

PM Modi's Visit

BJP Expects Over 2 Lakh At Srinagar Rally



Agencies

Srinagar: Preparations are underway here for a grand welcome for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is arriving here on Thursday, his first visit after abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. PM Modi will be addressing a mega rally at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar on March 7.

A BJP leader privy to the preparation plan said that

J&K BJP has already started mega preparations to give rousing reception to PM Modi on March 7. "There will be a grand welcome for PM Modi at Bakshi Stadium. We have devised a plan and our workers are working on that," he said. "This time, it will be a unique welcome for our leader."

PM Modi will address a mammoth rally at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar where BJP is expecting | [More on P11](#)

Multi-layer Security Blanket In Srinagar

A three-tier security ring has been thrown around the Bakshi Stadium here for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally later this week while drones and CCTVs are being used for increased surveillance across the city, officials said on Monday. Modi will visit Srinagar on March 7. This will be his

OVER 500 WORKERS HAVE BEEN tasked to fix hoardings, install banners and flags at various places across Srinagar."

City Gas Network Expansion

J&K Among States to Get 41,000 Cr Investment

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Six north eastern states and two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will see Rs 41,000 crore investment in rollout of city gas network to retail CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to houses over the next few years, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

Speaking at a function to award licences to the winners of 12th city gas distribution (CGD) bidding round, he said with the award of licences for 8 geographical areas covering 103 districts in six north eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Mizoram and two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the city gas network now covers the entire country except the islands.

"Anticipated investment for 12th CGD bidding round is Rs 41,000 crore generating considerable employment opportunities," he said.

While the consortium of Bharat Petroleum and Oil India Ltd won the city gas licence for Arunachal Pradesh,

Haryana City Gas bagged the same for Meghalaya. State-owned GAIL (India) Ltd-promoted Tripura Natural Gas got licence for Manipur and Mizoram. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) in collaboration with OIL got the licence for Sikkim. BPCL won the licence for J&K and Leh/Ladakh.

Puri said the government is promoting use of natural gas as a fuel for transport, and cooking gas as well as in industries to transform India into a gas-based economy.

"The initiatives to develop a gas-based ecosystem of gas infrastructure (over the past few years) have opened up new avenues for investment of about USD 67 billion," he said adding "India is committed to continuously improve the policy and regulatory environment to support the development and make cleaner and sustainable fuel accessible and available to public at large." Promotion of natural gas is part of the Prime Minister's vision to increase its share in India's energy basket from around 6 per cent to 15 per cent by 2030.

"This will | [More on P11](#)

Individual Forest Rights To Be Handed Over In Next 2 Months: LG

- » Inauguration of Tech Exhibition-cum-Seed Mela
- » SKUAST Kashmir's commercial Silage Unit
- » Krishi Radio, and Rural Internship program
- » Establishing A Modern Fish Market
- » SKUAST Kashmir's commercial Silage Unit
- » Initiatives for Livestock Sector Enhancement
- » Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP)
- » Empowerment Initiatives for Various Communities
- » Unveiling of Start-Up Studio

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala Announces An Aqua Park For J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurated the two-day Technology Exhibition-cum-Seed Mela at SKUAST Kashmir on Monday.

The event witnessed the inauguration of various works and programmes including SKUAST Kashmir's commercial Silage Unit, Krishi Radio and Rural Internship - Student Rural Exploration programme of J&K Government under HADP.



In his address, Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, commended the LG led UT Administration for transforming the Agriculture and allied sector of J&K and promoting innovation based Agri Startups.

The Union Minister also announced an Aqua park for J&K. He assured all possible support in upscaling the livestock production, establishment of Modern Fish Market and creating more livelihood avenues for the local farmers and pastoralists in the Union Territory.



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Schools Reopen In Kashmir After 3-month-long Winter Break

Jahangir Sofi

Srinagar: Schools in Kashmir sprung back to life on Monday after remaining closed for three

months on account of winter vacations. A bright sunny day made for a perfect setting for the students to return to classrooms after a gap of three

bone-chilling winter months. The schools which were closed for winter vacation in December last year were scheduled to open | [More on P11](#)

Hawal Acid Attack Court Finds Main Accused Guilty After 2-year Trial

M Ahmad

Srinagar: A court in Srinagar on Monday convicted a man for throwing acid on a woman at Hawal on 1 February 2022.

The court of Principal Sessions Judge Srinagar Jawad Ahmed on March 20, 2022 had framed charges against two adult accused— Sajid Altaf Sheikh of Buchwara Dalgate and Mohammad Saleem Kumar of Dalgate (AP Padshahi Bagh) Srinagar who "provided acid

used in the attack".

After about two years of trial, the court found Sajid Altaf Sheikh guilty for commission of offence under section 326-A IPC (Voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc). However, Kumar has been acquitted of grave charges under 326-A which provides for minimum ten years of jail which may extend to life imprisonment and with fine. He has been convicted for commission of offence under | [More on P11](#)

Power Woes Persist As KPDCL Struggles To Secure Additional Supply

Consumers Appeal For Swift Action Before Ramadan

Auqib Javeed

Srinagar: Despite the persistent power challenges plaguing Kashmir amidst the cold weather, officials from the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) have stated that they are unable to procure additional power supply from the center.

An official from the KPDCL told Kashmir Observer that the additional power that the department had

purchased from the center during the Chilla-i-Kalan is over and they aren't in a position to purchase more electricity.

"The department is running in huge losses. We were expecting that the peak load / demand will be over before March but it's not happening," the official said, wishing not to be named.

He further said | [More on P11](#)

THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMED THAT THE POWER CRISIS WILL BE OVER once the smart metering is done. Now most of the people even pay electricity fee, still the crisis looms large"



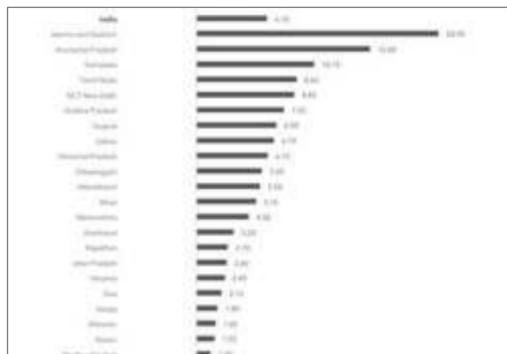
- » Demand - 2000-2200 MW/ day
- » Supply 1300 MW/ day
- » Deficit - 700-800 MW/ day
- » Purchase costs - Rs 7/unit
- » Revenue - Rs 3/unit
- » Unmetered areas experience 8-10 hour power cuts
- » Metered areas face 4.5 hours of cuts.

J&K Takes Lead In India's Growing Appetite For Fish, New Study Unveils

Parvaiz Bhat

Srinagar: A new study conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and WorldFish, in collaboration with several key institutions, has found that fish consumption in India has increased significantly with Jammu and Kashmir leading the fish consumption across India with a remarkable increase.

The study, Fish Consumption in India: Patterns and Trends, sheds light on the diverse fish consumption patterns across different states and provides valuable insights into the socioeconomic factors, cultural



shifts, economic growth, and potential for the fisheries sector.

India has observed a notable transformation in non-vegetarian food consumption patterns, with a significant uptick in the population including fish in their diet climbing to 72 percent in 2021 from 66 percent in 2005, the study says. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir, fish consumption among the population has jumped from 61 percent in 2005 to 82 percent in 2021, the study highlights adding that it is the highest increase in percentage points in any state or union territory in the country.

"There was a remarkable increase in the proportion of people eating fish in most of the states, led by Jammu and Kashmir (20.9

percentage points), with the exception of Punjab where it decreased (3.9 percentage points)," the study says.

Boosted incomes of people, investments in aquaculture development and improvement in road and other developmental infrastructure is said to be the important reasons for increased consumption in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Lot of investments over last two decades on road and rail infrastructure to connect nook and corners of Kashmir with mainland might have directly increased the supply of fish along with other food commodities from | [More on P11](#)

Kashmiri Student Found Dead In Punjab Hostel

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Zahid Ahmad, a BSc 6th semester student from Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district was found dead in his hostel room at Dush Bhagat University in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab.

According to the preliminary inquiry, the 23-year-old student died by suicide, although the final report in the matter is awaited.

According to the police, the incident came to light around 9 am. They said that attempts to contact Zahid from his friends

since the morning had been met with no answer. They discovered his body hanging with a fan when they entered his locked room.

The student had died when the warden and security officials of Dush Bhagat University arrived at the scene, they added.

The deceased student's family has flown to Punjab to get his mortal remains, according to DBU authorities. Arrangements have also been finalized for the transportation of the deceased's body to his native village.

Meanwhile student activist and National Convener of the J&K Students | [More on P11](#)



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Construction Division Kashmir, J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

Short Term Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 84 of 2023-24
DATED: 04.03.2024

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved, reputed, experienced and financially sound Manufacturers / their Authorized Dealers having AAY Class Civil Contractors Card holding the valid authorization for the current financial year fulfilling the eligibility criteria specified in the NIT/Standard bidding documents for the following work:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender documents	Administrative Approval No. & date	Time of Completion
1	Establishment of Yoga Hall at Bakhshi Stadium Srinagar (Civil Part only)	RS.12.18 lacs	Rs.24360/-	Dee/CEE/BEE class	Rs.6000/-	No:- 4701 Of 2024 dated :- 23.01.2023	30 days

Position of Funds = Under Capex 2023-24
Position of TS = Accorded

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility Criteria, specification, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

2. Critical Dates Table

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	04.03.2024
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	04.03.2024 from 10.00 AM to 12.03.2024 upto 4.00PM.
3. Bid Submission Start Date	04.03.2024 from 10.00 AM
4. Bid submission End Date	12.03.2024 upto 4.00 PM
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	13.03.2024 at 10.00 AM in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakhshi Stadium, Srinagar. (or any convenient date)

3. The Cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder. (No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

1) Name of Bank = J&K Bank Ltd.
2) Account Title = Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC
3) Account No = CDG-0365010200000842
4) Branch = Lal Mandi
5) IFSC Code = JAKA0SBOARD

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.
4. Hard Copy shall be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as Lowest Bidder (LI) after opening of Financial Bids.
DIPK-NB-5926/23 dated: 04-03-2024
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION DIVISION KASHMIR, J & K SPORTS COUNCIL, SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. As my DOB has not been registered in the Registrar of Births and Death so far. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the **Naib Tehsildar Patan** within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Faisal Ahmad Mian (DOB: 21-03-2010) S/o Farooq Ahmad Mian R/o Mian Mohalla Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have changed my name from Parvez Qadir S/o Ghulam Qadir to Parvez Qadir Shaheen S/o Ghulam Qadir Shaheen. In future I will be known as Parvez Qadir Shaheen S/o Ghulam Qadir Shaheen. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Parvez Qadir Shaheen S/o Ghulam Qadir Shaheen R/o Budshah Nagar Natipora Srinagar fko

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
SUB-OFFICE BANDIPORA

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th session Annual Private Bi-Annual (2020-21) issued by the board of School Education under Below mentioned particulars
Name : Faizan Rashid S/o: Abdul Rashid Ganai Roll No: 12620234
Year & Session : Annual Pvt Bi-Annual (2020-21)
Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.
Sd/ Assistant Secretary Board Of School Education Sub Office Bandipora

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. As my DOB has not been registered in the Registrar of Births and Death so far. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the **Naib Tehsildar Patan** within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Showkat Fayaz (DOB: 27-08-2010) S/o Fayaz Ganie R/o Mian Mohalla Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate. As my DOB has not been registered in the Registrar of Births and Death so far. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the **Naib Tehsildar Patan** within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Ubaid Zahoor (DOB: 01-03-2004) S/o Zahoor Ahmad Miyan R/o Mian Mohalla Pattan fko

SAD DEMISE
Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Illahi Rajoun

With Profound Grief and Sorrow we inform sad demise of Ghulam Rasool Sofi (Retired Ranger in J&K Forest Dept.) R/o Budhgair Ali-Kadal Srinagar
An Exceptionally a Humble Being and pillar of our Strength He ignited various lives and touched many Hearts with his Simpleton attitude.
Deeply Remembered by Son's, Daughters, All Relatives, Friends, Nears & Dears.
May Allah SWT Bless The Departed Soul Highest Place in Jannah
Rashma Chahrum Shall be Observed on Wednesday and Fateh Khanni will be held Ancestral Graveyard at Wantipora Kawakul at 10.30 AM.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department Of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Office Of The Municipal Committee Devsar

Subject: Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax Collection contract for the year 2024-25.
AUCTION NOTICE.
E-NIT No: MC/DVR/2023-24/58
Dated:- 04-03-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, term e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for Auction of Annual Entry Fee of Municipal Committee Devsar, for the year 2024-25 w.e.f. 01-04-2024 to 31-03-2025. The Minimum reserved bid is fixed as Rs. 29,83,079/= (Rupees Twenty-Nine Lac Eighty-Three Thousand & Seventy-Nine Only). The Entry Fee Schedule of the vehicles is as under and the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the approved schedule of MC Devsar.

S.No.	Type of Vehicle	Rate per day
1	Service Bus/Load Carrier Auto/Sumo/ Tavera/ Matador 407 LP Mazda (Passenger)	Rs. 10/=
2	Tractor/Tata Mobile Loaded/Full Booking Commercial Vehicles	Rs. 20/=
3	Min Truck-407/ JCB/ Road roller/Platform/Tipper	Rs. 30
4	Tipper/Tanker/ Truck/Dumper	Rs. 50/=
5	School Bus (Private)	Rs.150/= (Per Month)
6	10 Wheeler/12 Wheeler / 16 Wheeler trucks	Rs.100/=

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bid of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:

1. Date of issue of Tender Notice	04-03-2024, 5.00 pm
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-03-2024, 6:00 pm
3. Bid submission Start Date	04-03-2024 06:00 pm
4. Bid submission End Date	11-03-2024, 02:00 pm
5. Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	11-03-2024, 03:00 pm in the office of the undersigned
6. Mode of Payment	10% to be deposited on spot as token money by the highest bidder. 65% to be deposited before taking possession. 25% within 03 months from date of possession.

No: MC/DVR/2023-24/2801-2805
Sd/= Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Devsar.
DIPK-NB-5922/23 Dated:- 04-03-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Zameer Hussain. As per certificate issued by Lucent International School the DOB of my son is 21/3/2022. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Magam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mohammad Yaseen Sufi F/o Zameer Hussain R/o Zakir Mohalla Magam bmg_r

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account bearing no 06000204500001297 as Nisar Ahmad Wagay while my correct name is Nisar Ahmad Sheergojeri also my DOB has been wrongly written as 06-01-1980 instead of 03-01-1981 which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager J&K Bank Turkawangam Shopian within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Nisar Ahmad Sheergojeri S/o Abdul Karim Sheergojeri R/o Heffkuri Shopian fko

Before The Hon'ble Court Of Principal District & Sessions JUDGE AT SRINAGAR.

In The Case Of :- 1.Ghulam Rasool Bhat S/O Ghulam Ahmad Bhat R/o Riyazath Teng, Khanyar Srinagar
2.Gowhar Rasool Bhat S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Riyazath Teng Khanyar, Srinagar
3.Irman Rasool Bhat S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Riyazath Teng Khanyar, Srinagar

Caveators
Vs
Public at Large
...Non-Caveators

In The Matter of: Caveat Application under section 148-A of C.P.C. May It Please Your Honour The Caveators humbly submits as under:
1. That the Caveators apprehend that the non-Caveators may file any proceeding before this Hon'ble Court to seek an ex-parte interim order in which the Caveators is a party.
2. That in case any suit or any other proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble Court no ex-parte ad-interim relief may be granted in favour of the non-Caveator without hearing the Caveators as otherwise the Caveators may suffer irreparable loss and injury which cannot be compensated in any manner and any such orders granted on false representations of the non-Caveator would be an abuse of the process of the court.
3. That the non-caveators have been duly served by publication.
In the premises, it is therefore prayed that in case any suit or any other proceedings are filed before this Hon'ble Court no order be passed in ex-parte unless the Caveators being heard in person or through their counsel in the interest of law and justice.

Caveators through Counsel
Adv Rafi Sidqi
NJ

From the office of Advocate Musharraf W. Baba

In the case of :
1-Manzoor Ahmad Guroo S/o Abdul Rahim Guroo R/o Dewan Colony Ishber Nishat Srinagar
2.Murtaza Guroo S/o Manzoor Ahmad Guroo R/o Dewan Colony Ishber Nishat Srinagar
3.3. Irfan Ahmed Guroo s/o- Manzoor Ahmed Guroo R/o-Dewan Colony Ishber Nishat Srinagar

(Caveators)
Versus
Public at Large
(Non-caveators)

In the matter of:- CAVEAT PETITION
The caveator has developed reasonable apprehension that the non-caveators may file SUIT/WRIT or any other proceedings against the caveator before Hon'ble court and may obtain order in ex-parte by concealing of material facts. It would be fair and just if the caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
NJ

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Mechanical And Hospitals Division Srinagar
(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xemhchdk@yahoo.in)

Subject: - 1. Repairs to leaking Circulation coil of Revomax RXD850 steam Boiler alongwith allied works at laundry facility of government Bone & joint hospital srinagar
Ref : 1.This office e- NIT no: M&HDS/TS/2023-24/186/e-tendering Dated 24.02.2024

EXTENSION
In view of poor response, the Critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows:-

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	07.03.2024 (12:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	07.03.2024 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.
No: M&HDS/TS/10698-701
DIPK-17404/23 Dated: 04.03.2024
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division, Srinagar

Congregational Fateh khwani

Khawja Muhammad Ishaq Guroo, S/o Ghulam Rasool Guroo left for heavenly abode on night intervening 1st and 2nd March, 2024. May Allah grant him the highest place in Jannah His congregational Fateh khwani will be offered on Tuesday, 5th March, 2024 at 11:00 AM (inshallah) at our their ancestral graveyard located at Bahudin sahib, Nowhatta, followed by taziya majlis at our residence, House No 09, New Colony Nageen Bagh, Nigeen, Mirwaiz Lane..
Grief Stricken Muhammad Azhar Ishaq & Guroo Family inf

PUBLIC NOTICE
I intend to transfer the name of electricity connection of my shop located at Basement, Hotel Ramano Old Rambagh Bridge Rajabagh presently in the name of Bilal Ahmad langoo to Amir Qadir Ganie S/o Ghulam Qadir Ganai. If anybody has any objection he/she may contact PDD subdivision concerned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.
NJ

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of Pesticides License. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Plant Protection Officer Lal Mandi Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mudasir Rashid sheikh S/O Abdul Rashid sheikh R/O shalopora tantary palhallan pattan
FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my ward , Inaaya Imtiyaz who was born on 17-05-2019 . 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.
Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat F/o Inaaya Imtiyaz R/o Budshah Nagar Natipora Lane C Near Crescent School House No C1 Srinagar NJ_r

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son , Muazzam Imtiyaz who was born on 20-04-2022 . 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.
Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat F/o Muazzam Imtiyaz R/o Budshah Nagar Natipora Lane C Near Crescent School House No C1 Srinagar NJ_r

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank Account details as mohd haneef sheikh S/O Gh. Mohammad Sheikh while my correct name is Muhammad Hanief Sheikh S/O Ghulam Mohd Sheikh which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Branch Manager Jammu and Kashmir Bank Singhpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Muhammad Hanief Sheikh S/O Ghulam Mohd Sheikh R/o Harath Singhpora pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE
I have lost my 9th pass certificate somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Govt higher secondary school palhallan within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Sumaya Bano D/o Mohammad Ramzan Ganie Ro Palhallan FKO

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
پاجلاس: اروندشرما
J&K Bank B/U Khanyar Sgr

بنام
Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Khan
دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 1,36,875
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Khan S/o Mr Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Khan R/o Aqulmir Khanyar Sgr

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیسرا روکش کی گئی۔ الا نوتو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور مذکورہ بذریعہ معین تیسرا روکش لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار پتہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 1,36,875 زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار پتہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 05-03-2024 اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بروقت چھری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
nj

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
پاجلاس: اروندشرما
J&K Bank B/U Naidyar Sgr

بنام
Abdul Rashid Bhat
دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 59,243
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
Abdul Rashid Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohidin Bhat R/o Shahabag Saidaqal Sgr

مقدمہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ کی تیسرا روکش کی گئی۔ الا نوتو پتہ جدید پر مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ دستیاب ہوئے اور مذکورہ بذریعہ معین تیسرا روکش لائی گئی۔ بدین وجہ حسب استنادی مدعا علیہ مدعا علیہ جو بذریعہ اشتہار پتہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ کے خلاف مقدمہ بعنوان بالا اجراء بغرض وصولی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 59,243 زیر سماعت عدالت ہذا ہے۔
لہذا آپ کو بذریعہ اشتہار پتہ مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ بغرض بیرونی اجراء ہذا بعنوان بالا مورخہ 05-03-2024 اصالتاً یا وکالتاً بروقت چھری حاضر آکر مقدمہ ہذا کی بیرونی کریں۔ بصورت عدم حاضری حسب ضابطہ کاروائی عمل لائی جائے گی۔ تحریر ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
nj

از عدالت ایڈیشنل ڈسٹرکٹ جج (بنک مقدمات) سرینگر
پاجلاس: اروندشرما
J&K Bank B/U Zakura Sgr

بنام
Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Khan
دعویٰ وصولیاتی رقم مبلغ = /Rs 10,07,851.00
اشتہار بمراد آگاہی بنام
Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Khan S/o Ali Mohd Khan R/o Karfali Mohalla Habba Kadal Sgr 2. Noor Ahmad Narwari S/o Mohd Ramzan Narwari R/o Watal Kadal Sgr

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nj

UP surging towards \$1 trillion target



“ Today, investment worth lakh of crores of rupees are pouring into Uttar Pradesh. Work is starting on thousands of projects in the state. These industries are going to change the face of UP. In the last 7 years, a red-carpet culture has replaced the red-tape culture. I have full faith in the power of UP and the hard work of the double engine government.”

-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

SECTOR-WISE INVESTMENT BREAKDOWN

- Manufacturing: **More than Rs 2 lakh crore**
- IT and Electronics: **More than Rs 90,000 crore**
- Renewable Energy: **More than Rs 1 lakh crore**
- Food Processing: **More than Rs 60,000 crore**
- Real Estate: **More than Rs 50,000 crore**
- Education: **More than Rs 25,000 crore**
- Waste Management: **More than Rs 25,000 crore**
- Healthcare: **More than Rs 10,000 crore**
- Distilleries: **More than Rs 10,000 crore**
- Dairy: **More than Rs 9,000 crore**
- Handloom & Textile: **More than Rs 6,000 crore**
- Pharma & Medical Devices: **More than Rs 2,000 crore**



The recently concluded Ground Breaking Ceremony @4.0 (GBC @4.0) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, was a resounding success, attracting a plethora of investors keen on exploring the state's vibrant business landscape. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the CM Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has converted resolutions into achievements with vision, mission, and a firm commitment. A historic moment in the growth narrative of UP, GBC @4.0 saw PM Modi launching 14,000 projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore in the state

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has been proactive in implementing policies that promote ease of doing business and attract investments. Initiatives such as the Single Window Clearance System and the Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy have been instrumental in creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

Recent years have witnessed unprecedented growth and remarkable developments in the form of expressways, improved air connectivity, consistent power supply, and land banks availability. CM Yogi's decisive leadership over the past seven years has spurred investment propositions amounting to more than Rs. 40 lakh crore through the UP Global Investors Summit 2023.

MoUs of more than Rs 10 lakh crore were grounded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19, 2024, at the GBC @4.0. These projects will provide employment opportunities for 34 lakh youths, bolstering the confidence of entrepreneurs and investors within the country and globally in the state's potential. Uttar Pradesh strides confidently towards its goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy, significantly contributing to the realization of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

“ Uttar Pradesh has recognised its talent and unlimited potential to become a state known for security, good governance and development. The state has assimilated respected Prime Minister's instructions on value addition and framed its policies. Transformation with speed is the new identity of UP.”

-Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister

TOP INVESTMENT SECTORS

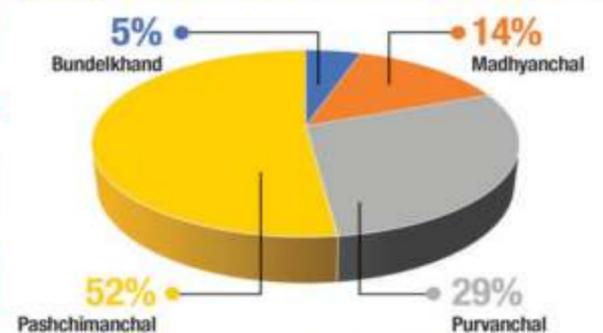
- Manufacturing: **21%**
- Renewable Energy: **13%**
- IT & Electronics: **9%**
- Power: **8%**
- Food Processing: **6%**
- Real Estate: **6%**
- MSME: **5%**
- Hospitality & Entertainment: **6%**
- Waste Management: **3%**
- Education: **3%**

ADVANTAGE UTTAR PRADESH

- 6 expressways operational, 7 expressways under construction
- Highest number of airports in the country, 10 operational (including 4 international), 11 under construction
- The country's first rapid rail service from Meerut to Delhi
- Metro rail services in 6 cities — Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra
- Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor — 6 nodes; Aligarh, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi construction in progress
- The largest railway network of 16,000 km in the country
- The largest road network of 4 lakh km in the country
- Development of 94 routes along the international/ interstate borders
- State with the highest number of medical colleges — 65 operational, 22 under construction
- Home to international-level educational institutions like IIM Lucknow, IIT Kanpur, IIT BHU Varanasi, IIT Prayagraj, NIT Allahabad
- State with 67 universities, 5,842 colleges, 370 polytechnics and 3,268 ITI / ITC
- Largest consumer and workforce in the country
- 56% population of the state is in the working age group
- First rank in the country to establish micro and small industries; 96 lakh MSME units operational
- North India's first hyper-scale data centre established in Greater Noida
- 65% contribution to the mobile manufacturing of the country
- India's first freight village developed on 100 acres in Varanasi
- Development of the country's first inland waterway
- Moving towards becoming the state with the highest number of safe cities in the country encompassing 17 municipal corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar
- India's first public transport ropeway system is being developed in Varanasi
- First state to implement the skill development policy; skill development of 16.50 lakh youths
- Gold Medal Trophy for 'Best State in Skill Development' given to Uttar Pradesh by ASSOCHAM.
- Infra development in full swing at 1000-acre International Film City, Noida
- 8.5% of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and 57% of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor lie in UP; junction of both freight corridors in Dadri
- First in the e-tendering system in the country
- UP awarded first prize for the best state for inland fisheries
- Recognized as a food basket of India; the leading state in the country to produce milk, sugarcane, sugar, potato, mango, amla and ethanol



Regional Distribution of GBC @4.0 Projects



INVESTORS SPEAK

“ UP establishing new milestones under CM Yogi's leadership

UP offers great opportunities in several sectors under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath. We decided to establish the biggest shopping mall in North India in Lucknow. We waited for the new government to learn about their policy. Once the group made a presentation before the Chief Minister's office, the project was expedited. Yogi government is committed to crossing new milestones. The Middle East government is seriously considering investing in Uttar Pradesh.”



-MA Yusuff Ali, Chairman & MD, LuLu Group

“ State lending right support to investors

Thanks to constant collaboration between all stakeholders, the state's oxygen production policy was launched on time, and we were able to expedite funding for the project. We have received the rights support when we faced issues related to water or power supply. By offering financial incentives, tax benefits, infrastructure support, regulatory assistance through single point contact, UP government has taken the right decision to attract foreign investments.”



-Benoit Renard, Managing Director, Air Liquide India

“ Robust policy framework bolstering investors' confidence

“I am delighted to be in the land of Yamuna and Ganga and we would continue with our investments in UP and India. A man, a family, or an individual can invest their heart and money only if they are fully satisfied and assured their investments will be productive. Policy frame has been worked out here to encourage investments.”



-Sharafuddin Sharaf, Vice-Chairman, Sharaf Group



"Illegal": Shehbaz Sharif's Rival Contender As Former Picked For Top Post

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: After Shehbaz Sharif was picked as the country's next Prime Minister by the majority members during polling in the National Assembly, winning PTI-backed Independent candidate and a rival for the top post, Omar Ayub Khan, came down heavily on the ruling coalition on Sunday, calling the former's selection as the country's top leader as 'illegal'. The Express Tribune reported.

According to the report, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader called the ruling coalition as a "fascist regime focused solely on looting Pakistan's resources without any ideology".

Earlier, on Sunday, the National Assembly elected Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader as the country's 24th PM.

Addressing the Assembly, the PTI leader raised grievances over what he described as 'unfair electoral practices'.

"We did not get the seats that we should've gotten, so the election of the speaker, deputy speaker, and prime minister has become illegal", he was quoted as saying by the Pakistan daily.

Also hitting out at a section of the media over its coverage of the elections and the sequence of events thereafter, Mr Khan said, "When PM-elect Shehbaz Sharif was speaking, the camera was on him, adding that his speech should also be covered live."

"I want to tell the people of Pakistan that the people of the PML-N and other parties sitting here appear to be defeated; their faces indicate that they have been given a stolen mandate. When a thief is fleeing af-



ter stealing, there is fear on his face," the PTI leader added.

On the protests by the PTI, alleging foul play in the February 8 elections, he claimed 'cases' were filed against 80 members of his party in Lahore, The Express Tribune reported.

Also contesting the claim of the ruling coalition with reference to the elections, he added, "You (ruling coalition) have snatched our electoral symbol from us, you have snatched the result of Form 45, but we stood, we are standing, and we will stand until Imran Khan takes the oath of prime minister."

Invoking the May 9 violence following the arrest of party founder and former PM Imran Khan, the PTI leader demanded accountability for the riots and called for a judicial inquiry into the incidents while urging that the 'video footage' of events be released to 'uncover the truth'.

Shehbaz is set to take oath on Monday as Pakistan's 24th Prime Minister, ARY News reported, citing sources.

President Arif Alvi will administer the oath to the PM-designate in a ceremony at the President's House at 3 pm on Monday, the report stated quoting sources.

Artificial Glaciers Help Stave Off Drought In Kyrgyzstan

Agencies

SYN TASH: In the Tian-Shan mountains of Kyrgyzstan, villagers have made an artificial glacier to provide water for their drought-hit farms. Standing on the ice hillock, farmer Erkinbek Kaldanov said he was optimistic about harnessing nature to counter-act climate change.

"We won't have any more problems with water," said the farmer, who was worried for his sheep last year after some unusual temperature spikes. "When the glacier melts, there will be enough water for the livestock and to water the land in Syn-Tash," the surrounding district, he said.

The glacier currently measures five metres high and about 20 metres long. At the height of winter it was 12 metres tall.

Local residents made it over a period of two weeks in autumn by re-directing water from the peaks of Tian-Shan, which tower more than 4,000 metres high in northern Kyrgyzstan.

Kaldanov and others are being forced to adapt since natural glaciers in Central Asia — the main water source for the region — are slowly disappearing due to global heating.

A 2023 study in the journal



Science predicted that the acceleration in the melting of the glaciers would peak only between 2035 and 2055. The lack of snow, also due to higher temperatures, does not allow them to regenerate.

'Less and less water'

The extent of the problem can be seen in satellite images of Central Asia and in the regular warnings issued by the United Nations. The problem has a knock-on effect on the lowlands of Central Asia, in more arid countries like Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

This in turn feeds into existing tensions between the different countries, which still

share water resources under a complex and obsolete scheme inherited from the Soviet era.

"There is less and less water every year. The water tables are emptying out, the springs are drying up and we have problems with grazing," said Aidos Yzmalaliyev, a spokesman for the Syn-Tash farmers.

Finding solutions is urgent, particularly as farming represents around 10 percent of the fragile Kyrgyz economy and two thirds of its inhabitants live in rural areas. In the north of Kyrgyzstan, a country accustomed to revolutions and uprisings, the lack of water has already stoked social tensions in previous periods of drought.



"Will Remain At Border, Decision To March To Delhi Not Changed": Farmer Leader

Agencies

SHAMBHU BORDER: The general secretary of the Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, Sarwan Singh Pandher, said on Monday that the decision to March towards Delhi has not changed. The farmer leader said that the groups of farmers will remain at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders till the government opens the roads to Delhi.

"The farmers from Punjab and Haryana will remain here (Khanauri and Shambhu border), we will not move forward without our tractors and trolleys. We have not changed our decision to march towards Delhi, we will wait until the government reopens the roads," Pandher said while speaking to ANI on Monday.

He said that the farmers from other states have been asked to join the protests and they will be coming by train or any other means.

"We have asked farmers from other states to march towards Delhi using railways, buses, or any other vehicle on March 6," the farmer leader said.

He further asserted that the protests will continue peacefully at the borders.

Earlier on February 29, the Haryana police lodged an FIR in connection with the death of a farmer youth, Shubkaran Singh, at the Khanauri Border.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) national body has given a call for the Mahapanchayat in Delhi on March 14 to highlight issues of a legal guarantee of MSP, against the electricity amendment bill, freedom from debt, old age pension, rolling back of labour codes, and other pending issues.

Giving a call to march to Delhi, the farmers have been camping at multiple points in areas bordering the national capital since February 13 along with their tractors, mini-vans, and pickup trucks, demanding, among others, a law guaranteeing MSP (minimum support price) and withdrawal of police cases against farmers during earlier protests.

During the last round of talks, which ended past midnight on February 18, the panel of three Union ministers made an offer to buy five crops — moong dal, urad dal, tur dal, maize, and cotton — from farmers at MSP for five years through central agencies.

However, the protesting farmers turned down the demand and returned to their protest sites.

Himachal Announces ₹ 1,500 Monthly Aid To Women In 18-60 Age Group



Press Trust of India

SHIMLA: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday announced that the state government will give ₹1,500 per month to women in the age group of 18 to 60 years from the next financial year.

This was one of the 10 'guarantees' promised by the Congress ahead of the assembly polls.

Addressing the media here, he said that ₹800 crore would be spent on the initiative — Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna — annually and over five lakh women would be covered under it.

He said that with this, five out of 10 poll promises have been fulfilled and reiterated that the old pension scheme was restored benefitting 1.36 lakh employees of the state.

After 10 Years Of Trying, A Palestinian Woman Had Twins. An Israeli Strike Killed Them Both

Agencies

RAFAH: It took 10 years and three rounds of in vitro fertilization for Rania Abu Anza to become pregnant, and only seconds for her to lose her five-month-old twins, a boy and a girl.

An Israeli strike hit the home of her extended family in the southern Gaza city of Rafah late Saturday, killing her children, her husband and 11 other relatives and leaving another nine missing under the rubble, according to survivors and local health officials.

She had woken up at around 10 p.m. to breastfeed Naeim, the boy, and went back to sleep with him in one arm and Wissam, the girl, in the other. Her husband was sleeping beside them. The explosion came an hour and a half later. The house collapsed.

"I screamed for my children and my husband," she said Sunday, as she sobbed and cradled a baby's blanket to her chest. "They were all dead. Their father took them and left me behind."

She closed her eyes, leaned her head against the wall and patted the bundle in a calming gesture that, finally, she'd had the chance to give.

Israeli airstrikes have reg-



ularly hit crowded family homes since the start of the war in Gaza, even in Rafah, which Israel declared a safe zone in October but is now the next target of its devastating ground offensive.

The strikes often come without warning, usually in the middle of the night.

Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on the Hamas militant group because it positions fighters, tunnels and rocket launchers in dense residential areas. But the military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

The military on Sunday didn't comment on this attack but said it "follows international law and takes feasible precautions to mitigate civil-

ian harm."

Of the 14 people killed in the Abu Anza house, six were children and four were women, according to Dr. Marwan Al-Hams, director of the hospital where the bodies were taken. In addition to her husband and children, Rania also lost a sister, a nephew, a pregnant cousin and other relatives.

Farouq Abu Anza, a relative, said about 35 people were staying at the house, some of whom had been displaced from other areas. He said they were all civilians, mostly children, and that there were no militants among them.

Rania and her husband, Wisam, both 29, spent a decade trying to get pregnant. Two rounds of IVF had failed, but after a third, she learned she was pregnant early last year.

Mahua Moitra Gets Fresh Summons In Foreign Exchange Violation Case

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons to Trinamool Congress leader and former Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra for questioning in a FEMA contravention case on March 11, official sources said on Monday.

The 49-year-old politician had sought a few weeks time to join the investigation and sent a communication to the agency expressing her inability to depose before it last month, they said.

Ms Moitra has now been asked to appear at the ED office in Delhi on March 11, the sources said.

The federal probe agency wants to question Moitra and record her statement under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) once she deposes.

Transactions linked to a non-resident external (NRE) account are under the scanner of the agency in this case apart



from a few other foreign remittances and transfers of funds, the sources said.

Ms Moitra is being probed by the CBI too. It is conducting a preliminary inquiry into the allegations against Moitra, who was expelled a few months ago, on the reference from the Lokpal.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had accused Ms Moitra of asking questions in Lok Sabha to target the Adani group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the behest of businessman Darshan Hiranandani in exchange for gifts. He had also accused Moitra of compromising national security for monetary gains.

Ms Moitra has denied any wrongdoing.

NEWS MAKERS

Rajasthan Cop's Toddler Son Fights Rare Disease, Family Seeks Funds For Rs 17.5 Crore Injection

Agencies

JAIPUR: Twenty-two-month-old Hridayansh is fighting the most severe form of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Type 2, which causes the wasting of voluntary muscles and impairs breathing.

For treating the disease, a Rs 17.5 crore injection is needed, for which the family is seeking help from the public.

The boy's father, Naresh Sharma, who is a police sub-inspector posted in Rajasthan's Bharatpur range, is helpless, watching his 22-month-old son each day who needs constant care.

The cure for Hridayansh is Zolgensma injection, one of the most expensive in the world. It is given as a one-time dose, before the 24 months — with just two months in hand, the boy's family is desperate and hoping for a miracle.

Naresh Sharma, Hridayansh's father said that just weeks ago, the family was informed that Hridayansh can sit but can't stand or walk independently.

"The doctor has recommended the injection as the only cure, but one dose alone costs around Rs 17.5 crore. It's a huge amount for me and my family. We simply can't afford it," Naresh said.

Kshama Sharma, Hridayansh's mother, said while speaking to ANI that Spinal Muscular Atrophy is causing irreversible damage to little Hridayansh's muscles, which can only be stopped with timely treatment.

She further appealed to the people to extend their help for her son's treatment.

"Little help from the people, can be proved as the boon for my son's life. The doctors have told us that this disease will continue to harm, so to prevent this, we need the injection. We just want



to see him to stand on his own," she said.

Till now, an amount of more than Rs 1 crore 70 lakh has been collected for the treatment. Many people, including top officials of the police department, are running a campaign on social media platforms to help Hridayansh.

Bharatpur IG Rahul Prakash has appealed to the people for help through social media platform 'X'.

Apart from Bharatpur IG Rahul Prakash, Bharatpur

SP, Dholpur SP and other police officers of the division and the DGP himself are also running a campaign to collect help for Hridayansh.

Dr Priyanshu Mathur, who is currently treating Hridayansh, said, "The parents of Hridayansh approached doctors when he was not able to stand on his foot, though he reached the age when normally a child can do that. In the test, it was found that the muscles of his leg were not working properly."

"Weak nerve cells near our spinal cord cause SMA. The condition of this disease will become more severe with age. This disease will also affect respiratory muscles; consequently, the kid will suffer from pneumonia repeatedly. Based on severity, this disease is classified as type 1, 2, and 3, with type 1 being the most severe and type 3 being the least severe," he added.

Nikki Haley scripts history by defeating Trump in Washington DC for first primary victory

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Indian-American presidential candidate Nikki Haley has won her first Republican nominating contest by trumping rival Donald Trump in Washington DC, injecting new life into her 2024 campaign ahead of the crucial Super Tuesday contest.

With her win, Haley scripted history by becoming the first woman ever to win a Republican presidential primary. She is also the first Indian-American to have won either the Democratic or the Republican primaries.

The three other previous Indian American presidential aspirants — Bobby Jindal in 2016, Kamala Harris in 2020 and Vivek Ramaswamy in 2024 — had failed to win even one primary.

Haley, 51, received 1,274 votes (62.9 per cent) against 676 votes (33.2 per cent) received by her main



rival and former President Trump.

Haley will receive all 19 Republican delegates who were up for grabs in Washington DC, giving her 43 delegates nationwide — well behind Trump's 247.

The contest took place over the weekend in a downtown hotel just steps away from the heart of DC's lobbying hub.

"Let's do it. Thank you, DC! We fight for every inch," Haley posted on X soon after her victory.

"Republicans closest to Washington's dysfunction are rejecting Donald Trump and all his chaos," Haley's campaign national spokesperson Olivia Perez-Cubas said.

However, the Trump campaign said the results showed that Haley is being crowned "Queen of the Swamp."

"Tonight's results in

Washington DC reaffirm the object of President Trump's campaign — he will drain the swamp and put America first," said Karoline Leavitt, Trump Campaign's Press Secretary.

"While Nikki has been soundly rejected throughout the rest of America, she was just crowned Queen of the Swamp by the lobbyists and DC insiders who want to protect the failed status quo. The swamp has claimed their queen," she said. "Trump will fight for every American who is being let down by these very DC insiders and devastated by Joe Biden's failures," Leavitt said.

Trump, 77, is likely to face 81-year-old incumbent US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, in the November 5 election.

Trump has dominated every other early nominating contest and is poised to rack up more delegates on Super Tuesday on March 5.

World Wildlife Day-2024 Mega Function Held At Nature Interpretation Center, Dachigam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A mega function was organized today at the Nature Interpretation Center of Dachigam National Park to commemorate 'World Wildlife Day-2024', celebrated every year on 4th March.

The function, organized by the Central Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife Protection was presided over by chief guest, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir, Pradeep Chandra Wahule.

This year the theme of 'World Wildlife Day' was 'Connecting people and Planet, exploring digital innovation in Wildlife Conservation.'

Dr. Mohsin Ali Gazi, Wildlife Veterinarian, besides other invitees including Executive Director, WCF and learned Amicus Curiae, Head Wildlife SOS; Members of Wild Life Trust of India, WRCF; Director, PHAAG Dev. Forum; Ali Mohammad Rather, DDC Member; students of Darul-Uloom Kosaria, researchers, teachers and students from various schools attended

the event.

Addressing the event, the chief guest highlighted the power of digital innovation using drones for anti-poaching, engaging social media for educational outreach. He also emphasized the collaborative nature of digital conservation efforts and mentioned partnerships and initiatives with non-government organizations, local communities, resourceful persons and students in Wildlife Conservation Management.

Earlier in the inaugural session, Pervaiz Ahmed Wani, DCF (Wildlife Warden, Central Division) highlighted the crucial role of technology in protecting our precious wildlife and promoting harmonious coexistence with nature. Further, he added that the increase in the Hangul population is worth rewarding but is a challenging endeavor.

He laid stress on Wildlife experts and Researchers to work in a scientific way for Habitat Improvement, Enrichment of Predator Prey base, Genetic Diversity and Reproductive Health etc.

Jammu Man Found Dead In Srinagar's Indra Nagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A dead body of a man, purportedly hailing from Jammu, was found on Monday in Srinagar's Indra Nagar area.

Reports reaching here said the dead body was spotted at a parking area in Indra Nagar following which local police was in-

formed.

The deceased has been identified as Ranbir Singh, an employee in the agriculture department, from the Jammu division.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the dead body was taken by police into its possession for completion of medico-legal formalities.



Union Cabinet Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Technology Exhibition and Seed Sale Mela organized by SKUAST-K on Monday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Kashmir Tourism Braces For Busy Spring Season

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After winter, spring season is also going to be the busiest period of Kashmir tourism as travel agents get bulk bookings for upcoming months.

Despite a prolonged dry winter period, the late snowfall revived winter tourism in Kashmir as the majority of the hotels and houseboats were occupied for February.

The travel agents of Kashmir are busy with the bookings for the

spring season, which is anticipated to witness an enhanced flow of tourists.

Spring is traditionally considered one of the best times to visit Kashmir, as the region undergoes a breathtaking transformation with the blooming of tulips, almond blossoms, and vibrant wildflowers across its lush valleys.

Travel agents claimed that they are receiving bulk bookings for the months of March,

April and May.

"We are expecting a good season ahead. Bookings are coming in bulk for spring months. We are witnessing a significant increase in inquiries and bookings for the upcoming spring season. People are eager to experience the unparalleled beauty of Kashmir during this time of the year, and we are ready to provide them with memorable experiences," said President Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK)

Rauf Ahmad Trambo.

In anticipation of the surge in visitors, travel agents in Kashmir have been busy curating special packages to cater to diverse interests and preferences

"Preparations are going on to cater to the huge rush of tourists. While February has been a nice month for Kashmir tourism, March also looks promising. For April, May and June, bookings are coming in bulk," Trambo said.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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- PDD: 0194-2450213
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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
23 Shaban
1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	5:32
ZUHR	12:43
ASR	4:49
Magrib	6:33
ISHA	7:53

This Day In History

- 1793 - French troops are defeated by Austrian forces and Liège is recaptured
- 1795 - Amsterdam celebrates Revolution on the Dam; Square of Revolution
- 1795 - Treaty of Basel - Prussia ends war with France
- 1915 - World War I: The LZ 33, a zeppelin, is damaged by enemy fire and stranded south of Ostend.
- 1924 - Computing-Tabulating-Recording Corp becomes IBM
- 1931 - Gandhi & British viceroy Lord Irwin sign pact
- 1943 - Anti-fascist strikes in Italy
- 1943 - RAF bombs Essen Germany
- 1949 - The Jharkhand Party is founded in India.
- 1958 - Explorer 2 fails to reach Earth orbit
- 1959 - Iran & US sign economic & military treaty
- 1968 - US launches Solar Explorer 2 to study the Sun
- 1970 - Nuclear non-proliferation treaty goes into effect
- 1970 - Dubnium atoms are first detected conclusively.
- 1979 - Voyager I's closest approach to Jupiter (172,000 miles)
- 1979 - Iran resumes petroleum exports
- 1980 - Earth satellites record gamma rays from remnants of supernova N-49
- 1981 - Michael Stewart's musical "Bring Back Birdie" opens at Martin Beck Theater, NYC for 4
- 1982 - Russian spacecraft Venera 14 lands on Venus sends back data
- 1991 - Iraq repealed its annexation of Kuwait
- 1993 - Fokker 100 crashes at Skopje Macedonia, 81 die
- 1994 - Largest milkshake made; 1,955 gallons of chocolate in Nelspruit, South Africa
- 2012 - 27 members of Iraq's security force are killed by gunmen disguised as police in Haditha
- 2012 - Tropical Storm Irina kills 65 in Madagascar

From KO Archives

Mines Removal Likely To Delay Bus Service

Agencies

ISLAMABAD - Removal of landmines on both sides of the Line of Control is one of the major problems that can delay the launch of the Muzaffarabad-Srinagar bus service.

Dawn quoting sources said on Sunday that senior military officers of India and Pakistan had established contact the other day and discussed early clearance of mines. The two sides would exchange information about the number of mines on each side of the border.

They did not rule out the possibility of the assistance in the form of technical know-how and financial help to carry out the job. Both India and Pakistan had planted thousands of mines along their border areas, including Kashmir, after wars in 1948, 1965, 1971 and 1998 (Kargil).

Sources said the two countries had agreed that not only the mines would be removed but a road would be built to facilitate the bus travel as the existing road on both sides of the LoC was in bad shape. Report said that Pakistan would provide funds to the army to get the road repaired and mines removed as early as possible.

"But this job perhaps cannot be completed by April 7, the date agreed between the two countries for revival of the old kind route on both sides of the LoC", a source said.

During a visit to Jammu on Monday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had hinted the possibility of starting another bus service between Jammu and Sialkote.

(Kashmir Observer, 05 March, 2005)

Government of Jammu And Kashmir
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DIPK-17409/23 dated: 04-03-2024

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR
**Office Of The Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar**
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E-mail:- phegw@yaho.com, Tel./FaxNo:- 0194-2411285

Extension Notice 1st

Sub: 1. Design, supply, installation of dual solar drinking water pumping system with inbuilt controller and borewell (Spv dual pumps) of capacity of 2 hp 9 m height staging / 10kl tank, with five years on site and unconditional warrantee anywhere in UT of J&K on turnkey basis for Kupwara constituency.

2. Design, supply, installation of dual solar drinking water pumping system with inbuilt controller and borewell (spv dual pumps) of capacity of 2 hp 9 m height staging / 10kl tank, with five years on site and unconditional warrantee anywhere in UT of J & K on turnkey basis for Handwara constituency.

3. Design, supply, installation of dual solar drinking water pumping system with inbuilt controller and borewell (spv dual pumps) of capacity of 2 hp 9 m height staging / 10kl tank, with five years on site and unconditional Warrantee anywhere in ut of j&k on turnkey basis for various constituencies of Kupwara district.

Refer Due to "No Response" for the work advertised vide e-NIT No: 56/ JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. Of 2023-24 issued vide this office endorsement No: -JS-PHE/ GWDS/ Corrs. /10075-87, Dated: 12-02-2024 bearing tender ID No: 2024_PHE_244794_1,2 & 3. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 04-03-2024 Up-to 02:00 PM are extended as per the details given below: -

S. No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	11-03-2024 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	12-03-2024 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK-17438/23
DATED: 04-03-2024

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Tuesday | 05-03-2024

Shehbaz Sharif as new Pak PM

Despite the controversial nature of the recent elections, Shehbaz Sharif has been elected as Pakistan's Prime Minister for the second term. Sharif's return to power opens a window of opportunity for renewed dialogue between India and Pakistan.

Firstly, Sharif's long political experience and previous tenure as Prime Minister until August last year position him as a seasoned leader with a deep understanding of regional dynamics. His return could be hoped to bring stability to Pakistan's political scene - at least in the near term - creating a conducive environment for diplomatic engagements.

Secondly, the coalition government formed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), backed by the Pakistan Army, suggests a potential alignment of political forces that could prioritize dialogue and cooperation over confrontation with India. The support of the military adds an element of stability and could enable Sharif to take bold steps towards regional peace.

Thirdly, the recent diplomatic moves by Pakistan, including the appointment of Saad Ahmad Warraich as Charge d'Affaires in New Delhi and the decision to hold National Day celebrations in India, indicate a willingness to thaw relations. The "low-key, low-risk engagements" as it being billed by the media in India, could serve as the foundation for more substantive talks between the two nations.

The timing of these diplomatic gestures is crucial, considering India's ongoing elections. While New Delhi may adopt a cautious approach until the poll outcomes are clear, there is an opportunity for both countries to assess the stability and vision of the new government in Pakistan.

However, it would be too ambitious to hope that the Sharif's leadership could also play a key role in addressing issues that have historically strained India-Pakistan relations. His focus on economic development and governance could provide common ground for constructive discussions. Moreover his brother and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif's influence within the PML-N and the broader political landscape could empower him to make bold decisions in the interest of regional stability.

The need for dialogue between India and Pakistan is urgent, given the shared challenges faced by both nations, including economic downturns and security concerns. A constructive and open channel of communication can pave the way for collaborative efforts to address common issues such as trade barriers, and regional stability.

The election of Sharif as Pakistan's Prime Minister for the second term presents a unique opportunity for India and Pakistan to re-engage in meaningful dialogue. By recognizing the potential benefits of a stable and cooperative relationship, both nations can work towards building a peaceful South Asia. It is in the interest of both countries to seize this moment and prioritize dialogue as a pathway to lasting peace and development. However, for now, both the countries have no option, but to wait. India is going to polls in May-June and any new engagement between the two neighbours can take place only after that.

OTHER OPINION

Facts and statistics

The latest national income data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) last week have generated a fair amount of excitement as well as bewilderment.

While the markets have cheered the NSO's estimate of a robust 8.4% year-on-year growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) in the October-December quarter, some economists have been hard pressed to reconcile the sharp differences of well over a 100 basis points between the official estimates and their projections that many of them had made. The release also posits that real GDP grew by 8.2% and 8.1%, respectively, in the first and second quarters of the current fiscal, 40 and 50 basis points quicker than it had estimated earlier. Full-year real GDP growth too is now forecast at 7.6%, 30 basis points faster than the 7.3% growth it had estimated as recently as in January. A factor behind the upgrades in the current fiscal's income estimates is the NSO's revisions to the estimates for 2021-22 and 2022-23. While the revisions to 2021-22 data have resulted in that year's real GDP growth being raised by 60 basis points to 9.7%, a fallout is the consequent scaling down of 2022-23's GDP expansion to 7%, from the earlier estimate of 7.2%. Given that revisions to a previous year's data automatically alter the year-on-year pace of growth, the base effect is a crucial element that has to be factored in while gauging the import of the headline number.

In real productive sectors of the economy, third-quarter gross value added (GVA) growth slowed to 6.5%, from an upwardly revised 7.7% pace in the preceding July-September period, as output in the key rural agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing sector contracted 0.8% year-on-year and growth momentum slowed sequentially across five of the other seven sectors that contribute to the GVA. That the GVA growth rate is a full 190 basis points slower than the GDP's 8.4% pace is primarily because net indirect taxes are estimated to have surged 32% year-on-year in the last quarter, largely as a result of subsidy payouts, including on fertilizers, being drastically lower. To that extent, the GVA growth rate presents a truer picture of the health of the economy. And even on the demand or expenditure side, the data on private consumption spending and government consumption expenditure in the third quarter reveal a lack of traction. While private spending grew by a mere 3.5% year-on-year, government consumption spending actually shrank 3.2%. With the general election set to be announced any day now, the headlines around the NSO data serve as a poll-eve talking point. But there must be a sober analysis of the real state of the economy that draws on multiple statistical sets.

The Hindu

Electoral Battles in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

The fast progress of AI and generative AI in recent years have opened many new frontiers for the humans to scale new heights in various fields, but a darker side of the generative AI might be used for divisive purposes in global electoral battles in 2024

Asad Mirza



The report further says that as close to three billion people head to the electoral polls across several economies – including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States – over the next two years, the widespread use of misinformation and disinformation, and tools to disseminate it, may undermine the legitimacy of newly elected governments

The manner in which the information technology has outpaced even our wildest dreams is manifest in the fast-paced growth of AI in technically all fields of human existence.

The manner in which AI-generated content that can impersonate anyone with alarming accuracy has also set the alarm bells ringing. This when coupled with how this technological advancement could be misused for unlawful activities is also very scary.

One domain which could be affected the most in particular using this technology is the manner in which it could be deployed by political parties to influence their voters or malign their opponents.

This technological advancement is known as Deepfakes. While developers could argue that their technology is evolving and mistakes are inevitable, the rapid rise of deepfakes, particularly those used for sexual harassment, fraud, and political manipulation, poses an existential threat to democratic processes and public discourse.

Deepfakes could be exploited for non-consensual exploitation, financial deception, political disinformation or the dissemination of falsehoods, and they could endanger not only the integrity of individuals but also the very foundations of democratic societies.

Further, they corrode trust, manipulate public sentiment, and have the potential to incite widespread chaos and violence. From 2019 to 2023, the total number of deepfakes surged by 550%, as revealed in the 2023 State of Deepfakes report issued by Home Security Heroes, a US-based organisation.

With elections slated in more or less half of the world, the potential for deepfakes to sow discord and undermine trust in institutions is more significant than ever. Various efforts are underway to combat this threat. Initiatives like the "Tech Accord to Combat Deceptive Use of AI in 2024 Elections" at the recently held Munich Security Conference (MSC) represent a commendable effort to confront the challenges presented by deepfakes in electoral processes.

By uniting leading tech companies, the accord presents a unified stance against malicious actors, showcasing a shared determination to address the issue. Beyond mere detection and removal, the agreement encompasses educational initiatives, transparency measures, and origin tracing, laying the groundwork for comprehensive and enduring solutions.

However, the accord's focus on the 2024 elections may overlook the on-going evolution of the deepfake threat, potentially necessitating adjustments beyond the specified timeframe.

The efficacy of the accord also hinges on its ability to keep pace with the latest advancements. While the accord establishes guiding principles, it lacks concrete mechanisms for enforcement. Ensuring accountability among participating companies is essential

for meaningful progress. Relying on self-regulation from tech companies raises concerns about potential biases in implementation, underscoring the need for transparent and impartial oversight.

The era of the deepfake campaign has already begun. And as generative AI gathers ubiquity and sophistication, the fraying of social cohesion throughout the West in recent years may soon feel quaint by comparison. Rather than stoke outrage, tribalism, and conspiratorial thinking among voters, these new digital tools might soon breed something arguably much worse: apathy.

Indian Scenario

Deepfakes used to spread misinformation online using the treacherous role of a rapidly evolving AI technology are particularly lethal for countries like India.

The concern stems from some of the recent deepfake incidents. The concerns come after a series of recent deepfake incidents involving top Indian film stars and public figures. This prompted the government to work out a "clear, actionable plan" in collaboration with various social media platforms, artificial intelligence

hate crimes to civil confrontation and terrorism. Misinformation and disinformation is a new leader of the top 10 rankings this year. No longer requiring a niche skill set, easy-to-use interfaces to large-scale artificial intelligence (AI) models have already enabled an explosion in falsified information and so-called 'synthetic' content, from sophisticated voice cloning to counterfeit websites.

Moreover, in Western countries in particular, an even deeper governance issue might be playing even now. Basically, AI may also accelerate a decades-long erosion of civic engagement and social capital, particularly in liberal democracies - where citizens tend to be more secular and self-oriented and have smaller family networks than in other societies, like in the East.

It is predicted that Generative AI will lead to even greater social fissures, by allowing more and more individuals to bypass complex human interactions and exchanges and contests of ideas that form the bedrock of democracy. In this background, the generative AI might echo your thoughts and will tell you what you want to hear, putting a complete end



companies and industry bodies to tackle the issue.

Reportedly, PM Narendra Modi has said that deepfakes were one of the biggest threats faced by the country, and warned people to be careful with new technology amid a rise in AI-generated videos and pictures.

Meanwhile, Global Risks Report released by World Economic Forum in January 2024, warns that as polarisation grows and technological risks remain unchecked, 'truth' will come under pressure. Emerging as the most severe global risk anticipated over the next two years, foreign and domestic actors alike will leverage misinformation and disinformation to further widen societal and political divides.

The report further says that as close to three billion people head to the electoral polls across several economies – including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan, the United Kingdom and the United States – over the next two years, the widespread use of misinformation and disinformation, and tools to disseminate it, may undermine the legitimacy of newly elected governments.

The resulting unrest could range from violent protests and

to human interactions, grasp and execution.

This highlights the darker side of generative AI in the future yet to come. The citizen's ideals, inputs and actions might be marred at the local, national and international issues and may force them to completely opt out of the normal civic life, by creating a false picture in their minds, akin to human being controlled by machines, though in the democratic scenario it will be the political leaders not machines, who'll control the electorate through false narratives.

Thus, it may portend an end of human intervention at all levels in all fields and manipulative leaders could use the generative AI to create empathy in their favour amongst the wider electorate and thus influence the outcome of electoral battles in a completely corrupt manner.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. Asad Mirza is a Delhi-based senior political and international affairs commentator



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Declining Book Reading Culture

THE editorial page came up with something special. I, as a student, had almost forgotten about the decline in book reading culture in Kashmir. The main cause behind it is the

mushrooming growth of the Internet. However, the diverse opinions on the page nudged me and compelled me to read these at the earliest. Though I shared my views regarding this, I was enthusiastic to know what others

think about it. From academicians to budding writers and students, everyone shared their ideas. Variety of opinions opened the closed doors of the mind and I began to ponder over the reality of book reading culture in

Kashmir. In short, congratulations to the authors and the team of the Kashmir Observer for this out-of-box idea. Let the book reading culture prevail again in the age of the Internet.

Syed Mustafa Ahmad

What Defines Fitness in Sports? Definitely Not Abs!

Kabra Altaf

Whenever we hear the word 'fit', we think of a person with low body fat (slim) and six-pack abs or a person with the stamina of a wildebeest, the strength of an elephant and the eyesight of an eagle!

But is that what fitness is all about?

In sports, Cristiano Ronaldo, Khabib Nurmagomedov, Virat Kohli, Mary Kom, Yasuhiro Yamashita, Rohan Bopanna, Prince Fielder, and Jared Lorenzen have all achieved greatness and are termed as greatest athletes. But do they have the same level of fitness and weight?

Athlete	Weight (KG)	Height (M)
Cristiano Ronaldo (Football)	83	1.87
Khabib Nurmagomedov (MMA)	70	1.78
Virat Kohli (Cricket)	69	1.75
Mary Kom (Boxing)	51	1.58
Yasuhiro Yamashita (Judo)	127	1.8
Rohan Bopanna (Tennis)	87	1.93
Prince Fielder (Baseball)	125	1.8
Jared Lorenza (Baseball)	129	1.93

The answer is no (see the table above)! Have you ever thought why?

If the standards of fitness were just six-pack abs, stamina and strength; would that mean some of these legends are not fit enough?

Fitness and body weight are usually considered one; good weight (slim) = fitness! However, the reality is completely different. Fitness is actually the ability of a body to be able to perform daily activities without undue fatigue. Body weight does not define fitness but just defines the weight of mass of an organism.

Body composition is what your body weight is made up of. It includes the weight of water stored in the body, and the weight of your muscles, bones and fats. You need to understand that different factors determine the bone density of a person. Genetics, environment, hormones, nutrition, age, protein intake, medication exercise, and lifestyle are some examples.

Muscle weight varies from person to person. It depends on gender, body size and diet. The amount of body fat present in someone also varies based on gender, race, exercise, calorie intake, genetics, hormones, etc. Different genders have different body compositions and hence having abs in a short time without any anabolic steroids is challenging. (Anabolic steroids are life-threatening— their misuse can cause long-term side effects. It might look cool to change your body in no time but it is life-threatening)

Similarly, women often find it harder to lose belly



fat because of the less testosterone and more estrogen than men.

These facts hence make it clear that body weight does not solely show the fat in the body but various things as a whole determine it.

Now you must be thinking about the question I asked in the beginning about the fitness of all the athletes! Stay here till the end and you will get your questions answered.

Every athlete has a different body composition and different sports need different body types. No body type is ever not fit for a sport. We have numerous sports: outdoor (cricket, baseball, skiing, cycling, rafting) and indoor (combat sports, judo, wrestling, chess, swimming), etc. All these require a different body type.

For example, if I talk about combat sports, different athletes take part in different weight categories in both genders. There is a 100 KG plus category too, in which athletes with a weight of over 100 KG compete with the same technical and tactical skills as that of an athlete who weighs 50 KG.

There is a difference in speed, and strength in all weight categories but the skill and rules of a sport re-

main the same. These athletes are not selected based on abs count but on the technical, and sport-specific fitness level.

Like in swimming, long arms accompanied and wide shoulders aid in balancing your body. Long arms and hands exert more push on the water and long legs eat up the run distance. In the same way, every sport requires a different skill set and body type. Some things are hard to learn and some are easy, for example, a short judo athlete finds it hard to do leg chokes but is good at throwing, thanks to their speed.

Throughout the history of various sports, we have seen players with different weight scales showing different results in fitness tests. Putting on weight or losing a lot of weight has its pros and cons. While the heavy weight gives you more power, the lower weight gives you more speed. Sports like baseball, judo, wrestling, cricket, cycling, sprints, running, etc require speed, athleticism, strength and timing.

All of which can be hindered by heaviness or being underweight. However, some players in the past have found a way to make it work and that is what we call talent, skill and hard work. Making your own path despite the challenges.

It's time to make it clear to one and all:

The abs should not define fitness. Athletes shouldn't be judged on body type or weight.

Heavyweight people should not be called unfit.

There are always people who do the impossible! A 230 KG athlete playing great baseball, a 4.75-foot cricketer doing wonders, a player playing with a fracture, ACL tear, cancer and whatnot. Athletes can never be defined solely by their appearance but by their will, hard work, talent and dedication.

It can't be denied that below-average weight or heavy weight is not healthy but every case has to be treated differently. People must be made aware of the reality, the science behind the weight of a person, the real meaning of fitness and the definition of an athlete. This can only be possible by educating both athletes and sports fans.

Kabra Altaf is an eight-time national Judo medalist and an SAI-accredited Judo coach based in Srinagar, Kashmir

Fake It Til You Make It: The Overhyped World of Happiness

Matt Grawitch Ph.D.

Happiness—it's apparently elusive for a lot of people, given that the happiness industry is worth more than \$11 billion. And, at least in the United States, the pursuit of happiness hasn't produced much in the way of payoffs, given that happiness has largely fallen (though only mildly so) between 2008 and 2022, at least according to the World Happiness Report (WHR, 2023).² There seems to be a bit of a disconnect between the worth of the industry and its effectiveness.

Yet, there is no shortage of self-help books, websites, and even scientific studies claiming that an approach or tool can improve people's happiness. While the evidence-supporting tools that are promoted by self-help books and websites are often more case-based (one of the sources of myths discussed by Grawitch & Ballard, 2019), we should expect the evidence underlying scientifically studied interventions to be more valid.

That conclusion was recently put to the test in a systematic review of pre-registered studies conducted by Folk and Dunn (2024). They chose to focus specifically on pre-registered studies to reduce the likelihood that results were obtained

by p-hacking.³ Their review covered three types of interventions: those focused on making specific additions to one's life (e.g., practicing gratitude, meditating), those focused on taking things away from one's life (e.g., reducing unpleasant time use, reducing social media use), and those focused more on a population (i.e., government financial support, workplace interventions).

What Did They Find?

While their reporting of study results was extensive, here are five noteworthy findings from their review:

Few of the interventions, regardless of category, showed consistently strong effects. Any effects observed were typically small to moderate at best and were wildly inconsistent in terms of whether any effects were observed.

Most of the interventions that demonstrated some effectiveness did so over the short term, with little evidence of (or any real focus on) long-term benefits. While the ability to show benefits right away or soon after an intervention is sufficient to warrant claims of effectiveness, if such benefits dissipate quickly, how much benefit would they really provide?

The most consistently strong effects (though only across three studies) occurred for increasing sociability. However, practicing gratitude, spending money on others, and acting happy all showed some consistent small to moderate benefits, though most were of the short-lived variety.

The most consistently weak/ineffective interventions involved reducing social media/smartphone use. While such interventions sound intuitive, they may have little to no effect (as was also observed for meditation).

Few of the interventions had been extensively evaluated via pre-registered studies. The most studied interventions were helping others (including spending money on others), acting happy, and provision of financial resources by governments.

What Are the Implications of the Review?

There are two main implications we can draw from Folk and Dunn's systematic review. The first is that, in general, there's little evidence that people can reliably improve their long-term happiness—at least via a programmed intervention. While such interventions can

lead to some short-term benefits, there is little reason to believe such interventions would have a lasting impact. A big reason for such pessimism when it comes to long-term happiness improvement is that the majority of people tend to return to their baseline levels of happiness when experiencing big life events, such as divorce, bereavement, or marriage (Mancini et al., 2011). In the Mancini et al. study, even those who show marked decreases or increases directly after the event ended up eventually returning closer to their baseline level of happiness most of the time. Mancini et al.'s study is simply one of many studies that suggest people tend to be rather adaptable when it comes to changing life circumstances (also called the hedonic treadmill).

The second implication is that sociability may be a reliable way to improve one's happiness, though for how long is uncertain. Although this seems a bit antithetical when considered in the context of the first implication, it may have less to do with sociability improving happiness, per se, and more to do with sociability being relevant for building and maintaining a social support network. Having high-quality social relationships is the most consistent predictor of happi-

ness, but it has also been strongly linked to people's stress management capabilities and their experience of loneliness (Zhang & Dong, 2022). Therefore, having a quality social support network is important for several facets of well-being, and sociability is a way to cultivate and maintain such a network.

While strengthening one's social network can offer benefits for well-being, it is also important to recognize that the pursuit of happiness as a goal in and of itself often brings about paradoxical outcomes, like discontentment. As I mentioned in a previous post, we often don't know what will make us happy, and, so, pursuing happiness generally leads to disappointment. As Pines (2023) argued, the belief that happiness can be obtained by direct pursuit is a myth. This is not to suggest that having a strong social support network, helping others, or changing your diet are somehow bad for you. They aren't. Any of them (as well as others discussed in Folk and Dunn's review) can have beneficial consequences for you and those around you. Just don't expect them to lead to happiness.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Sitharaman Asks GST Officers To Leverage Tech To Plug Loopholes, Better Taxpayer Services

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday asked GST officers to leverage technology to plug loopholes and provide better taxpayer services.

Inaugurating the first-ever National Conference of Enforcement Chiefs of the State and Central GST Formations, Sitharaman advocated for sharing of the emerging best practices, emphasising the need for seamless coordination across states in the larger national interest.

"The Union Finance Minister urged all the GST formations to leverage technology to plug the loopholes as well provide better taxpayer services," an official statement issued after the meeting said. She also stressed that clarity on the classification of related issues should be looked into at the earliest through appropriate channels.

Sitharaman also exhorted the GST officials to engage with stakeholders to understand their concerns, enhance compliance, streamline processes, and work collaboratively towards making the tax system more transparent and efficient.

In her address, Sitharaman stressed the significance of holding such meetings regularly among enforcement chiefs of the Centre and states, and to leverage this platform for discussing obstacles, exchanging successful strategies and collectively advancing towards a more robust and harmonious



tax infrastructure.

Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra emphasised the crucial role of enforcement in ensuring the success of the GST system. Malhotra outlined key priorities - targeting high-risk areas, combating tax evaders, balancing enforcement with taxpayer rights, strengthening collaboration between central and state authorities, and gathering feedback for improvement in policy and technological interventions.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal said that fake entities and GST evasion not only erode revenue but also distort fair competition and fuel an underground economy. He highlighted the importance of strong data analytics, the use of technology and the need to stay ahead of the perpetrators of GST evasion. Agarwal also reminded the officers to follow the instructions issued by CBIC with respect to the procedure to be followed during enforcement action.

AI Advisory Applicable On Big Platforms, Not On Start-Ups: MoS IT

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government's advisory on artificial intelligence (AI) is applicable to significant players and untested platforms, and not on startups, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Monday.

After a controversy over a response of Google's AI platform to queries related to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government on March 1 issued an advisory for social media and other platforms to label under-trial AI models and prevent hosting unlawful content.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in the advisory issued to intermediaries and platforms warned of criminal action in case of non-compliance.

"Advisory is aimed at the significant platforms and permission seeking from MeitY is only for large platforms and will not apply to startups. Advisory is aimed at untested AI platforms from deploying on the Indian Internet," Chandrasekhar said on social media platform X.

All digital platforms are required to ensure that the use of artificial intelligence model(s),

large language models, generative AI, softwares or algorithms on or through its computer resource do not permit users to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful content.

The advisory asked use of under-testing, unreliable AI models, generative AI, etc and its availability to the users on Indian Internet with the explicit permission of the government and be deployed only after appropriately labelling the possible and inherent fallibility or unreliability of the output generated.

"Process of seeking permission, labelling and consent-based disclosure to user about untested platforms is insurance policy to platforms who can otherwise be sued by consumers. Safety and trust of India's Internet is a shared and common goal for the government, users and platforms," Chandrasekhar said.

Google's AI platform Gemini made uncharitable comments about Prime Minister Modi's policies. The response of Gemini to queries about the Prime Minister led to a strong reaction from the government, with Chandrasekhar calling it a violation of IT laws.

Moody's Raises India's Growth Forecast For 2024 To 6.8%

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Global rating agency Moody's on Monday raised India's growth forecast for 2024 calendar year to 6.8 per cent on "stronger-than-expected" economic data and said that the country will remain the fastest growing among G20 countries.

In its Global Macroeconomic Outlook for 2024, Moody's Investors Service said with global headwinds fading, the Indian economy should be able to register 6-7 per cent real GDP growth comfortably. For 2025, the GDP growth is estimated at 6.4 per cent. Moody's had projected a 6.1 per cent growth for 2024 earlier.

"India's economy has performed well and stronger-than-expected data in 2023 has caused us to raise our 2024 growth estimate to 6.8 per cent from 6.1 per cent. India is likely to remain the fastest-growing among G-20 economies over our forecast horizon," Moody's said.

India's real GDP expanded by 8.4 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2023, resulting in a 7.7 per cent growth for full-year 2023. The GDP grew by 8.2 per cent in the April-June quarter and by 8.1 per cent in the July-September quarter.

Capital spending by the government and strong manufacturing activity have meaningfully contributed to the robust growth outcomes in 2023, Moody's said in its report.

The agency said high-frequency indicators show that the economy's strong September and December quarter momentum carried into the March quarter of 2024.

"Robust goods and services tax collections, rising auto sales, consumer optimism and double-digit credit growth suggest urban consumption demand remains resilient. On the supply side, expanding manufacturing



and services PMIs add to evidence of solid economic momentum," Moody's said.

This year's interim budget targets capital expenditure allocation of Rs 11.1 lakh crore or 3.4 per cent of GDP in 2024-25 (fiscal year 2025), 16.9 per cent above the 2023-24 estimates.

"We expect policy continuity after the general election and continued focus on infrastructure development," Moody's said.

The agency said while private industrial capital spending has been slow to pick up, it is expected to pick up with ongoing supply chain diversification benefits and investors' response to the government's Production Linked Incentive scheme to boost key targeted manufacturing industries.

The year 2024 is an election year for several G-20 countries, including India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, the UK and the US.

Implications of elections can go beyond borders and economic and public policy in today's increasingly fractious world, it said.

"Leaders elected this year will influence domestic and foreign policies for the next four to five years. Businesses are accordingly responding to evolving geopolitical dynamics by reorganizing supply chains and capital sources," Moody's said.

Headline inflation in January eased to 5.1 per cent from 5.7 per cent in the previous month.

Core inflation also moderated to 3.5 per cent, down from 3.8 per cent in December.

The RBI held the repo rate steady at 6.5 per cent in February the same level since March 2023. Given the solid growth dynamics and inflation above the 4 per cent target, we do not expect policy easing any time soon.

"The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept its policy rate on hold at its February meeting. The RBI will likely keep rates on hold in the coming months given strong growth and firm inflation," Moody's said.

It said geopolitical realities will be influencing international trade flows, capital flows, international migration trends and international organizations in the years to come. Domestically, industrial and trade policies of several countries are intertwined with foreign policy.

Moody's further said that the global economy is transitioning to a post-pandemic equilibrium with a steady normalization in economic activity across major advanced and emerging markets.

A soft landing appears within reach for several advanced economies because of effective policy manoeuvring, improved supply-demand balances and good fortune such as mild winters in Europe.

Moody's forecast G-20 economies will collectively expand by 2.4 per cent in 2024 and 2.6 per cent in 2025, down from 2.9 per cent in 2023.

Sensex, Nifty Scale Fresh Lifetime Highs As Bank, Energy Shares Advance; Rise For 4th Day

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty settled at new record high levels on Monday in a highly volatile trade following buying in energy and banking shares as Moody's upgraded 2024 India GDP growth forecast on "better than expected" economic data.

Extending its rally to the fourth session in a row, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 66.14 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at an all-time high of 73,872.29. During the day, it jumped 183.98 points or 0.24

buying in banks, energy and pharma shares while IT, FMCG and auto shares retreated, analysts said.

"The market traded in a range-bound manner due to weak global cues, while investors turned stock-specific due to the prevailing caution on broader indices. Further, the tepid consumption data influenced investors to refrain from FMCG and discretionary stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The global sentiment is likely to be cautious ahead of FED



per cent to record intra-day high of 73,990.13.

The broader Nifty rose by 27.20 points or 0.12 per cent to close at a lifetime high of 22,405.60 points. During the day, it hit a record intra-day level of 22,440.90.

In the four-day record-breaking spree, Sensex rallied 1,567 points or 2.15 per cent while Nifty shot up 454 points or around 2 per cent.

Analysts said though benchmark indices closed at record levels, the market traded in a range. Gains were driven by

chair testimony and ECB policy later this week, Nair added.

Among Sensex shares, NTPC rose the most by 3.5 per cent. Power Grid gained 2.63 per cent, Reliance Industries by 1.03 per cent and Axis Bank by 0.90 per cent.

Bajaj Finserv, Tech Mahindra, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and Indusind Bank were also among the major gainers. On the other hand, JSW Steel fell the most by 2.49 per cent. Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, UltraTech Cement, Infosys and Titan were among the laggards.

NRLM EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SHG Member Nuzhat Jan Showcases Kashmiri Delights At Panchkula, Haryana



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Nuzhat Jan, a member of National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and part of Farhan Self Help Group (SHG) of Pulwama supported by NRLM, is breaking barriers and showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit.

Recently, Nuzhat established a stall featuring array of dry fruits and other products crafted by her SHG at the Huda Parade Ground in Panchkula, Haryana. Her stall not only displayed rich diversity of Kashmiri produce but also highlighted skill and craftsmanship nurtured within her SHG.

Despite hailing from a rural area in Pulwama, Nuzhat's determination and commitment to her craft have transcended geographical boundaries.

Moreover, Nuzhat added a touch of Kashmiri warmth by serving the famous Kashmiri Kehwa in traditional Samovars. This cultural infusion not only refreshed taste buds but also provided a glimpse into the vibrant heritage of Kashmir.

Through her initiative, Nuzhat Jan is not just selling products but she is representing community's resilience and transformative power of SHGs in empowering women.

The presence of Nusrat at Huda Parade Ground serves a testament to potential and capabilities of women entrepreneurs from rural areas, inspiring others to dream big and reach their goals.

Nuzhat Jan stands as a testament to the transformative power of dedication and support within the NRLM in Pulwama.

Gold Remains Flat At Rs 64,200 Per 10/Grams; Silver Declines Rs 200

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices remained flat at Rs 64,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday in line with firm global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

However, silver prices plunged Rs 200 to Rs 73,800 per kg, while it had ended at Rs 74,000 per kg in the previous trade.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in the Delhi markets are trading flat at Rs 64,200 per 10 grams, unchanged from the previous close," Saamil Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the international mar-

kets, spot gold at Comex it had settled at USD 23.12 per ounce.

Looking ahead, the price outlook remains optimistic, supported by expectations of lower Non-farm Payroll data compared to the previous month.

"However, market volatility may increase in response to the Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's testimony scheduled for March 6-7, 2024, which could impact gold prices," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities, said.

However, silver was trading lower at USD 23.09 per ounce. In the previous close,



J&K's Tourism Renaissance- Unlocking Beauty, Embracing Opportunity

Firdos Ali

In a historic milestone, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed an unprecedented surge in tourism in 2023, welcoming over 2 crore visitors and surpassing all previous records. This remarkable influx signals a new chapter in the region's tourism narrative, propelled by a blend of factors that have captivated travelers from across the globe.

At the heart of this tourism boom lies the abolition of Article 370, a bold move that has not only fostered a sense of security and stability but has also showcased the region's mesmerizing landscapes and vibrant culture to the world.

The hosting of G-20 meetings on Indian soil also played a pivotal role in this surge, particularly the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar.



This global platform not only elevated India's global standing but also spotlighted Kashmir's allure, attracting a significant number of foreign tourists to the valley.

The statistics speak volumes, with a staggering 155% increase in tourist arrivals in 2023 compared to previous years. This exponential growth under-

scores India's immense tourism potential and its appeal as a premier destination on the world stage.

Strategic initiatives spearheaded by tourism officials in Jammu and Kashmir have further fueled this momentum. From promoting offbeat destinations to reviving film and

border tourism, and embracing homestays, these efforts have enriched the tourist experience, adding depth and diversity to the region's offerings.

Religious pilgrimages have also contributed significantly to the tourism surge, with the holy cave shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and the annual Amarnath Yatra witnessing record-breaking numbers of pilgrims, highlighting the spiritual significance of the region.

As Jammu and Kashmir embraces this tourism renaissance, there is a sense of optimism for the future. With a focus on infrastructure development, cultural preservation, and sustainable tourism practices, the region is poised to emerge as a top-tier tourist destination, inviting travelers to uncover its treasures and experience its unparalleled beauty firsthand.

India Asks Tech Firms To Seek Approval Before Releasing 'Unreliable' AI tools

Reuters

NEW DELHI: India has asked tech firms to seek its approval before the public release of artificial intelligence (AI) tools that are "unreliable" or under trial, noting they should also be labelled for the potential to return wrong answers for user queries.

The use of such tools, including generative AI, and its "availability to the users on Indian Internet must be done so with explicit permission of the Government of India," the country's IT ministry said in an advisory issued last Friday to the platforms.

Countries across the world are racing to draw up rules to regulate AI. India has been tightening regulations for social media companies, which count the South Asian nation as a top growth market.

The advisory came a week after a top minister on Feb. 23



lambasted Google's Gemini AI tool for a response that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been accused by some of implementing policies characterised as "fascist".

A day later, Google said it had quickly worked to address the issue and the tool "may not always be reliable", in particular for current events and political topics.

"Safety and trust is platform legal obligation. 'Sorry

Unreliable' does not exempt from law," deputy IT minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on the social media platform X in response to Google's statement.

India's Friday advisory also asked platforms to ensure that their AI tools do not "threaten the integrity of the electoral process". India's general elections are to be held this summer, where the ruling Hindu nationalist party is expected to secure a clear majority.

No Headway On Demands For Ladakh's Statehood

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A sub-committee formed to look into the demands of Ladakh's people Monday failed to make any headway after two back-to-back meetings with central government functionaries and have decided to consult with the people of the region to devise a future course of action.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) have been demanding statehood for Ladakh, inclusion of the Union territory in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution and the setting up of an exclusive public service commission for the high-altitude region.

The sub-committee of the LAB and KDA held a meeting with officials of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the advisor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, according to a statement issued by the two organisations.

"The meeting ended without any concrete outcome," it said.

Subsequently, the sub-committee held a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence. "This meeting too didn't result in any



positive outcome," the organisations said.

According to the statement, the organisations have decided to devise a future course of action after consultation with the people of the two districts of Ladakh Leh and Kargil.

The sub-committee was formed following a meeting held on February 19 between the High Powered Committee (HPC) for Ladakh headed by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai and a 14-member delegation of the LAB and the KDA, represent-

ing various organisations of the Union Territory.

Thupstan Chhewang, Chering Dorjay Lakruk and Nawang Rigzin Jora, representing the LAB, and Qamar Ali Akhoo, Asgar Ali Karbalai and Sajjad Kargili, representing the KDA, are members of the sub-committee.

Akhoo, Chhewang, Lakruk and Karbalai signed the press statement issued on Monday.

The other demands of the delegation include two Lok Sabha seats (one for Kargil and one

for Leh) and job opportunities for the residents of the Union Territory, sources said earlier.

Ladakh currently has one Lok Sabha constituency.

Ladakh, which no longer has any Assembly constituency, was earlier part of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir, were abrogated on August 5, 2019, and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

According to the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, Jammu and Kashmir has been made a Union Territory with a Legislative Assembly and Ladakh a Union Territory without any Assembly.

There were four representatives from Ladakh in the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The BJP-led Centre assured the delegation from Ladakh in December last year that it was committed to fast-tracking the development of the Union Territory and meeting the aspirations of the people in the region.

The assurance was given at a

meeting held with the HPC for Ladakh.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has formed the HPC for Ladakh under Rai's chairmanship with a mandate to discuss the measures needed to be taken to protect the region's unique culture and language, taking into consideration its geographical location and strategic importance.

The HPC has also been formed for the protection of land and employment, measures for inclusive development and employment generation in the region, measures related to the empowerment of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) of Leh and Kargil and the constitutional safeguards that could be provided to ensure the measures and protection as mentioned above.

Several organisations of Ladakh were demanding a separate Union Territory for the region for decades and the demand was fulfilled on August 5, 2019.

The KDA and the LAB, however, in the recent past protested at different locations, including New Delhi, Jammu and Ladakh, highlighting their key demands.

BJP Rules Out Pre-Poll Alliance

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Ruling out any pre-poll alliance for the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Monday said the party would not need even a post-poll alliance as it will sweep the elections in the Union territory.

"The BJP is ready to contest all five seats in Jammu and Kashmir. We will contest the Lok Sabha polls on our own. When the Election Commission announces the assembly elections (for Jammu and Kashmir), we will contest on our own," Raina told reporters here.

"We are confident that we will win

both the elections as the BJP is getting love from the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Raina said the BJP is confident that the people of Jammu and Kashmir would show their love for Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he arrives for a public rally in Srinagar on March 7.

"For the people of Kashmir, it is a matter of happiness that PM Modi is coming to the valley on March 7. When the PM will come to Kashmir, more than two lakh people will participate in the rally at Bakshi Stadium. There is a wave of happiness in Kashmir that PM Modi is coming to Kashmir," he added.

Raina further said the Modi govern-

ment at the Centre has been generous in providing financial allocations to Jammu and Kashmir which has resulted in unprecedented development in the Union territory.

"Modi's arrival in Kashmir in 2014 had given a ray of hope to the flood victims. He announced a development package of Rs 80,000 crore. It was because of that package that Kashmir was able to come out of the problems," Raina said.

"The Modi government has allocated funds generously for Jammu and Kashmir. Today Kashmir is passing through a prosperous and peaceful phase," he added.

Statehood Should Be Restored Immediately: Azad

Agencies

SRINAGAR: DPAP chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday said that statehood should be restored to Jammu and Kashmir immediately after the assembly elections are held in the Union territory.

"The prime minister and the home minister have promised in the Parliament to restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. We had insisted that it should be done before the assembly elections, but the government said they will do it after the assembly elections," Azad said at a rally in Aishmuqam area of Anantnag district, 75 kms from here.

The former chief minister said that statehood should be restored immediately after the polls as the government has not specified the time frame for it. "After the elections can be a long time later. But it should be done immediately," he added. On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kashmir later this week, Azad said that it was an overdue visit.

"The prime minister visits various parts of the country. His visit to Kashmir was overdue, he visited Jammu last week (month). I will request the PM to carry out the works which the local government cannot do. I would request that two thermal power projects -- one each in Kashmir and Jammu regions -- with a total generation capacity of 4,000 MW be set up to ensure there is no energy deficit in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Azad said that electricity was the basic requirement for Modi's favourite programme for startups. "That is the only way to address unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir," Azad said.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been ruled by the BJP for the last 10 years -- for four years in coalition and then directly. In the past two years, I have visited vast areas of Jammu and Kashmir and found that one problem is common and that is electricity," he added.



Air Force Airlifts Critical Patient In Ladakh



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: A patient with critical head injuries was on Monday airlifted in an Indian Air Force aircraft to Leh from a village in the Zaskar region of south Ladakh after continuous snowfall cut off ground access, it said.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) also posted photographs of the Cheetah helicopter airlifting on X.

"An IAF aircraft successfully evacuated a patient with critical head injuries from Atting village in the Zaskar region of south Ladakh, following continuous snowfall, which had cut off all ground access to the region #HarKaamDeshkeNaam," it said in the post.

Four Killed, Three Injured In Ramban Road Accident



Agencies

BANIHAL/JAMMU: Four people were killed and three injured when an SUV carrying them skidded off the road and rolled down into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Monday, official sources said.

The car, which was on its way from Ukhraal to Maligam, skidded off due to slippery road conditions and fell into a gorge near Maligam, they said.

The locals rushed to the spot and rescued the victims, the police said.

The SUV driver Sajjad Ahmad and three passengers -- Abdul Wahid Bali, Aanyatullah, Mohammad Ayoub Bali lost their lives in the incident, they said.

The three persons injured in the acci-

dent were shifted to a hospital, they added.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condoled the loss of lives in the tragic road accident.

"I am deeply saddened to learn of the loss of precious lives in an unfortunate road accident in Ramban today. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families and praying for the speedy recovery of those injured," the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor has announced ex-gratia for the victims of Ramban road accident and those who had lost their lives in a tragic landslide in Reasi on Sunday. An ex-gratia of Rs.5 Lakh would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs.50,000.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER HARIGANIWAN
HARIGANIWAN, KANGAN GANDERBAL - 191202,
E-mail: zeohariganwan@gmail.com | Ph No: 0194-2953600

AUCTION NOTICE

Ref: CEOG/Plg/23-24/Auction/58/2 364 68 Dated: 202-02-2024

In continuation to this office letter number ZEO/HGN/ESTT/12-15 Dated: 23-02-2024

General public is informed through this notice that 04 (four) number of unsafe/Dilapidated school buildings are put to auction by Auction Committee with following minimum bid value. The schools are located in Zone Hariganwan sub-Division Kangan, District Ganderbal. The details of the buildings are as under.

S.NO	Name of the School	Minimum Bid Value In RS
1	03 Roomed Building at HS Surfraw	341225/=
2	03 Roomed structure at Ms Kaniwas	165725/=
3	02 Toilet points/Kitchen Shed At MS Botakullan	118065/=
4	03 Roomed Building At GMS Gund	253510/=

The interested bidders can submit EMD/Bids to this office by or before 10-03-2024 with a Demand Draft @5% of total value pledge to Zonal Education officer Hariganwan. The Auction will be held in the School premises for S. No. 01 & 02 on 11-03-2024 at 11:00am and 2:00 PM respectively and for S.No 03 & 04 on 12-03-2024 at 11:00am and 2:00 PM respectively by Auction Committee:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The Successful bidder/bidders will have to pay full amount in lump sum on spot.
- The auction committee reserves the rights to accept or reject any bid without giving any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder/Bidders will have to abide by all the rules and regulations of the department.

NO: ZEO/HGN/ESTT/98-100
Dated: 02/03/2024

DIPK-17429-23
DT: 04/03/2024

Zonal Education Officer
Hariganwan

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
STATE TAXES DEPARTMENT
EXCISE AND TAXATION COMPLEX, RAIL HEAD, PANAMA CHOWK, JAMMU/SOLINA SRINAGAR
Tele/Fax(J): 0191-2477934, (K)0194-231135/2310875,
email:cctjk@jkcomtax.gov.in, www:jkcomtax.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER 01 OF 2024 DATED 04-03-2024

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K, Commissioner, State Taxes Department invites e-tenders for Selection of vendor for FMS/AMC of IT Hardware installed at various locations of the department and NOC/Data Centre Operations, Management and Maintenance from the reputed/registered firms: -

S. No.	Item / Specifications	Cost of document/Tender Fee (In Rs.)	Earnest money (In Rs.)	Period of Contract
1.	Request for Proposal(RFP) for Selection of vendor for FMS/AMC of IT Hardware installed at various locations of the department and NOC/Data Centre Operations, Management and Maintenance	Rs. 1500/-	Rs.15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Only)	w.e.f 1st April,2024 to 31st March,2026

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>
- The last date of submission of e-bid on the portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> 19th March,2024 up to 5.00 pm
- The technical/commercial bid shall be opened on 20th March,2024 .
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online in the office of Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Department (Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling), E&T Complex Solina Srinagar/Rail Head Complex, Panama Chowk Jammu-180012.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Department (Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling), E&T Complex Solina Srinagar/Rail Head Complex, Panama Chowk Jammu-180012.
- E-Bids must be accompanied with scanned copy of EMD and cost of Tender document pledged to Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Department (Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling) payable at Jammu. However, original copy of the EMD and Tender Fee should be submitted at the time of opening of technical bid.
- Bid security/EMD will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled/nationalized bank.
- If any bidder / tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- For any clarification, bidder may contact Sh. Wajhat Mehmood, Programmer, State Taxes, Mobile: 7006432567/9419060075 or send email at coordinator@jkcomtax.gov.in.

No: ACST/TP/FMS&AMC/1354
Dated: 04-3-2024

DIPK-17416-23
DT: 04/03/2024

All Afsar Khan, JKAS
Additional Commissioner, State Taxes Department
(Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling) J&K

Soldier killed in accidental firing in Rajouri

RAJOURI: An army jawan died of a bullet injury as his service weapon went off accidentally along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir Rajouri district on Monday, police said.

Lance Naik Balvir Singh, who was deployed near the Anti-Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS), was hit by a bullet which went off from his service rifle accidentally in Nowshera sector, they said.

The army jawan died on the spot and his body has been shifted to a local hospital for medico-legal formalities, police said. (Agencies)

DC B'pora chairs meeting on NHRC cases

KO NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel ul Rehman on Monday convened a meeting at Mini Secretariat, here regarding pending National Human Rights Cases (NHRC).

The meeting was convened in view of the instructions of the Chief Secretary to accord priority to the cases filed before NHRC.

On the occasion, various cases were discussed in detail that were pending for reply with different departments. It was informed that 31 cases of Bandipora are pending for detailed reports and onward submission to the Law Department.

The DC underscored the urgency of filing replies of the pending complaints and directed all the concerned departments to submit the report of pending cases, at an earliest, so that the same are submitted to the Law Department for legal vetting and thereafter the final submissions before the NHRC.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Umar Shafi Pandit; ASP Bandipora, ACR, HoP KGHEP, NHPC, DSWO, Tehsildar Bandipora, EO MC Bandipora/Sumbal and other concerned.

JDIK condoles demise of Mother of Beenish Wani

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir (JDIK) has condoled the demise of mother of Beenish Wani, ex. Asstt Director Advt., Information Department and presently posted at DE&CC Ganderbal.

A condolence meeting of officers and officials of the Department was held today under the chairmanship of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam. The Joint Director expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise, extended sympathies to Beenish, and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir, Cultural Officer and other officers and officials of Information Department Kashmir have also extended sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

This is for the information of the general public and all concerned that I, Qazi Qamar Iqbal Qari, s/o Qazi Ihsan ul Haq Qari, r/o Zakura, Srinagar that it has come to my notice that my credentials of being a qualified and licensed architect are being used for availing projects/works without my knowledge, consent or any intimation to me. By virtue of this notice, I am distancing myself from any such unauthorised use of my name or credentials and have not authorised or permitted anybody to use my name or credentials. It is requested that no reliance should be placed on any use of my name and credentials without prior confirmation from me.

QAZI QAMAR IQBAL QARI
9419080484

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION - IV.

PAMPORE KASHMIR - 192121 Email: xentmd4@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-1

In view of the poor response the last date of receipt of tenders (online), bid submission end date and bid opening of NIT No: TLMD/IV/e-NIT/24 of 2023-24 for Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Aviation lights and Spherical balls at various Grids Including Transmission lines under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV, Pampore is further extended as under:

1	e-Bid submission end date and time	12-03-2024 up to 14:00 hrs
2	Date of opening of online techno commercial /financial bid	13-03-2024 at 14:00 hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain same. The tender document / NIT / BOQ can be downloaded from website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

--sd--

DIPK-NB-5919-23
DT: 04/03/2024

Executive Engineer,
TLMD-IV Pampore

Real Kashmir Edge Out Sreenidi Deccan 3-2, Go 2nd In I-League

Agencies

HYDERABAD: Gnohere Krizo scored a brace as Real Kashmir FC prevailed 3-2 over hosts Sreenidi Deccan FC in a thrilling I-League match at the Deccan Arena in Hyderabad on Monday.

The win not only highlighted Real Kashmir's capability to secure crucial points away from home but also maintained their pursuit of the I-League title.

While Krizo took his goal tally to 12 in the I-League, Real Kashmir's other goal was scored by Ifham Tariq Mir. For Sreenidi Deccan, Rilwan Olanrewaju Hassan, and Eli Sabia were the scorers. The Deccan Warriors though lost the plot in the match when they were reduced to 10 men after Mohammad Sajid Dhot was given marching orders in the 86th minute.

The win took Real Kashmir to the second spot in the I-League table. They have 33 points from 17 matches with 10 wins, three



draws, and four losses and are five points adrift of leaders Mohammedan Sporting.

On Monday, Real Kashmir's defensive tactics were once

again on full display in the first half. They effectively neutralized the attacking threats posed by Sreenidi Deccan, maintaining a compact and impenetrable

back line.

The Snow Leopards were also far more clinical in front of the goal and took the lead in the added minutes of the first half.

Mohammad Asrar Rehbar sent in a long ball towards the right flank, finding Henry Kisekka in space. The Ugandan midfielder then delivered a cross into the penalty box and forward Gnohere Krizo did well to get to the end of the ball.

The match continued to be fraught with drama as another crucial moment came in the 86th minute when Sreenidi Deccan were reduced to 10 men. Mohammad Sajid Dhot received his second yellow card of the game for a rough challenge on Krizo.

From the ensuing free-kick, Real Kashmir quickly responded as Ifham Tariq Mir executed a well-measured lob. Sreenidi Deccan goalkeeper Gomes attempted to intercept Mir's shot but misjudged the flight of the ball.

Real Kashmir finally sealed the match in the added minutes of the second half after Eli Sabia brought down Krizo inside the box.

Short TAKES

Martial Art Camp For Women Begins At GCoE

Four day long 'Martial Art Camp' for female students of the Government College of Education (IASE) M.A Road Srinagar commenced on Monday.

The camp has been organized by the Department of Physical Education in collaboration with Women's Studies Centre, Government College of Education (IASE).

The four day camp was inaugurated by the principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz.

A total number of 31 female students participated on the first day of the camp.

J&K Kabaddi Probables Selected For Nationals

The Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association on Monday announced the men's list of probables set to participate in 70th Senior National Kabaddi Championship to be held at Sports Complex, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra from 21st to 24th March.

The list of probables are: Tarandeep Singh, Farman Ali, Aamir Wani, Irfan Ahmed, Akshay Singh, Abhishek Gupta, Sanjeet Kumar, Vikas, Rohit, Nishant, Ab. Aditya Bhati, Krishanveer, Rajan Singh, Amrit Dev Singh, Rashid Ahmed, Jitendera Kumar, Rajesh and Vipin Mavi.

Jaiswal Among ICC Men's POTM Nominees For Feb

Prolific India opener Yashvir Jaiswal, the leading run-scorer in the ongoing Test series against England, has been nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for February alongside New Zealand's Kane Williamson and Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka.

Jaiswal has been nominated for the first time in the ICC Player of the Month awards following a sensational month in Tests against England. So far, the left-hander has scored 655 runs from four Tests with a match to go. (PTI)

Mumbai Crush TN To Storm Into Ranji Trophy Final

Shardul Thakur's all-round brilliance was the central point of Mumbai's massive innings and 70-run win over clumsy Tamil Nadu inside three days as they marched to their 48th Ranji Trophy final here on Monday.

After his stunning 109 on the second day that handed 41-time champions Mumbai a big 232-run lead, Thakur ripped the TN top-order with two wickets that saw the visitors getting felled for 162 in their second innings in the semifinal. (PTI)

Goa To Host Next Beach Soccer National Championship

Goa will host the Beach Soccer National Championship this year, the All India Football Federation announced on Monday. The decision to give Goa the hosting right was made during All India Football Federation's Beach Soccer Committee's virtual meeting.

The dates of the tournament are yet to be announced. AIFF had successfully hosted the first-ever men's Beach Soccer National Championship last year in Surat in January, following which the sport made a debut at the National Games. (PTI)



ALL INDIA POLICE WATER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 J&K Wins Gold, Bronze On Day 2

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Police clinched a gold and a bronze medal on Day 2 of the 23rd All India Police Water Sports Championship 2024 on Monday at Back Lawn of SKICC Srinagar, here.

The championship, organised by J&K Police, saw seven events in various categories.

J&K Police won gold in C-2 1000 meter event, with Moisar Ahmad Bhat and Mubashir Hussain completing the event in 04.02.776 seconds. BSF won silver in this event, overcoming the distance in 04.03.608.

J&K Police also won bronze in the final race of



the day, a C-4 event. Adil Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Imityaz Hussain, Moisar Ahmad Bhat, and Akhbar Hussain completed the 1000 meter distance in 03.51.628 seconds.

BSF won gold in this event, finishing the race in 03.45.300. The chief guest at medal ceremony was Khalil Poswal-JKPS Commandant JKAP-9th Battalion.

New Season, New Captain: SRH Make Pat Cummins Skipper

Press Trust of India

HYDERABAD: Australia's World Cup-winning skipper Pat Cummins was on Monday named captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the upcoming Indian Premier League, becoming the fourth player to be handed the responsibility in the last three years.

The 30-year-old pacer was bought by SRH for a whopping Rs 20.50 crore in the IPL auctions in December last year, making him the second costliest player in the event's history. He replaced South African Aiden Markram, who led SRH in the 2023 season.

"Our new captain Pat Cummins," SRH posted on its social media platforms, along with a picture of Cummins.

In the 2023 season, SRH finished bottom of the heap under Markram's captaincy with only four wins in 14 league games.

The SRH leadership role has been changing hands for the last three years.

It began with the infamous 2021 saga when swashbuckling Australian batter David Warner, who led the team to its only title win in 2016 and spent six years with the side, was sacked in the middle of the season.

Warner was replaced earlier too, by New Zealand's Kane Williamson in 2018 and 2019, when he was serving a ban for his involvement in the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's tour of South Africa.



The big-hitter returned to the position in 2020 and was a fan favourite at SRH before his relationship with the team management began to turn sour during the 2021 season.

He was sacked from the captaincy in May that year after SRH lost five of their six games and was then axed altogether later in the season.

Williamson was handed the reigns of the side once again and Warner was blocked by SRH on Instagram. This came to light when the controversial player tried to congratulate his Australian teammate Travis Head for joining SRH in December last year.

Williamson continued at the helm during the 2022 season and under him, the team finished eighth in the standings. He was eventually released from the team.

My 100th Test Cap Is For My Mother: Jonny Bairstow

Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: Set to achieve a major milestone of playing his 100th Test this week, England wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow dedicated the achievement to his cancer-survivor mother who has been his driving force and kept the family together through the difficult times.

The 34-year-old will become the 17th Englishman to win 100th Test cap when he steps out for the fifth and



final Test against India starting here on Thursday and it will be an emotional week for Bairstow, who endured a tough childhood and a long career-threatening injury.

"When I play, there are times I think about Dad. But I think more about how hard Mum worked to make sure we were OK after everything that happened. To keep us together as a family. That has been my driving force," he told 'Telegraph Sport'.

Bairstow was just 8 when his father David, a former England wicketkeeper, died by suicide. His mother Janet kept the family together even as she battled and defeated breast cancer twice.

A Soccer Star & A Savvy Businessman

Mbappé Leads Messi & Ronaldo In Registered Trademarks

Agencies

BRUSSELS: It's hard to say whether Kylian Mbappé is ahead of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in their battle for the honorific title of "best player in the world."

But ahead of his expected move to Real Madrid, Mbappé is already leading the pair of multiple Ballon d'Or winners when it comes to intellectual property protection.

In a sign of his immense commercial power, the PSG striker owns seven EU trademarks, including his iconic crossarmed goal celebration pose, his name and the logo of his company. According to the European Union intellectual property office, Messi and Ronaldo have six trademarks registered each.

Mbappé has also registered two of his famous quotes — "Le football, il a changé (Football has changed)" and "Moi, tu m'parles pas d'âge (You don't talk to me about age)" for products including electronic games, mobile apps, posters, handbags, footwear, cosmetics or jewelry.

An EU trademark gives exclusive rights in all EU countries, a market of almost 500 million consumers. It also protects owners against counterfeiting and fraud.

The EU body said Mbappé filed two more applications in February. He is topping the list of EU trademarks owned by soccer players.



Mbappé's "Football has changed" quote became viral on social media two years ago. The business-savvy Frenchman uttered it during a press conference after he was asked on image rights and sports sponsorship following his refusal to take part in a marketing event with the French national team.

While registering trademarks is not unusual in soccer, women's players are, however, invisible in the European IP protection sphere.

"While many of the professional football players in the top European

teams own at least one EU trademark, there are no women among them," the EU office said. "Alexia Putellas, Aitana Bonmatí, Marta, Alex Morgan, Caroline Graham... they are all stars but they have not yet started to play the IP game."

When it comes to clubs, "the king of Europe is Real Madrid," the EU office said. The Spanish giant owns 33 EU trademarks and 24 designs — among them, the shape of the benches' seats of the Bernabeu stadium.

Madrid's archrival Barcelona owns 22 EU trademarks and seven

designs. Bayern Munich, PSG and Manchester United complete the European top five.

Among Paris Saint Germain's trademarks, there's the sound bite "Ici c'est Paris (Here it's Paris)," which was recorded directly from the supporters' chants," the EU office said, adding that all the major leagues in Europe own several EU trademarks and designs to protect their logos, names and the shape of the trophies. Outside the 27-nation bloc, Major League Soccer in the United States owns several EU trademarks. (AP)

Haris Rauf's Central Contract May Be Retored: PCB Source

Press Trust of India

LAHORE: Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf's central contract may be "restored" after a review by the legal team of the country's Board, an official source in the PCB said on Monday. Rauf's central contract was terminated two days before the start of Pakistan Super League for refusing to play in the three-Test series against Australia that they lost 0-3 in January.

An official source in the PCB said the legal team was reviewing Rauf's appeal which seeks the restoration of his central contract.

"There are chances that the appeal might be accepted, and his contract restored," the source said.

Rauf is currently ruled out of the PSL with a dislocated shoulder. He sustained the injury during the third match of the PSL while playing for Lahore Qalandars.

After opting out of the Test series in Australia, Rauf went to play in the Big Bash around the same time.

But the PCB still included him for the five-match



T20I series in New Zealand as the pacer last played for his country in the fourth match of the series in Christchurch.

The board while taking action also suspended issuance of NOCs to Haris for foreign leagues until June this year.

The source said Haris had submitted his appeal through his lawyer and given a complete statement, outlining his version of events that didn't allow him to play in the Tests in Australia.

The PCB however is not happy with the comments made by one of Rauf's PSL franchise owner Sameen Rana, according to the source.

Rana in an interview to

a leading cricket website blasted the board for taking action against Rauf and said the timing of that announcement was unnecessary.

"Rauf's our premier bowler, our highest wicket-taker after Shaheen Afridi. To publicly humiliate him and issue a press release announcing the termination of his central contract, I have never seen this happen anywhere," Rana had said in the interview.

"I would never treat my employees like that. The employee at least has the right for you to call, email or message them. None of that happened with Rauf, and it was pathetic. It was really poor management," Rana had added.

BJP Expects

two lakh people. It will be the first public rally of PM Modi in Srinagar after abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. This will be the second rally of PM Modi in J&K since February 20, the day he addressed a massive public gathering at Jammu where he inaugurated developmental projects worth Rs 3200 Cr.

"Over 10,000 party flags will be installed across Srinagar right from the airport to the rally venue. There will also be 1000 banners and hoardings displaying PM Modi's photographs with slogans like "Ab ki baar 400 paar (this time, we will cross 400 seats)," a source said.

He said that as per the plan, 15000 people including BJP workers will be coming from each district of Kashmir.

"Over 500 workers have been tasked to fix hoardings, install banners and flags at various places across Srinagar," he said. "These workers are working overnight to finish the work."

A BJP leader said that the rally is open and nobody needs to approach the BJP office for passes. "Everybody who wishes to listen to PM Modi at Bakshi Stadium is welcome and he or she doesn't need any entry pass," he said, wishing not to be named.

To accommodate workers in Srinagar a day ahead of the rally, over 100 hotels, lodges and guest houses have been booked in advance for smooth flow of workers and people towards the venue.

"To ferry workers and common citizens from districts, over 1000 vehicles have been hired (by the party)," the source in the BJP said.

Sources in the BJP said that all leaders, district presidents and lower and middle-rung leadership of BJP will remain present at the venue. "It will not be a mere rally but a huge morale booster for the BJP cadre across Kashmir ahead of the Lok Sabha polls slated for April-May," they said.

Bharatiya Janata Party's Jammu and Kashmir unit president, Ravinder Raina, anticipates a massive turnout of over two lakh people at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming rally in Srinagar on March 7.

Raina expressed confidence that Bakshi Stadium will be inundated with enthusiastic attendees eager to welcome PM Modi. He highlighted the widespread readiness across the Valley to greet the Prime Minister.

Raina, addressing a press conference, emphasized the significant developmental strides achieved under PM Modi's leadership in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the region's progress and peace to his initiatives. He expressed optimism about receiving wholehearted support from Kashmiri voters in the upcoming elections, asserting that the BJP will contest on all Lok Sabha seats in J&K, with further candidate announcements forthcoming.

Responding to queries about the potential restoration of Statehood, Raina indicated that any announcements regarding this matter would likely be made during the rally itself.

Multi-layer Security

first visit to the Valley since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and his second to Jammu and Kashmir in two months. He had visited the Jammu region last month to inaugurate several development projects and had addressed a public rally.

A senior police official said, "A detailed meeting of the security agencies was held here the other day which was attended by top officials of police and paramilitary forces for finalising the security arrangements for the VVIP visit to Srinagar on Thursday."

The officers emphasised the need to maintain a balance between security needs and smooth conduct of the event. The officers on the ground were directed to ensure heightened vigilance, especially during the night, to eliminate any possibility of terrorist threats, he said.

They were also told to bolster intelligence gathering and minimise the risk of any untoward incidents by strengthening security at vulnerable points along the national highway, tunnels, minority pickets and other critical pockets, he added.

According to the official, checking of vehicles entering the city has been intensified and barricades have been erected to regulate the flow of traffic near the venue for the prime minister's rally.

Checking points have been set up at various places in the city.

Security forces have stepped up patrolling around the Bakshi Stadium. Drones and CCTV cameras are being used for increased surveillance in the city and around the stadium, the official said.

The BJP's Srinagar unit had said on Sunday that the Jammu and Kashmir administration has arranged local transport facilities in districts of the Valley to ensure "seamless" participation in the prime minister's rally.

The party is planning a grand welcome for Modi and the route that is expected to be taken by him to reach the rally venue is dotted with BJP flags. PTI

Individual Forest

"From Green and White Revolution to Blue Revolution: Cold Water Fisheries a Game Changer in J&K," this year's Mela heralds a new era of agricultural transformation, where the bounty of our water bodies enriches the lives of all, he said.

In the unique context of Jammu & Kashmir, Agriculture including livestock, and fisheries sectors hold even greater significance. Together, they contribute a staggering 51% to our State Gross Domestic Product (SGDP), underscoring their pivotal role in our economic prosperity. With its diverse climate, fertile lands, and abundant water resources, our region is ideally suited for agricultural development, particularly in livestock rearing and fisheries activities, the LG observed.

He reiterated the commitment of the government to harness the potential of the Agriculture and allied sector to create a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

"We are making dedicated efforts to extend the benefits of the insurance scheme to the livestock sector. Effective implementation of

PM Fasal Bima Yojana and saturation of Kisan Credit Card is being ensured. By June this year, tap water connectivity will reach every household in J&K," the LG said.

He said the inauguration of the Silage Making Unit at KVK Ganderbal reflects our efforts to promote fodder conservation and livestock productivity. Silage, made from fermented green fodder, serves as a nutritious and cost-effective feed option, especially during periods of scarcity, he observed.

The LG added that the launch of the Krishi Radio for the farming community signifies our recognition of the power of communication in driving agricultural transformation.

"Government is implementing the Holistic Agricultural Development Programme (HADP) in Jammu Kashmir. The 29 projects of HADP are aimed at transforming subsistence agriculture into sustainable commercial agri-economy and to create an agri-business ecosystem. HADP will promote inbuilt risk management through diversification and resilient and smart agricultural practices. HADP's projects will put the agricultural economy on a new trajectory of growth," the LG said.

The LG also highlighted the efforts of the UT Administration, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the empowerment of farmers, Gujjar-Bakarwals, Pahari and other tribal communities.

"Individual rights under the Forest Rights Act will be handed over to the remaining eligible beneficiaries in the next two months. We are also going to provide a great relief to Seasonal Teachers. The working period of Seasonal Teachers will be extended from 6 months to 9 months," the LG said.

A Start-Up Studio was unveiled and a publication on Pastoralism in India was also released by the dignitaries.

Alka Upadhyay, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, GoI; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department J&K; Prof. Nazir A. Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir, senior officials of Government of India and UT Administration, farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and students were present.

Pull Quote - "By June this year, tap water connectivity will reach every household in J&K."

Gulmarg Shivers

against minus 1.5°C on the previous night and it was 2.8°C below normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of minus 1.5°C against minus 1.3°C on the previous night and it was 2.5°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 12.0°C and minus 10.6°C on the previous night. The mercury equaled the previous lowest temperature (minus 12.0°C) in more than a decade during the month of March, recorded on 12th day in 2017 and it was below normal by 7.5°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 6.7°C and it was above normal by 5.6°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 6.7°C, Batote 1.0°C and Bhandarwah 0.1°C, he said.

The weatherman has predicted improvement in weather in Jammu and Kashmir till March 10 after days of rain and snowfall.

"No significant weather activity is expected till March 10 with possibility of light rain/snow at scattered places during night of 6th March to 7th March F/N," the MeT official said.

Regarding the outlook during subsequent 5 days, he said, fresh spells of rain and snow is expected during March 12-14.

National Highway Reopens
The vehicular movement was resumed for one-way traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Monday after a two-da-long closure following multiple landslides triggered by heavy rains and snowfall, officials said

The 270-kilometre highway, the only all-weather link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, was closed for traffic early Saturday following landslides, mudslides and shooting stones, triggered by heavy rainfall at over a dozen places between Nashri and Banihal including Dalwas, Mehad-Cafetia and Hingni in Ramban, they said.

"In view of the single lane and poor surface of the road at Dalwas, Mehad-cafeteria, Nachlana, Gangroo, Hingni, Kishtwari Pather, only one-way traffic was resumed this morning till the road gets double land repaired," a traffic police officer said.

Traffic is moving normally from Jammu to Srinagar today, he said.

However, the traffic department advised commuters to follow lane discipline and drive cautiously.

"Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline, overtaking can lead to congestion. People are advised not to ply against traffic plans in view of the possible traffic congestion because of the narrow carriageway between Nashree and Banihal on the highway," the officer said.

A portion of the road near Panthiyal was also washed away, the officials said.

Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar highway has been restricted to one way since February 26 and was being used alternatively from Jammu and Srinagar after heavy rains and snowfall damaged the arterial road at several places last week.

Schools Reopen

on March 1. However, the winter vacations were extended by three days due to rainfall in the plains and snowfall in higher reaches, the officials said.

The students, many of whom were feeling bored and confined in their homes for such a long time, were excited to be going back to school on Monday.

Doha, a student of fifth grade at a private school, told Kashmir Observer, "I'm so happy to be back with my friends and teachers! While I had a great time at home during the holidays, there's nothing quite like the laughter and learning I share with them in school."

Sharing his experiences, Saqib, another student, highlighted the unique charm of school life compared to the winter break. He said,

"While I attended tuition classes during the vacation, it wasn't the same as being in school. There's a special feeling of connection and learning that I only experience here with my classmates and teachers."

Saqib, another student, said while he was not confined to home during the winter vacation, going back to school had a charm of its own.

"I used to attend tuition classes during the winter break but somehow it does not have the same feeling as going to school. I missed my teachers and friends," she added.

With annual examinations slated later in the week, teachers now have a brief window to assess the preparedness of their students, said a teacher.

Farakshan Hamid, a teacher at a private school said that though schools were off during the winter vacation but she along with other teachers of her school were often connected with their students through online mode.

"During winter vacation phase we used to extend online support to our students, but it is altogether a different feeling when you are around with your students and colleagues," she said.

Parvez Ahmad Paul, a principal at a school said that they witnessed 95% of student attendance at their school, highlighting the eagerness among the students to join back the classrooms.

"There is a vibrance in the school atmosphere, everyone is thrilled and energetic to be back at school, be it students, teachers, non-teaching staff, support staff, and everyone associated with the school," he said

Notably, while schools in most parts of Kashmir reopened today, educational institutions in some snowbound areas of Kupwara district remained closed for an additional two days in view of the recent heavy snowfall, followed by an avalanche warning issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JKDMA).

Pertinent to mention that schools were closed for winter vacation in December last year in the valley. Schools are shut during this period as the temperatures in the region fall below freezing point. (with inputs from PTI)

Permit Conditions

SLD certificate, DL, and GPS certificate. For driver's qualifications, the letter states that drivers must have a minimum of 5 years of experience driving Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) and should carry a complete list of children along with a copy of the agreement with the school.

Highlighting the driver's responsibilities, it has stated that the drivers with repeated violations such as red light jumping, lane discipline violations, or allowing unauthorized persons to drive should not be employed.

"Any driver caught over speeding, driving under the influence, or engaging in dangerous driving should also be disqualified from employment", reads the letter.

For vehicle appearance, it has stated that the school buses should be painted yellow with 'SCHOOL BUS' clearly marked on the front and back. The school's name, telephone number, and 'On School Duty' (if hired) should be clearly displayed.

Highlighting the safety features, the letter has mentioned that the doors should be fitted with horizontal grills to ensure child safety, and that for the speed control buses must be equipped with a speed governor set to a maximum speed limit of 40 kmph.

For bag space, it has asked for sufficient space must be provided under seats to store school bags securely, prohibiting bags from being hung outside the vehicle or placed on roof carriers.

For the attendant requirement, the letter states that a qualified attendant should be present on the bus to supervise children during transit and while boarding and disembarking and for the school drop protocol the letter adds that in the event that a kindergarten child is not picked up by an authorized person at designated halting points, the child must be safely returned to school, and parents should be notified.

While for the transport manager, the letter has stated that the contact details of the Transport Manager responsible for ensuring safe transportation of school children must be prominently displayed inside and outside the bus.

"The schools heads are advised not to own/hire any such transport service which does not have a valid permit or do not fulfill the requisite permit conditions/guidelines and any violations of these conditions would invite stern action against the defaulters or violators", reads the letter.

J&K Among

translate into an increase in the gas consumption by about three-fold, from the present level of around 185 million standard cubic meters per day to over 500 mmscmd by the

year 2030," he said.

Counting the major policy reforms in the gas sector, he said changing the pricing of locally produced gas has laid foundation of a sustainable, affordable, and secure energy future.

"In absence of these decisions, gas prices would have been uncompetitive to alternative fuels and hindered the expansion of the gas-based economy," he said.

Also, sector regulator Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has brought out amendments in its natural gas pipeline tariff regulation and implemented a unified tariff last year. "The objective of these changes was to provide access to natural gas in the far-flung areas at competitive and affordable rates." Giving a snapshot of the natural gas infrastructure of the country, the minister said over 33,753 km of natural gas trunk pipelines are authorized in the country. Out of this, around 24,623 km of pipeline are operational.

Prior to the award of licences under the 12th bid round, there were 300 geographical areas (GAs) authorized in the country for city gas, covering 98 per cent of the population and 88 per cent of its area, he said adding 1.21 crore domestic PNG connections have been given till date and 6,258 CNG stations set up.

"All this has been possible due to the robust gas grid of India," he said. "I am also aware that as per minimum work plan submitted by CGD entities, India will have around 17,500 CNG stations and around 120 million piped natural gas connections by 2030." It will help in development of ancillary industries in various segments (CGD meters, compressors, and dispensers) for fulfilling the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

"Our nation is heralding a profound shift towards energy accessibility and development," he said.

Court Finds

section 336 IPC (whoever does any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life or the personal safety of others." The court is likely to pronounce the quantum of punishment this week.

Pertinently, the court had framed the charges against the duo, 24 days after police filed nearly 1000-page charge-sheet for offences under 326-A and 120-B (criminal conspiracy to commit an offence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

In all three persons had been named in the case and two chargesheets were filed, one against two adult accused and one against a minor before the Juvenile Justice Board.

The crime had sent shock waves on the evening of February 1, 2022 when the main accused accompanied by the juvenile (name withheld) threw acid on the 24-year-old woman after she allegedly rejected his marriage proposal.

Soon after the attack, police had constituted a special investigation team headed by SP North Raja Zuhab (JKPS) with Yasir Parrey (SDPO) Khanyar, SHOs of police stations Safakadal, Nowhatta besides SHO of Srinagar Women's Police station as its members to investigate the case (FIR No 08/2022) under section 326-A and 120-B IPC).

Power Woes Persist

that they purchased additional power supply for a few months and are unable to afford more.

Notably, the KPDCCL last week announced that they are going to revise its Load Curtailment Program and appealed to the consumers to use the electricity judiciously.

"Dear Consumers: To ensure minimum distress cuts, #KPDCCL is revising its Load Curtailment Program, till the power availability position improves. Pl bear wd us & ensure judicious use of power, especially during peak hours. Avoid exceeding sanctioned load/hooking," KPDCCL posted on X (formerly Twitter).

Pertinent to mention here, the people are experiencing unending power cuts from the last two weeks and the situation has worsened in many areas including the summer capital-Srinagar.

"There is a deficit of over 700-800 MW of electricity," the official said, adding the demand of the electricity in the Valley is 2000-2200 Megawatts but the department is able to produce only 1300 MW.

The official said that the department has now realized that providing less power will help them to save money.

"The department purchases power at Rs 7/ unit but gets only Rs 3/unit in return, so you can imagine the losses," he said.

At present, unmetered regions in Kashmir undergo scheduled power outages lasting 8 hours in urban areas and 10 hours in rural areas, while metered areas experience cuts of approximately 4.5 hours.

Notably, in December last year the Power ministry allocated an additional 1972 MW of electricity for union territory to tackle the power crises. However, with the increasing peak demand, the department has struggled

to provide sufficient power supply, resulting in more power curtailments."

Consumers say that ahead of Ramadan, the department should take immediate measures to streamline the power issues in the valley.

"The government claimed that the power crises will be over once the smart metering is done. Now most of the people even pay electricity fee, still the crisis looms large," said Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Karan Nagar Srinagar, adding, "The department should take necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the holy month of Ramadan."

Kashmir Observer tried to reach the Managing Director of KPDCCL, as well as the Principal Secretary, J&K PDD for comments, but both were unable to receive the calls.

J&K Takes Lead

other parts of the country thus increasing the fish availability & accessibility," WorldFish Country Lead for India, Arun Padiyar, told Kashmir Observer.

Also, he said, there were increased private and government investments in aquaculture development, especially in the last one decade in Kashmir, which might have led to an increase in local production of fish, especially cold water fishes such as Trout.

Meanwhile, data from Jammu and Kashmir's Fisheries Department also suggests that fish production and consumption in the region is constantly increasing. For example, fish production in Jammu & Kashmir has increased from 21 tonnes in 2019-20 to 27 tonnes in 2022-23 while the number of private fish units established in the private sector have increased from 1607 in 2019-20 to 2,366 in 2022-23.

According to the Jammu & Kashmir Fisheries Department, the department has been constantly making efforts for overall development of fisheries in the region, especially to promote Culture Fisheries by utilizing all the available resources to boost fish production. For example, by adopting the latest technology of fish farming such as composite fish culture of Indian major carps and exotic carps and produce quality trout seed for rearing trout fish.

Promoting fish culture in the private sector to provide avenues of earnings to the educated unemployed youth is one of the important focus areas, according to the information made available online by the department.

According to a research study by Sauliheen Qadri, Kashmir is rich in fishery resources, offering great potential in fish production for domestic consumption and export. "The enormous resources of water in the shape of lakes, wetlands, ponds, streams, springs and rivers, due to their peculiar natural conditions, are prime centres of cold-water fisheries and thus have a major contribution in the development of fisheries in this region," Qadri's study notes and adds that the fish biodiversity of Kashmir is quite varying and mainly represented by the group Schizothoracine.

According to the study, all lakes and rivers of Kashmir play a great role in the social, cultural and economic status of the valley, however, "due to overexploitation of the natural resources following human interferences, these water bodies have come under serious threat of depletion." The unabated pollution, the study says, has resulted in the decline of some native fish species from the water bodies. Pollution and degradation of aquatic resources has been reported to be one of the major causes of the decline in fish diversity and density.

The Jammu and Kashmir Fisheries Act has a number of provisions for protection, conservation and development of fisheries in the region. However, environmental activists in recent years have highlighted a number of issues which are threatening the existence of fish resources in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmiri Student

Association, Nasir Khuehami posted on X (formerly twitter), "In Punjab, Kashmiri student Zahid Ahmad from Tral, Pulwama, who was studying at DBU University Punjab, attempted suicide. The family has been contacted. Team Punjab is in with the authorities to facilitate the return of the mortal remains from Punjab for last rites."

Khuehami said in the last two to three years, a number of students enrolled in other colleges outside Jammu and Kashmir committed suicide, making this the eighth such instance.

"I spoke with the Punjab police and the DBU administration, and received assurances that an impartial investigation will be carried out into the instant matter," Khuehami told Kashmir Observer.

He said the student's family had also flown to Punjab and was waiting for the body to be returned to his hometown in Kashmir.

"It seems to be the case of suicide from what I personally discussed with the cops in Punjab. If the student's death was not due to suicide, we will demand a thorough investigation. The police report is something his family is also waiting for" he added.

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Humans have driven Earth's freshwater cycle out of stable state: Study

Agenceis

Human activity has pushed the Earth's freshwater resources far beyond the stable conditions that prevailed before industrialisation, a study has found.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Water, show that the updated planetary boundary for freshwater change was surpassed by the mid-twentieth century.

This is the first time that global water cycle change has been assessed over such a long timescale with an appropriate reference baseline, the researchers said.

Human pressures, such as dam construction, large-scale irrigation and global warming, have altered freshwater resources to such an extent that their capacity to regulate vital ecological and climatic processes is at risk, they said.



The international team calculated monthly streamflow and soil moisture at a spatial resolution of roughly 50x50 kilometers using data from hydrological models that combine all major human impacts on the freshwater cycle. The researchers determined the conditions during the pre-industrial period (1661-1860). They then compared the industrial period (1861-

2005) against this baseline. The analysis showed an increase in the frequency of exceptionally dry or wet conditions -- deviations in streamflow and soil moisture.

Dry and wet deviations have consistently occurred over substantially larger areas since the early 20th century than during the pre-industrial period, the researchers said.

Overall, the global land area experiencing deviations has nearly doubled compared with pre-industrial conditions, they said.

"We found that exceptional conditions are now much more frequent and widespread than before, clearly demonstrating how human actions have changed the state of the global freshwater cycle," said Vili Virkki, a doctoral researcher at Aalto University in Finland, and one of the lead authors of the paper.

Because the analysis was done at a high spatial and temporal resolution, the researchers could explore geographical differences in the deviations.

Exceptionally dry streamflow and soil moisture conditions became more frequent in many tropical and subtropical regions, while many boreal and temperate regions saw an increase in exceptionally wet conditions, especially in terms of soil moisture. These patterns match changes seen in water availability due to climate change.

There were more complex patterns in many regions with a long history of human land use and agriculture, the researchers said.

For example, the Nile, Indus and Mississippi river basins have experienced exceptionally dry streamflow and wet soil moisture conditions, indicating changes driven by irrigation, they said.

"Using a method that's consistent

and comparable across hydrological variables and geographical scales is crucial for understanding the biophysical processes and human actions that drive the changes we are seeing in freshwater," said Miina Porkka, who co-lead the study at Aalto before moving to the University of Eastern Finland.

With this comprehensive view of the changes in streamflow and soil moisture, researchers are better equipped to investigate the causes and consequences of the changes in the freshwater cycle.

"Understanding these dynamics in greater detail could help guide policies to mitigate the resulting harm -- but our immediate priority should be to decrease human-driven pressures on freshwater systems, which are vital to life on Earth," said Aalto's Associate Professor Matti Kummu, senior author of the study.

BJP launches 'Modi Ka Parivar' campaign to counter Lalu Prasad's jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Agenceis

Senior BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah and party president J P Nadda, on Monday added 'Modi Ka Parivar' in their social media profile after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that the whole country is his family.

The BJP's show of solidarity with its top leader came a day after RJD president Lalu Prasad Yadav had thrown barbs at the prime minister over his having no family.

At a rally in Adilabad in Telangana, Modi on Monday attacked "dynasty parties" in the country, saying they may have different faces, but "jhoot and loot" was their common character.

The 140 crore people of the country are his family, he said.

Hitting out at Yadav, the BJP said the entire country is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's family.

The RJD leader, while addressing a rally of the opposition's INDIA bloc in Patna on Sunday, had slammed Modi for raising the issue of dynastic politics and asked why the prime minister doesn't have a family.

BJP national spokesperson Sud-



hanshu Trivedi said opposition parties have been launching personal attacks on Modi and making such "petty" remarks against him for the last 16-17 years.

"In that series, yesterday in a rally in Patna, once again such petty remarks have been made against Prime Minister Modi by Lalu Prasad Yadav in the presence of INDI alliance leaders. This is sad and painful," Trivedi told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

"He (Yadav) has talked about Modi's family. I want to remind (Yadav) that for Prime Minister Modi the entire country is his family," the BJP leader added.

Opposition parties have formed the INDIA bloc to take on the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Himachal Announces ₹ 1,500 Monthly Aid To Women In 18-60 Age Group

Agenceis

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday announced that the state government will give ₹ 1,500 per month to women in the age group of 18 to 60 years from the next financial year.

This was one of the 10 'guarantees' promised by the Congress ahead of the assembly polls.

Addressing the media here, he said that 800 crore would be spent on the initiative -- Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojna -- annually and over five lakh women would be covered under it.



He said that with this, five out of 10 poll promises have been fulfilled and reiterated that the old pension scheme was restored benefitting 1.36 lakh employees of the state.

AAP Announces ₹ 1,000 Monthly Assistance To All Delhi Women

New Delhi: Delhi Finance minister Atishi on Monday announced the 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana' under which 1,000 will be given monthly to all women aged above 18 from



the fiscal year 2024-25. Atishi announced the scheme in her maiden budget speech. "The Kejriwal government will give a monthly amount of 1,000 to every woman aged 18 or above. Under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana, women will be given this benefit," she said.

Education Is Considered Pious, But Has Now Become Unaffordable: High Court

Agenceis

Mumbai: Education, which is considered pious in the Indian culture, has now become unaffordable, the Bombay High Court has said noting it is the state's constitutional responsibility to ensure quality education reaches everyone.

A division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Jitendra Jain made these observations while refusing to quash decisions taken by the Maharashtra government to grant permission to two organisations to set up educational institutions in Pune.

The HC in its February 21 order said the court is not an expert in education policy matters and state government is the best authority to select the best and mere power to choose cannot be termed as arbitrary.

"Pune is known as the 'Oxford of the East' for decades and it has attracted students not only from India but other countries as well. This has resulted in Pune being a hub of educational institutions," the HC noted.

With the passage of time and due to growth of the city, there has been a huge growth and competition in setting up of colleges and schools not only in the city of Pune but also around its periphery, it said.

"Although education is considered pious in our culture but with change in time it has taken a different colour and has become unaffordable," the HC said.

In such circumstances, it is the state's constitutional responsibility to ensure quality education reaches one and all to achieve

growth and development of humanity, it added.

The court dismissed the two petitions, filed by the Jagruti Foundation and the Sanjay Modak Education Society, challenging decisions taken by the state government last year refusing to grant them permission to set up educational institutions in Pune.

The petitioners were refused permission on the ground that they were new in the field with no prior educational institutions set up and their financial position was lower than those granted permission.

The petitioners submitted that singling them out compared to the other institutions on irrelevant considerations/ extraneous consideration is violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

The bench, however, said a court can intervene only when the decision-making authority breaches the rules of natural justice or abuses its power.

The court in its order said it cannot hold as unreasonable or arbitrary or unfair the state government's refusal to the petitioners as the decision was taken considering all parameters.

"For any education institute to be set up or run, the nature of the land, financial availability, infrastructure, etc are certainly very crucial factors to be considered," the HC said.

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The court said the experience of running an educational institution is very important while deciding whether an institute was capable of setting up such new facility.

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