana are two main contenders for the seat,” sources in the BJP said—(KNO)

‘Alone for 30 Years

told Kashmir Observer that they would ensure that Lal doesn't skip any meal and would provide him with heating gadgets, blankets and other necessary items during winters.

“It was very heart-breaking to see him in these conditions but this is all we could have done,” Bhat added.

His relatives who are currently living in Jammu came to Kulgam a number of times to convince him to shift to Jammu, however he refused.

“He was so attached to Kashmir that he was ready to die here,” Shuban Krishan Koul said, adding, “We occasionally go to visit him.”

Lal is acquiring apple orchards spanning over 14 kanals, valued in crores, in the village, while his neighbor Farooq Ahmad is responsible for its maintenance.

Koul said they would have returned to Kashmir but due to the killing of Kashmiri pandits post abrogation, they decided not to.

Koul acknowledges that his Muslim neighbors have been feeding and ensuring the well-being of his uncle for the past 30 years, for which he is very thankful.

Over 60,000 Kashmiri Pandit families migrated from Kashmir during the early nineties. Ever since their migration, their muslim brethren have taken care of their property and have returned back whenever they asked for it.

Many Kashmiri Pandits sold their property to their Muslim brethren, while others appointed their Muslim neighbors and friends as custodians of their properties.

Notably, since September 2021, the Jammu and Kashmir administration started retrieving/freeing the migrant KP properties across Kashmir.

Satellites Are Burning Up In The Upper Atmosphere



Agenceis

Elon Musk's SpaceX has announced it will dispose of 100 Starlink satellites over the next six months, after it discovered a design flaw that may cause them to fail. Rather than risk posing a threat to other spacecraft, SpaceX will de-orbit these satellites to burn up in the atmosphere.

But atmospheric scientists are increasingly concerned that this sort of apparent fly-tipping by the space sector will cause further climate change down on Earth. One team recently, and unexpectedly, found potential ozone-depleting metals from spacecraft in the stratosphere, the atmospheric layer where the ozone layer is formed.

The relative low earth orbit where satellites monitoring Earth's ecosystems are found is increasingly congested with Starlink alone has more than 5,000 spacecraft in orbit. Clearing debris is therefore a priority for the space sector.

Newly launched spacecraft must also be removed from orbit within 25 years (the US recently implemented a stricter five-year rule) either by moving upwards to a so-called graveyard orbit or down into the Earth's atmosphere.

Lower orbiting satellites are usually designed to use any remaining fuel and the pull of the Earth's gravity to re-enter the atmosphere. In a controlled reentry, the spacecraft enters the atmosphere at a pre-set time to land in the most remote part of the Pacific Ocean at Point Nemo (aka the spacecraft cemetery). In an uncontrolled re-entry, spacecraft are left to follow a natural demise and burn up in the atmosphere.

Nasa and the European Space Agency promote this form of disposal as part of a design philosophy called design for demise. It is an environmental challenge to build, launch and operate a satellite robust enough to function in the hostility of space yet also able to break up and burn up easily on re-entry to avoid dangerous debris reaching the Earth's surface. It's still a work in progress.

Satellite operators must prove their design and re-entry plans have a low human-hit rate before they are awarded a license. But there is limited concern regarding the impact on Earth's upper atmosphere during the re-entry stage. This is not an oversight.

Initially, neither the space sector nor the astrophysics community considered burning up

satellites on re-entry to be a serious environmental threat to the atmosphere, at least. After all, the number of spacecraft particles released is small when compared with 440 tonnes of meteoroids that enter the atmosphere daily, along with volcanic ash and human-made pollution from industrial processes on Earth.

Bad news for the ozone layer? So are atmospheric climate scientists overreacting to the presence of spacecraft particles in the atmosphere? Their concerns draw on 40 years of research into the cause of the ozone holes above the south and north poles, that were first widely observed in the 1980s.

Today, they now know that ozone loss is caused by human-made industrial gases, which combine with natural and very high altitude polar stratospheric clouds or mother of pearl clouds. The surfaces of these ethereal clouds act as catalysts, turning benign chemicals into more active forms that can rapidly destroy ozone.

Dan Cziczo is an atmospheric scientist at Purdue University in the US, and a co-author of the recent study that found ozone depleting substances in the stratosphere. He explains to me that the question is whether the new particles from spacecraft will help the formation of these clouds and lead to ozone loss at a time when the

Earth's atmosphere is just beginning to recover. Of more concern to atmospheric scientists such as Cziczo is that only a few new particles could create more of these types of polar clouds not only at the upper atmosphere, but also in the lower atmosphere, where cirrus clouds form. Cirrus clouds are the thin, wispy ice clouds you might spot high in the sky, above six kilometres.

They tend to let heat from the sun pass through but then trap it on the way out, so in theory more cirrus clouds could add extra global warming on top of what we are already seeing from greenhouse gases. But this is uncertain and still being studied.

Cziczo also explains that from anecdotal evidence we know that the high-altitude clouds above the poles are changing but we don't know yet what is causing this change. Is it natural particles such as meteoroids or volcanic debris, or unnatural particles from spacecrafts? This is what we need to know.

Breaching 2-Degree Goal Could Melt Massive Ice Sheet On Earth: Study



Agenceis

New Delhi: Breaching the Paris Agreement's temperature goal of two degrees Celsius could significantly melt the Filchner Ronne Ice Shelf in Antarctica, the second largest ice sheet on Earth, and could substantially contribute to raising global sea levels, according to new research.

The water temperature within the trough is regulated by the Antarctic Coastal Current, which causes a seasonally varying amount of warm deep water to flow into the Filchner Trough lying under the eastern portion of the ice shelf, which covers the southern part of the Weddell Sea bordering Antarctica.

Through modelling, researchers at the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Germany have found that pulses of warm deep water -- distinct periods of time

when increased volumes of this water flow into the Filchner Trough -- have been linked with an increased melting of the base of the ice shelf above.

The authors warned that continued warming of the water in the trough could lead to increased melting and subsequent rise in global sea levels. Their study is published in the journal Communications Earth & Environment.

For the study, the researchers modelled how the amount of warm deep water entering the Filchner Trough, which is up to 1,600 metres deep in places, changed between 2015 and 2100 under four different climate scenarios, based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC's) Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs).

They found that under the best scenario of meeting the Paris Agreement of not ex-

ceeding two degrees Celsius of global warming compared to the pre-industrial period, these warm water pulses became more frequent and by 2100, the average temperature in the trough rose 0.5 degrees Celsius above that between 1850-2014.

However, they also observed that between these pulses, the temperature in the trough returned to closer to the 1850-2014 mean, thereby limiting the melting of the ice shelf, although they were not clear exactly when and how often these pulses occur.

Under other scenarios involving greater average global temperature increases, the researchers found that the pulses of warm water became frequent enough for the trough to remain mostly filled with warm deep water year round. They thus warned that increasing average global temperatures could lead to increased melting and rising sea levels.

Real-Life Thugs 'Bunty-Babli' Arrested By Cops After Car Theft In Delhi's Janak Puri

Delhi Police arrested a couple who tried to imitate the movie characters Bunty and Babli



Agenceis

New Delhi: A couple was arrested by the police today for stealing a car in a Bunty and Babli-style theft in Delhi's Janak Puri area, a police official said. The accused were identified as Sandeep Munna, and Reena, both 27 years old. Both are residents of Palam, Delhi.

The couple, who live in Delhi, were inspired by the Bollywood movie 'Bunty Aur Babli' and had started imitating them.

The incident unfolded on February 22 at 10:46 pm when an individual reported to the police that his vehicle had been taken away by a couple he had offered a lift to.

According to the Janak Puri Police, on February 22 at 10:46 pm, a PCR call regarding a car being taken away by some person was received in PS Janak Puri. During the course of the inquiry, the complainant stated that he had given a lift to the unknown couple for help.

After giving a lift to the unknown couple, he momentarily left his car for personal reasons, only to return and find it missing. They hatched a conspiracy and took away the car of the owner, who gave them a

lift after seeing them in needy/helpless condition at night. The complainant further mentioned to us that his laptop was also in his car, which was stolen.

On the basis of the complaint, a case under IPC section 379 and 34 was registered.

According to the police, keeping the sensitivity of the matter in mind, a team was formed. By analysing CCTV footage, CDRs and other digital footprints, the above team arrested the accused person, Sandeep Munna. The car which was stolen also recovered at his instance.

The accused, Sandeep, disclosed that his friend Reena was with him in the commission of the crime.

During the further course of the investigation, co-accused Ms. Reena was arrested and stolen laptop was also recovered at her instance.

According to the police, accused Sandeep Munna and co-accused Reena were living together in Uttam Nagar area of West Delhi. Both the accused persons were addicted to alcohol and they do not have a source of income even to pay the rent of their flat, that's why they planned this theft.

New Zealand Set To Scrap World's First Law Banning Tobacco Sales

Agenceis

Wellington: New Zealand will repeal on Tuesday a world-first law banning tobacco sales for future generations, the government said, even while researchers and campaigners warned of the risk that people could die as a result.

Set to take effect from July, the toughest anti-tobacco rules in the world would have banned sales to those born after Jan. 1, 2009, cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers by more than 90%.

The new coalition government elected in October confirmed the repeal will happen on Tuesday as a matter of urgency, enabling it to scrap the law without seeking public comment, in line with previously announced plans.



Associate Health Minister Casey Costello said the coalition government was committed to reducing smoking, but was taking a different regulatory approach to discourage the habit and reduce the harm it caused.

"I will soon be taking a package of measures to cabinet to increase the tools available to help people quit smoking," Costello said, adding that regulations on vaping would also

be tightened to deter young people.

The decision, heavily criticised over its likely impact on health outcomes in New Zealand, has also drawn flak because of fears it could have a greater impact on Maori and Pasifika populations, groups with higher smoking rates.

Repeal flies in the face of robust research evidence, ignores measures strongly supported by Maori leaders and will preserve health inequities, said Otago University researcher Janet Hoek.

"Large-scale clinical trials and modelling studies show the legislation would have rapidly increased the rates of quitting among smokers and made it much harder for young people to take up smoking," said Hoek, co-director of a group studying ways to reduce smoking.

Japan Birth Rate Hit Record Low In 2023 As Nation's Population Crisis Deepen



Agenceis

Tokyo: The number of babies born in Japan fell for an eighth consecutive year to a record low in 2023, preliminary government data showed on Tuesday, underscoring the daunting task the country faces in trying to stem depopulation.

The number of births fell 5.1% from a year earlier to 758,631, while the number of marriages slid 5.9% to 489,281 - marking the first time in 90 years the number fell below 500,000 - foreboding a further decline in the population as out-of-wedlock births are rare in Japan.

Rat On Plane Grounds Sri Lanka Airline For 3 Days, Sparks Investor Concern



Agenceis

Colombo: Sri Lanka's national airline on Tuesday blamed a rat for grounding a plane for three days, sparking chaotic delays and fears it will scare off investors for the cash-strapped carrier. The stowaway rodent was spotted enjoying the Sri Lankan Airlines Airbus A330 flight from the Pakistani city of Lahore on Thursday, triggering an aircraft search to ensure it had not chewed through critical components.

An airline official said the plane has now resumed flights, but that the grounding had a knock-on effect on the entire schedule.

"The aircraft was grounded for three days at Colombo," an airline official said, declining to be named. "The plane could not be flown without making sure that the rat was accounted for. It was found dead."

The state-owned airline, which had accumulated losses of more than \$1.8 billion at the end of March 2023, has three other aircraft grounded for over a year out of a fleet of 23.

The carrier has no foreign exchange to pay for mandatory overhauling of the engines.

Aviation minister Nimal Siri-

pala de Silva told reporters the errant rodent might scare off "the few investors" interested in taking over the debt-burdened airline.

Successive governments have attempted to sell it without success. A previous government offered the airline for one dollar, but there were no takers.

The International Monetary Fund, which bailed out Sri Lanka last year with a \$2.9 billion loan spread over four years, has stressed that such state-owned enterprises are a heavy burden on the national budget.

The airline was profitable until a management agreement with Emirates was scrapped in 2008, following a dispute with then-president Mahinda Rajapaksa.

The carrier had refused to bump fare-paying passengers and give their seats to 35 members of Rajapaksa's family, who were returning from a holiday in London.

Ironically, one of the airline's most profitable years was in 2001, when the Tamil Tigers separatist movement destroyed several aircraft in an attack -- with the insurance payouts and the removal of excess capacity boosting its income.

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