

TROLLS TAKE TOLL

Online Misogyny Haunts Kashmir, Harming Women's Mental Health

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: While Kashmir, like many places around the world, adorned women with accolades and praises on International women's day, a discordant note echoed through the digital corridors. Some toasted the remarkable feats of women, others wielded their keyboards as weapons of targeted harassment and character assassination.

University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Srinagar had just aired her interview with a local news channel. However, the thrill quickly morphed into a chilling online ordeal.

Her video, meant to highlight her participation in a prestigious conference, became a launchpad for a barrage of vicious trolls. Derogatory comments flooded social media platforms, particularly Instagram, targeting her appearance and tearing down



her confidence.

"The derogatory remarks not only inflicted emotional distress but also deeply affected

my family members. People have been commenting on that video and they are assassinating my character and reading

THE DEROGATORY REMARKS NOT ONLY INFLECTED EMOTIONAL distress but also deeply affected my family members. People have been commenting on that video and they are assassinating my character"

those comments have made us upset," Aasiya shot an email to the news channel, appealing for the removal of the interview.

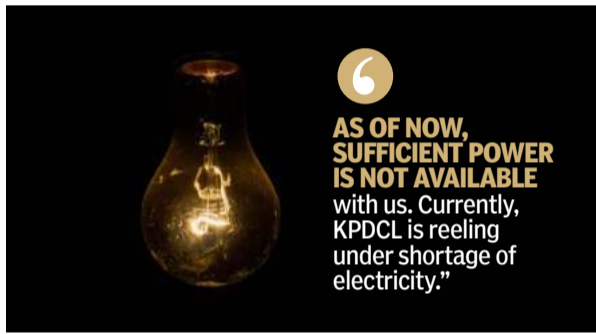
Akin to Aasiya, Sameena Masoodi, another woman from Kashmir based in the US, faced similar vitriol online, with trolls targeting her appearance and demeaning her based on superficial judgments.

The experience of these women is a stark illustration of the misogyny lurking within Kashmir's social media landscape. While these platforms offer opportunities for expression and connection, they also provide a breeding ground for toxic behavior and

gender-based violence. Experts say the alarming rise in cyber misogyny poses a significant challenge to the safety and well-being of women in Kashmir, amplifying the need for comprehensive strategies to address this pressing issue.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Sociologist Dr Farah Qayoom said that in a traditional society like ours the online trolling of women over their appearance, dress, ideas has assumed new dimensions. "Our children | [More on P6](#)

New Power Curtailment Schedule Likely For Ramzan



AS OF NOW, SUFFICIENT POWER IS NOT AVAILABLE with us. Currently, KPDC is reeling under shortage of electricity."

Agencies

Srinagar: The Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) is mulling to improve the power curtailment schedule in the holy month of Ramzan.

The department said that it will improve and reduce the power curtailment especially at Suhoor and fast breaking time (Iftar).

Chief Engineer KPDC (Distribution), Sandeep Seth, said that the organization was formulating a plan and mechanism to address the power curtailment issues during the month of Ramzan.

"We are working on it and most likely, the new curtailment schedule will be implemented from the first day of Ramzan," he said.

When asked about the improvement of power curtailment at peak hours, the Chief Engineer said, "In the month of Ramzan, the peak hours will be pre-dawn and dusk. We are mulling to improve the power curtailment especially at Sahoor and Iftar."

Pertinently, the holy Ramzan is likely to commence on Tuesday.

In the last week of February, amid frequent power outages and distress cuts across Kashmir valley, Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDC) had said that it was facing a power shortage of nearly 400 Megawatts (MWs).

An official of KPDC had said, "As of now, sufficient power is not available with us. Currently, KPDC is reeling under shortage of electricity."

The official said, "There is a shortage of nearly 300-400 MegaWatts. In view of the power shortage, there may be some areas in Kashmir who would be facing distress cuts and unscheduled outages."

Earlier this month, Kashmir Observer reported 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. | [More on P6](#)

J&K-LADAKH

IAF Airlifts Over 700 Stranded Passengers

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted over 700 stranded passengers between the twin union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on Saturday, an official said.

While 514 passengers were airlifted from Jammu to Leh in two sorties of IL-76, 223 persons were flown from Srinagar to Leh in another sortie, the official said. With this, a total of 1,251 persons were airlifted between. | [More on P6](#)

J&K'S INFRASTRUCTURE BOOM

Over 1000 Road, Bridge Projects Worth 4,550 Cr Sanctioned Since 2019

PMGSY Drives Rural Connectivity In J&K, 99% Target Achieved

Agencies

Srinagar: Since the transition of Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory, significant strides have been made in enhancing the region's infrastructure, particularly in road and bridge connectivity.

Official data reveals that since 2019, a total of 1,057 road and bridge projects, valued at over Rs 4,550 crores, have been sanctioned.

According to the data, 290 bridges, with an investment exceeding Rs 880 crores, have been completed, while an additional 338 bridges, valued at over Rs 1,785 crores, are currently under construction. These developments are poised to not only improve connectivity but also stimulate economic growth and employment opportunities across the Union Territory.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been instrumental in this infrastructure transformation, achieving over 99 percent of its



sanctioned program by March 2023. Under PMGSY I, II, and III, a remarkable 21,407 kilometres of roads have been constructed, linking 2,140 rural habitations and significantly enhancing accessibility.

Moreover, the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) has played a crucial role in bolstering infrastructure development, with 294 major road and bridge projects sanctioned

since 2000, amounting to Rs 4,315 crores.

Notably, 163 projects have been completed, marking significant progress in the region's infrastructure landscape. "The focus on macadamization programs has ensured the upkeep and renewal of road surfaces,

with over 16,807 kilometres of roads macadamized from 2020 to 2023 alone," an official said, adding, "This initiative has not

» 290 bridges worth Rs 880 Cr completed

» 338 more bridges under construction

» 21,407 kms of roads constructed

» 2,140 rural habitations linked

» Over 16,000 kms macadamized in 3 Yrs

» CRIF sanctioned 294 projects worth 4,315 Cr since 2000

» PMDP funded key projects like tunnels, flyovers, bypasses

only improved road quality but has also enhanced the overall travel experience for residents and tourists alike."

Bridges, essential for connectivity in the | [More on P6](#)

ECI To Visit J&K On March 12

Ensure Smooth Conduct Of LS Elections: CS To Admin



Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Election Commission of India officials will visit Jammu and Kashmir next week to review preparedness for the Lok Sabha elections, likely to be held in April-May.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, along with election commissioners, are scheduled to visit Jammu and Kashmir on March 12 and 13, officials said on Saturday.

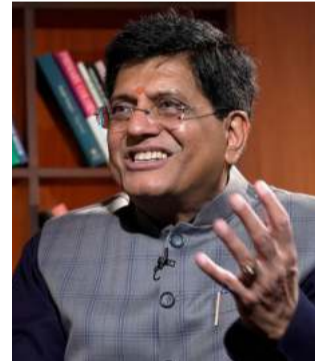
They said the Election Commission of India (ECI) officials are likely to meet various stakeholders, including representatives of political parties and the civil and the police administration in both divisions during the visit. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo | [More on P6](#)

Target Of 370 Seats Tribute To Art 370 Abrogation: Goyal

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In the first admission of a link between the BJP target for ensuing general elections and abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said his party winning 370 seats will be a fitting tribute to the historic decision of the Modi government that has helped integrate J&K with the rest of the country.

In an interview with PTI, Commerce Minister Goyal asserted that the target of 370 seats for the BJP and 400 seats for the NDA comes from the conviction of good governance in the last 10 years by the Modi government and not over-confidence and arrogance.



He said the general election might throw a surprise and the final tally of BJP and NDA might be higher.

Goyal did not comment on whether BJP will be part of the NDA, but welcomed all well-meaning good parties to be part

of the journey to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Replying to a question on the realistic number that the BJP is targeting, he said, "Well I'm not an astrologer, but I can certainly say our target is 400 seats for the NDA and 370 seats for the BJP, a fitting tribute to one of the most important decisions this government has taken, one of the most important decisions that Parliament has blessed us with their full support..."

The Supreme Court has also held that the abrogation of Article 370 was constitutionally correct, he added.

Goyal highlighted that the abrogation of Article 370 has led to the generation of economic activities in the Union Territory, besides | [More on P6](#)

'Alliance Will Grow'

NC Will Win 3 LS Seats For INDIA Bloc: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: After PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti expressed unhappiness over the National Conference's decision to contest all three Lok Sabha constituencies in Kashmir, NC president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said both parties are part of the INDIA coalition and the NC will win the seats for the alliance.

Mehbooba Mufti had on Friday said that the NC's decision was "disappointing" and a "setback to the hopes of the people of J&K". She also accused the NC of reducing their Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to a "joke".

"I do not know what she (Mufti) had said... National Conference stands on its own feet and has won three seats (in the 2019 general elections). We are part of the alliance and she is also part of the alliance. If the National Conference wins (these seats) again, they will



win it for the INDIA alliance and so what is the problem," Abdullah told reporters here.

The NC leader said he is sure that the INDIA alliance will always grow because it is needed "for the future of India and democracy". He said that "everybody wants a secular India where we all can live in peace, harmony and progress".

"India is for all. India is not Pakistan. The Constitution of India was framed on the lines that we are all one. How does that matter what religion you hold and | [More on P6](#)

1.43 Lakh Cases Settled In 1st National Lok Adalat In J&K

Matrimonial Disputes Have Taken Shape Of 'Monster' In Society: Judge

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The first National Lok Adalat of the calendar year 2024 was held today throughout the J&K. As per the information received from different Legal Services Institutions of various districts of UT of J&K, out of total 1,52,551 cases taken up by 110 Benches in the day long National Lok Adalat at various courts across the UT of J&K, 1,43,406 cases were disposed of as settled and an amount of Rs. 51,62,62,618 was awarded as compensation/settlement amount in Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills cases, Land Acquisition,



Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery cases.

The adalat was held under the patronage of Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh

High Court Legal Services Committee.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani emphasized that matrimonial disputes among the parties have taken a shape of monster in the society and the parties should take maximum benefit of lokAdalats in resolving these disputes which is not only cost effective and affordable but also ensures quick and amicable settlement of disputes besides saving a family from disintegration.

During the Lok Adalat, Chief Justice inspected different benches and interacted with the Presiding officers, members of the benches, Advocates and litigants. | [More on P6](#)

Muslims Join Pandits In Mahashivratri Procession After 35 Years

Agencies

Srinagar: In a heart-warming display of communal harmony, Kashmiri Pandits, along with local Muslims, came together to mark Mahashivratri with a tableau procession in the Nunar area of Ganderbal, marking a significant moment after 35 years.

Several Kashmiri Pandits said that since the onset of adverse conditions in the Kashmir Valley in 1989, many Kashmiri Pandits were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in various parts of the country. They added that despite

intermittent periods of hope, the situation deteriorated significantly in 2008, 2010, and 2016, bringing Kashmir to the brink of chaos.

However, they added that in a testament to the resilience of the Kashmiri Pandit community and the improving situation in recent years, the courage of the Pandits has been reignited, bolstered by the support of local Muslims. "This collective effort culminated in the resumption of the tableau procession on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri in Nunar, Ganderbal," says Ashok Kumar Raina, | [More on P6](#)

Samba Railway Scare 12 Coaches Detach, 3 Derail

Agencies

Srinagar: In a harrowing incident at Vijaypur railway station in Samba district, a catastrophic rail accident was narrowly averted. The ordeal unfolded when approximately 12 coaches of a train became disconnected while being attached to the engine, resulting in the derailment of three coaches. There are concerning reports from the official quarters coming to the fore that the mishap highlights a concerning pattern of negligence within the Railway Department, reminiscent of recent incidents where trains operated without drivers due to lapses in protocol. "While the | [More on P6](#)

Education Empowerment

Paving the Way for All,
Delivering Excellence



More than 1.92 Crore Students Enrolled in the School Chalo Campaign

- Enhancing infrastructure facilities in more than 1.40 lakh primary/upper primary schools under Operation Kayakalp
- Establishment of state universities in Azamgarh, Aligarh and Saharanpur
- Construction of the Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science in Lucknow
- Establishment of 15 incubation centers under Startup Policy
- Construction in full swing of Rajendra Prasad Law University in Prayagraj
- Construction of Major Dhyanchand Sports University is underway in Meerut
- Laid the Foundation Stone of Mahatma Buddha University of Agriculture and Technology in Kushinagar
- Decision to establish state universities in Vindhyachal, Devipatan and Moradabad divisions
- Construction of 280 New Government Inter Colleges/High Schools and 65 girls' hostels
- Construction of 41 New Inter Colleges, 215 Government High Schools and 77 girls' hostels
- Expansion of government ITIs from 260 to 305 with seats increased from 1.25 lakh to 1.72 lakh
- 75 Government Polytechnic under construction



Education for All

Double Engine Ki Sarkar

Uniform Civil Code: Neither Necessary Nor Desirable

Ummar Jamal

“

India is a mosaic of various cultures, religions, and ethnicities, each with its distinct set of customs, traditions, and personal laws. The Constitution of India recognizes the diversity and grants religious communities the right to govern their personal affairs

The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution provides that both the Centre and state legislatures can legislate on matters pertaining to family laws. In pursuance of this power, on February 7, the Uttarakhand Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, becoming the first legislature in independent India to pass a law that proposes common rules on marriage, divorce, inheritance of property, and live-in relationships for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

The recent passage of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill by the Uttarakhand Assembly has ignited concerns that other states may follow suit, potentially paving the way for a nationwide implementation. The fear looms that the central government might also consider enacting UCC legislation. It's crucial to initiate a timely discussion on the feasibility of the UCC in India.

India, known for its rich diversity and cultural tapestry, has always grappled with the idea of implementing a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in post-independence era. The UCC proposes a common set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption, irrespective of an individual's religious affiliation. While the concept may seem appealing from a standpoint of equality and secularism, the intricate social fabric and unique historical context of India present significant challenges that make the implementation of a UCC infeasible.

While proponents argue that it would promote equality and secularism, a closer examination reveals that the introduction of a UCC could have disastrous consequences for the nation. The complexities of India's diverse society, the potential erosion of minority rights, and the threat to social harmony are just a few reasons why the adoption of a UCC should be approached with extreme caution.

India is a mosaic of various cultures, religions, and ethnicities, each with its distinct set of customs, traditions, and personal laws. The Constitution of India recognizes the



diversity and grants religious communities the right to govern their personal affairs. Attempting to impose a uniform code across such a vast and heterogeneous population would be an affront to the principles of pluralism and secularism upon which the nation is founded.

India is a land of diverse religions and cultures, each with its unique set of personal laws. Introducing a UCC would necessitate the imposition of a uniform set of laws that will potentially erode the rights of religious minorities. Personal laws are deeply ingrained in religious customs and beliefs, and any attempt to subsume them under a common code will infringe upon the rights of individuals to practice their religion freely. Preserving the rights and autonomy of religious minorities is crucial for maintaining a pluralistic and inclusive society.

The Indian Constitution provides religious communities with the freedom to manage their religious and personal affairs. Article

25 guarantees the right to practice and propagate religion, while Article 26 recognizes the right of every religious denomination to manage its own affairs. The Constitutional framers, while aiming for a secular nation, deemed it necessary to accommodate diverse religious practices and personal laws. Any attempt to enforce a UCC would require significant amendments to the Constitution, which could undermine the delicate balance between individual rights and state intervention.

Though the Supreme Court in various judgments has called for the implementation of a UCC, but a 185-page report published in 2018 by the Law Commission clearly said that a UCC "is neither necessary nor desirable at this stage".

The introduction of a UCC would be met with resistance from various religious communities, resulting in heightened social tensions and divisions. India's cultural and religious fabric is intertwined with personal laws that have evolved over cen-

turies, reflecting the customs and traditions of different communities. Forcing a common code upon these communities disregards their unique identities and can lead to cultural homogenization. Respecting and preserving the cultural and religious sensitivities of all citizens is essential for maintaining social harmony.

History has shown that attempts to tamper with personal laws can ignite widespread protests and social unrest. Very rightly terming the prospect of Uniform Civil Code difficult to implement, in 2017 former Law Commission Chairman Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan said "UCC is not possible and not even an option".

Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, which created more confusion than solutions, made it clear that implementing a UCC requires a comprehensive understanding of various personal laws and extensive legal reforms. The existing personal laws in India are deeply rooted in religious texts, customs, and traditions, developed and refined over centuries. Harmonizing these diverse laws into a single code would be a herculean task, fraught with practical difficulties.

And let's not forget India faces several pressing challenges that warrant immediate attention, including poverty, illiteracy, healthcare, and gender inequality. Redirecting resources and energy towards implementing a UCC is nothing but diverting attention from more urgent social and economic issues. India's strength lies in its diversity, and any attempt to impose a UCC risks undermining this diversity and fracturing the social fabric of the nation.

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

While access to water improves, the focus should now be on maintaining the infrastructure.

Bishwadeep Ghose

The importance of drinking water cannot be emphasised enough in a country like ours. The central government's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has been the umbrella scheme to provide access to tap water in rural India. It is heartening to see that the government is giving due attention to water and sanitation – a fact reflected in recent Union Budgets. The Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 had allocated ₹70,000 crore for the JJM, while the Interim Budget for 2024-25 has announced ₹70,163 crore for the same. The money has clearly been used to good effect, with the JJM having successfully provided tap water connections to 142.5 million rural households (almost 74%) of a total of 192.6 million till date, as per government data.

In fact, both the JJM and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) give us a stellar opportunity to push the needle on the coverage of infrastructure with their huge public investment and high political will. However, challenges persist in some states, and while the current Budget will undoubtedly advance the implementation of these programmes, there is a need to improve the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the infrastructure being created under the programmes, while also creating a future-proof mechanism for delivery of quality services.

Encouraging community engagement

While the JJM's aim is laudable and, in all likelihood, India will achieve universal coverage at some

point, the concern will shift towards ensuring that water flows continuously through these taps. However, what is to be borne in mind is that taps and pipes will eventually break and will need repairs. Besides, groundwater that supplies water for most of these schemes may dry up or get contaminated.

The geological and demographic diversity of our country challenges the notion of a centralised management system to keep these schemes running. Hence, a decentralised, community-based approach is needed for local ownership and sustainable management of water for ensuring sustainable and equitable access to services. Despite the involvement of private operators, without community engagement, it is a challenge to ensure accountability. Also, since the impact of climate change is very contextual, having a localised response mechanisms helps in agility as well as developing context specific responses.

For this, we need to shift from a project/mission mode to setting up utilities for ensuring access to sustainable water and sanitation services. Identifying and skilling the right service providers, giving them the right incentives to perform and making them accountable to some institutions for support and oversight, needs to be developed. This will entail tasks for operations and maintenance of assets, tariff collection, grievance redressal, and sharing relevant information and knowledge.

To emphasise and encourage a sense of community ownership, the JJM asks the local communities to contribute 5-10% of the total capital cost to-

“ To emphasise and encourage a sense of community ownership, the JJM asks the local communities to contribute 5-10% of the total capital cost towards the water supply infrastructure in the village, depending on the terrain and the social demographics. The communities are then awarded with a revolving fund, after the successful implementation of the scheme, to meet any unforeseen expenditure and to ensure long-term sustainability of the scheme

wards the water supply infrastructure in the village, depending on the terrain and the social demographics. The communities are then awarded with a revolving fund, after the successful implementation of the scheme, to meet any unforeseen expenditure and to ensure long-term sustainability of the scheme.

Training water user committees and developing a network of 'Jalabandhu' mobile mechanics has already proven to be effective in maintaining and repairing water points across the country. Art and theater can be used to promote safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. It is also a good idea to encourage school children to par-

ticipate in community-level awareness initiatives and take ownership of water and sanitation facilities.

Last, but not the least, private organisations should partner with local leaders, communities, and governments to find ways to ensure that water, sanitation, and hygiene services are used responsibly and sustainably.

Managing access to groundwater

Tap water is mostly sourced from groundwater, but the major chunk of groundwater in India is used for agriculture. The dependence on groundwater for supplying drinking water is very high (> 90% in rural). The same groundwater (aquifer) supplies for agriculture as well (> 70%). The piped water schemes through JJM can fail if aquifers run dry. There is thus an urgent need for managing groundwater as a common pool resource for fair and transparent allocations for multiple uses.

Preserving freshwater ecosystems is crucial for maintaining the water balance and supporting biodiversity. A budget allocation for the rejuvenation of water bodies and afforestation around catchment areas can enhance water availability and quality, which needs to be ensured to have positive health outcomes. There is a need to strengthen the surveillance infrastructure and use the water quality testing data for empowering and informing citizens and authorities alike for taking preventive or mitigating measures. There is also a need to democratise water testing and incentivise solution building. The private sector can play

an important role for providing these services under a common standards framework.

Collective and collaborative onus

Water, however, is not the responsibility of governments, local bodies, or private organisations alone; everyone can and should contribute to achieving this mission. All it takes is simple precautions such as disposing chemicals safely; using fertilisers judiciously; turning off taps after use; checking for leaky taps and getting them fixed; and acquiring and spreading water education.

There is also a dire need for our infrastructure to be climate-resilient given the environmental vagaries. It is critical for services to be adaptive and to protect our freshwater ecosystems that are our first line of defence. We need to focus on resilience building and adaptation, keeping in mind how rainfall and temperature play out in specific geographies and demographics. Having this as a risk mitigation strategy will help in reducing the vulnerabilities of many communities and our investments in assets.

These seemingly simple and obvious water management practices are valuable investments that will help us create a water-secure tomorrow for ourselves and future generations.

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

City Markets Wear Festive Look Ahead Of Holy Ramadan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As the auspicious month of Ramadan-2024 is approaching, the markets across Kashmir Valley, especially in Srinagar City, have come alive with a joyous atmosphere as the people were seen buying essentials to embrace the month of blessings.

Shops are adorned with colorful decorations and the aroma of traditional delicacies fills the air, creating an ambience of warmth and togetherness.

"Ramadan is a time of spiritual renewal and community bonding," says Sahil, a local resident of Srinagar, adding the bustling markets and the sight of families shopping together evoke a sense of joy and unity.

Shopkeepers, too, are gearing up for the holy month, ensuring ample stocks of essential items like dates, a staple commodity during Ramadan. "Dates hold special significance during Ramadan," added a shopkeeper, who has his shop in the center of the city Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

"Dates are not just a food item; they symbolize the spiritual nourishment

Mirwaiz Reviews Ramadan Arrangements At Jama Masjid

Srinagar: Chairman Anjumane-Auqaf Jama Masjid, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Saturday chaired an important meeting at Jama Masjid to take stock of the arrangements in and around the grand mosque ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

According to a statement, the meeting was attended by all members of the managing body of Jama Masjid. Mirwaiz on the occasion said that fasting month provides a great opportunity for the believers to repent their sins and to get closer to Almighty Allah for seeking his blessings.

Taking stock of the arrangements, members of the Auqaf updated the chairman regarding the arrangements made available for the worshippers who visit the grand Masjid during the fasting month.

that Ramadan brings," says Bilal, another shopkeeper.

Moreover, as the countdown to Ramadan begins, the fervor and excitement among the people of Kashmir Valley continues to grow.

Dir Employment Inaugurates Mega Job Fair At Kashmir Haat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director Employment, J&K, Nisar Ahmad Wani, today inaugurated a one day Mega Job Fair at Kashmir Haat, Srinagar, in presence of Joint Director Employment Kashmir and Joint Director Employment, Jammu.

Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of the department were also present in the event.

The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the Job Seekers including 10980 job seekers who had registered online for participation in the event.

Around 125 companies & employers with more than 7000

vacancies in diverse sectors were part of this mega event.

Besides, government departments implementing the self Employment Schemes also installed Stalls at the venue for the benefit of the Job Seekers.

On this occasion, Director highlighted the importance of holding such Job Fairs for providing a common platform to the Job Seeker & Job Providers for mutual interaction placement & selections besides registering the unemployed youth on Departmental Portal which is integrated with NCS Portal of Government of India and provides free access to 24.38 lakh Job Providers.



Dir Employment Nisar Ahmad Wani inaugurates Mega Job Fair at Kashmir Haat Exhibition Ground in Srinagar on Saturday.

Hawal Acid Attack

Disgruntled Father Worried Over Survivor Daughter's Fate

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: Nisar Ahmad Chiloo, the father of the Srinagar acid attack survivor, was grieving over his daughter's permanent scars from the horrific attack, rather than being joyous about the rigorous punishment of life imprisonment handed to the prime accused for his act.

With tears streaming down his wrinkled cheeks, Chiloo 60 was regretfully glancing at her partially crippled daughter, who was seated on one side of the room with her face hidden by a scarf.

"I am not unhappy with the court verdict, but how can a father whose young daughter was left bruised and defaced rejoice? The scars my daughter suffered at the hands of the accused may not heal, even though he faced the repercussions of his act," Chiloo told Kash-

mir Observer.

She was quite beautiful and equally obedient to her parents, so her mother and I had always longed to see her in a wedding gown. Don't know whether we could see her become a bride or not, he said.

Accompanied by a minor, the prime accused Sajid Altaf Rather, a resident of Srinagar, splashed acid on a then 24-years-old girl at Hawal area in the old city on February 1, 2022, after she turned down his marriage proposal.

Police arrested Rather, his juvenile aide and Mohammad Saleem Kumar, the man who sold the abrasive chemical to the main accused, a day after the attack.

After two years of rigorous trial, Principal Sessions judge, Srinagar, Jawad Ahmed convicted Rather under Sections 326 A (voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid) and 34 (common



"Nobody in this world could possibly be as unfortunate as me, I believe, since I am really an unlucky person. As a father, there was nothing I could do to help my daughter because her chances of getting her eyesight back are very less," he added.

intent) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and awarded him life imprisonment.

When he was at his very last, Chiloo said, he sold his family's ancestral property to pay for his daughter's medical expenses, but the suffering didn't end there; he had to shell out a hefty sum for his daughter's surgery.

"Nobody in this world could possibly be as unfortunate as me, I believe, since I am really an unlucky person. As a father, there was nothing I could do to help my daughter because her chances of getting her eyesight back are very less," he added.

For my daughter's medical care, I spent almost 80 lakh rupees till date, of which Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari paid 22 lakh all at once. I am really grateful to him for the favor.

Recalling the fateful day when he came across the shocking news, Chiloo said he was crestfallen to see her daughter lying on a hospital bed in an unconscious state.

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BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

| PRAYERS | |
|---------|-------|
| FAJR | 5: 27 |
| ZUHR | 12:43 |
| ASR | 4: 54 |
| Magrib | 6:38 |
| ISHA | 7: 58 |

This Day In History

- 1862 - Great Britain & France recognise independence of Zanzibar
- 1862 - US issues 1st paper money (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 & \$1000)
- 1864 - Ulysses Grant is named commander of the Union armies
- 1864 - Red River campaign begun in Louisiana by Union forces
- 1865 - Battle of Monroe's Crossroads, NC
- 1874 - Purdue University (Indiana) admits its 1st student
- 1876 - First telephone call; Alexander Graham Bell says "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you" to his assistant Thomas Watson
- 1888 - Heavyweight Boxing champ John L Sullivan draws Charlie Mitchell in 30 rounds
- 1891 - Almon Strowger, an undertaker in Topeka, Kansas, patents the strowger switch, a device which led to the automation of telephone circuit switching
- 1893 - Ivory Coast becomes a French colony (Cote d'Ivoire)
- 1896 - After Bob Fitzsimmons KO's much larger Jim Corbett to win world Heavyweight championship he says, "The bigger they are, the harder they fall"

From KO Archives

Vajpayee Elected BJP Leader

'We will take every body along'

NEW DELHI- Atal Behari Vajpayee, who was unanimously elected leader of the BJP parliamentary party today, said there should be no apprehension among any sections of the party being at the threshold of power at the centre.

"Abhi hum ko kendra may avsar milne wala hai. Kisi kay man may BJP kay baray may ashanka nahin rahini chahaye" (We are now about to get an opportunity at the centre. There should be no apprehension about BJP in anyone's mind), he said in his address to the newly elected members of the party after he was elected at the central hall of parliament.

Recalling his resolve expressed during the debate on the motion of confidence of his short-lived government in 1996 that he would come back with adequate numbers, Vajpayee said the party has now returned with more people's support.

Of course, we don't have the requisite numbers. It is not because we don't have people's support but may be due to inadequate effort on our party, he said, adding that was why the party would have to take the support of allies.

Vajpayee's name was proposed by party president L.K Advani and seconded by senior leaders Sikander Bakht and Murli Manohar Joshi.

When Advani suggested to vice president S S Bhandari to elicit if there was any other candidate, all the MPS rose in their seats with a show of hand to approve the election of Vajpayee.

While maintaining that hate was not on BJP's agenda, he said his party government would ensure security, prosperity and happiness of all sections which had been its mission right from the beginning.

Vajpayee said there had been no discrimination in the country on the basis of religion and respect for religions had been the national creed. "We don't consider deferent religions as obstacles but as symbols of our cultural richness and that which represented unity in diversity, we should take them all together. This is challenge for me," he said.

The party's prime ministerial candidate said BJP has now reached geographically and socially each and every corner of the country.

Elaborating on the apprehensions about BJP, Vajpayee said the party had dispelled them in which ever state they had governments. Now the party has got an opportunity to pass this test at the centre also and it was 'confident of succeeding, he said.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 March, 1998)

Ahata Waqar, Chanapora Commemorates International Women's Day

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A remarkable event was held at Ahata Waqar in Chanapora to honor International Women's Day on Saturday. Ahata Waqar, a day-care and recreational centre for senior citizens which operates under the auspices of the District Legal Services Authority-Srinagar (DLSA), in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and the Directorate of Health Services-Kashmir

The event commenced with a recitation of Quranic verses by Javed Ahmad Baigh, followed by a moving Naat-e-sharief performance by senior member Er. Khazir Mohammad Trag.

Notable figures such as Shoyya Qureshi, Saiqa Rafiq and Saiyqa Tabassum from Radio Kashmir Srinagar, Bazmi Nisan; Dr. Sameena Wani, Principal of GHSS-Chanapora, and

frontline workers from Health and Social Welfare Departments, DLSA staff members, Para Legal Volunteers, and members of civil society graced the occasion with their presence.

Abdul Gani Parray, Chairman of the Senior Citizens Council and Ahata Waqar, enlightened the audience about the center's objectives and advocated for women's empowerment and their active participation in societal progress and prosperity. He assured that the center's members would always be ready to address the needs of senior women in the community.

The ambience at Ahata Waqar was filled with enthusiasm, as it was the first function exclusively dedicated to women's cause.

Speaking on the occasion, Shoyya Qureshi emphasized the importance of International Women's Day by highlighting women's achievements and their

pivotal role in shaping society. She stressed the necessity of ensuring women's mental peace and stability for the development of a healthy society.

Dr. Sameena underscored the invaluable contributions of women across various spheres of life and urged efforts to address critical issues such as drug abuse and violence against women. She emphasized the importance of creating a conducive environment, hard work, and dedication for the overall development of the girl child.

Noted Radio Kashmir anchor-presenter Saiqa Tabassum stressed the need for constitutional and statutory safeguards for women's empowerment, gender equality, and justice for all. She shared a success story of a courageous woman who transformed her family's status through her bravery.

The event commenced with a recitation of Quranic verses by Javed Ahmad Baigh, followed by a moving Naat-e-sharief performance by senior member Er. Khazir Mohammad Trag.

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SALOORA, GANDEBAL, KASHMIR

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

Govt Empowers States, UTs To Act Against Three Banned J-K-Based Groups

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday authorised all states and Union Territories to take action against three banned Jammu and Kashmir-based groups under the UAPA.

The three groups are the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction), Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction) and Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir.

In three identical notifications, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said the Centre directs that all powers exercisable by it under Section 7 and Section 8 of the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, shall be exercised by state governments and Union Territory administrations in relation to the three unlawful associations.

On February 27, the home ministry extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir, for five years for continuing activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

A day later, it announced that the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Sumji faction) and the Muslim Conference Jammu and Kashmir (Bhat faction) were also declared as banned groups for their anti-India and Online Misogyny

are not socialized to accept gender equality. We don't inculcate a gender sensitive approach in our children. Boys are made to believe that they are superior and girls are inferior. When such boys grow up they harbor a misogynistic attitude and it is reflected in their expressions over social media and other such platforms," Qayoom said.

Dr Shazia Malik, Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender Studies, Kashmir University shared similar views saying that cyberspace violence against women is a clear manifestation of violence against women that happens offline. She said that the anonymity of the web becomes a cloak for some to unleash a torrent of harassment on women.

"Our rapidly changing world can be confusing, particularly for young people. The imbalance between traditional cultural beliefs and the demands of modern life is evident. While individuals might treat women they know with respect in person, encountering them online in unfamiliar situations can sometimes trigger judgmental attitudes based on patriarchal norms predefined rules for women in general," Malik said.

"I personally believe that it also serves as a deterrent for women using social media platforms in a way that they remain non-existent. For example, women usually keep profiles anonymous and share less or no pictures at all."

In highlighting the potential role of clerics, she underscored the importance of their influence being directed towards promoting gender equality and empowering women, rather than reinforcing harmful patriarchal norms.

Naireen, a psychologist at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Srinagar said that trolling, particularly in Kashmir, can have a deep psychological effect on women.

"Online trolling makes them doubt themselves, they feel insecure and question their value. This cyberbullying can have a huge impact on their self-esteem, body image and mental well-being leading to anxiety and even depression," Naireen said.

She further said that cyberbullying can also have lasting emotional effects, even after the bullying stops and can leave deep scars and impact a person's overall well-being.

"It's crucial that we address this issue and work towards creating a more positive and inclusive online space," Naireen added.

Naireen advised to deal with online trolls by not responding, but blocking or reporting them instead. Netizens, especially girls should surround themselves with positivity, take breaks, and prioritize mental well-being. Shine bright and don't let trolls dim your sparkle!

Clinical Psychologist, Wasim Kakroo said that trolling can most affect the person with low self-esteem. People's validation is of utmost importance to people with less esteem and when they are trolled, they bear the brunt very strongly.

"We need to understand that we cannot make all the people happy all the time even if you have done something with good intentions. Some people agree with respect and some turn to trolling and harassing the person" Kakroo said.

Kakroo said that the Kashmiri society suffers from gender bias wherein people think that the women folk have no right to be opinionated and should be silenced.

"Some males feel threatened when someone from the female folk voices her opinion on any issue. Whenever we appear on a public platform we need to be prepared to get trolled, we can or cannot get trolled. We need to be strong enough and muster courage to deal with trolls and while we appear on public platforms we need to expect and accept the trolls and that is the only way to deal with the trolls."

"One may get into depression, anxiety and develop paranoia or can even lead to suspiciousness about people's feelings and trust issues."

As Kashmir grapples with the repercussions of cyber misogyny, experts say it is imperative for the Kashmiri society to collectively condemn such behavior and work towards fostering a culture of respect, empathy, and equality in both virtual and real-world spaces.

Over 1000 Road

rugged terrain of the Union Territory, have also witnessed substantial progress. With 290 bridges completed in the last five years and 338 under construction, connectivity across rivers and streams has been significantly enhanced.

"The Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) has been pivotal in funding key projects, including the construction of tunnels, flyovers, and bypasses. Several tunnels and flyovers are nearing completion, promising to further improve connectivity and reduce travel time for commuters," the official said.

He said the execution of various infrastructure projects, including tunnels, flyovers, and bypasses, underscores the commitment to enhancing connectivity and infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. "This concerted effort is poised to create a more accessible and prosperous future for the residents of the Union Territory," he said. (KNO)

ECI To Visit J&K

held a meeting with the civil and the police administration on Saturday to sensitise them about the measures to be taken for smooth conduct of the Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory.

The chief secretary asserted that the administration's objective is to ensure free and fair elections with large-scale public participation, a spokesperson said.

Dulloo impressed upon the divisional and the district administration to take all necessary measures to ensure that people do not face any hardships in exercising their democratic rights.

The spokesperson said the chief secretary took up department-wise issues and enquired from the officials concerned about the measures they had taken in compliance with the ECI directions.

He asked each of them to use the time before the elections efficiently to make these guidelines applicable on the ground.

Chief Electoral Officer PK Pole informed the meeting about the initiatives to be taken by different departments.

He said electoral literacy campaigns in educational institutions will be held in the coming days, besides designating campus ambassadors in colleges and universities, the spokesperson said.

Pole said each polling station should have facilities such as toilets, ramps, power, drinking water and furniture in accordance with the ECI's guidelines.

The meeting also discussed connectivity issues in polling stations and approach roads, in addition to transport and other amenities to be made available for transportation of electoral machinery and staff during the elections across the Union Territory, the spokesperson

said.

IAF Airlifts

Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh this week. Earlier on Monday, 331 passengers were airlifted in separate sorties of AN-32, also known as Kargil courier, by the IAF between Jammu and Kashmir to Kargil.

The Kargil courier was launched by the IAF on January 22 following closure of 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway owing to heavy snowfall.

The Kargil courier service operates three days a week between Jammu and Srinagar, and twice a week between Srinagar and Kargil to facilitate the stranded passengers.

The passengers have expressed their gratitude to all authorities, particularly the IAF, for facilitating their movement.

1.48 Lakh Cases

A couple of matrimonial cases were settled on the spot with the intervention and advice of the Chief Justice.

In the afternoon, the Chief Justice along with Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, also visited District Court Complex Ganderbal to have first-hand information regarding the progress of Lok Adalat. During inspection of the Lok Adalat, the Chief Justice found that there were a couple of cases which could be settled amicably by the party who were adamant on their respective pleas.

The Chief Justice intervened and had an ice breaking interactive session with the parties due to which the said cases were amicably settled on the spot. While interacting with the Judicial officers, Lawyers and Litigants the Chief Justice highlighted the benefits of settlement of disputes through ADR Mechanisms.

Likewise, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh inaugurated National Lok Adalat at District Court Complex Reasi in presence of Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Administrative Judge, District Reasi) and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The 2nd National Lok Adalat is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

Target Of 370

a huge influx of tourists.

The Narendra Modi-led government, on August 5, 2019, abrogated Article 370, thus ending the special status given to J&K, and bifurcated it into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.

He also talked about the Prime Minister's recent successful visit to Kashmir.

"All of this has encouraged us to aspire for 370 seats for the BJP, as a fitting tribute to this great decision. We are not overconfident. We are not arrogant about our victory. We are coming from a position of conviction. We have the courage of conviction that we have done good for the nation," Goyal said.

The senior BJP leader, who is also the leader of Rajya Sabha, said the Modi government has brought a paradigm shift in the nation's journey of progress during his tenure in the last 10 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken India on the path of progress, development and inclusive growth, he added.

"This is a country which is in turbocharge mode today. And I think clearly, the 2024 elections will spring a surprise to the world even beyond what we are currently hearing and seeing as different estimates," Goyal said.

Asked whether the NDA includes BJP, the BJP leader said that it would be clear in a couple of days which all parties are part of the NDA.

"NDA is an inclusive alliance of well-meaning good parties, and all good parties are invited to be a part of this journey to make India a superpower," Goyal said.

The Election Commission is expected to announce the poll schedule soon and the elections are likely to be held in April-May.

The BJP won 303 seats in the 2019 polls but currently, it has 290 members in Lok Sabha for various reasons, including some MPs recently resigning after winning assembly polls.

The ruling BJP has named 34 Union ministers in the first list of 195 candidates.

'PM Changed Perception

which is part of his Udhampur parliamentary constituency.

This was the minister's first visit to Doda after he was given a ticket for the third time to fight the Lok Sabha elections from the constituency. He had won the last general elections by a margin of over 3.5 lakh votes.

"It is a matter of happiness that Modi has been able to change the work culture and perception about democracy by undertaking all round development and ensuring delivery of schemes as and where needed," Singh said.

He said the government has reignited those hopes which had faded and rekindled aspirations among the youth who had resigned to their fate due to the prevailing work environment.

"All the works have been carried out with an urge to serve the general public from the core of the heart and to provide the benefits rising above the politics of caste, creed and religion. The prime minister has sought to create a new work culture in politics which our successors will be bound to follow," he said.

Singh alleged that earlier governments neglected the entire region of erstwhile Doda district and created social strife by playing politics of division, whereas under Prime Minister Modi "we ensured equitable development and restored communal harmony".

"Analysts will find it difficult to answer as to why Doda remained backward despite the fact that after independence, there was not a single occasion when Doda did not have its representative both in the Union Cabinet as well as in the Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet," he said.

He said Doda has today emerged on the world map because Bhaderwah has given the world lavender and purple revolution which were exhibited in the Republic Day parade at New Delhi and Modi spoke in detail about it in "Mann Ki Baat".

Under Modi, the minister said he has also sought to follow a different political culture of reaching out equally to all sections of people regardless of religion or caste.

"The people of Doda belt are traditionally peace loving and patriotic, and they had refused to migrate even during the peak of militancy," he said.

He said new National Highway 244 from Khillani to Sudhmaadev touching Goha Kalota, approval of Chatteergala tunnel and Kaljugar tunnel, series of hydropower projects and airport under Udaan in Kishtwar, Centrally funded Medical College in Doda and High Altitude Medicine Plant in Bhaderwah, all happened in last 10 years.

"A large number of projects brought to the Doda region in the last 10 years have not only brought about transformation but were also meant to change the mindset," he said, adding various welfare schemes launched not only meant social and economic transformation but also aroused several semi-conscious aspirations, particularly in the youth which had got buried due to dismay and pessimism of the past.

Singh underlined that road connectivity, power supply and medical facilities have been improved in Doda in the last 10 years.

He said this constituency holds distinction as being the lone Lok Sabha constituency where there are three medical colleges, namely in Doda, Kathua and Udhampur.

Later talking to reporters, he expressed confidence of the NDA led by Modi crossing the

400 mark in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. PTI

NC Will Win

what language you speak and what your culture is. It is a united India," he said.

Asked about Mehbooba Mufti's remarks on PAGD, he said assembly elections are coming and "we will see what we will do. I am sure they (BJP-led government) will try to hold the assembly polls with parliamentary elections."

The NC has announced the party would contest the three seats in Kashmir valley and asked the Congress to contest two seats in the Jammu region. The party also said there would be a consensus candidate of NC and Congress on the Ladakh seat.

Jammu and Kashmir has five Lok Sabha seats, while Ladakh has one. In the last elections, while the NC won the three seats in Kashmir, the BJP won the two Jammu seats as

well as the lone Ladakh seat.

On PAGD, Mufti on Friday said it was "difficult to see the unity break".

"I regret that what we nurtured for five years has been shattered," she said. The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said that had the NC leadership discussed the issue with her, the PDP could have let the NC contest on all three seats in the valley.

However, she said the PDP was still a part of the INDIA bloc and the party would discuss the future strategy with the Congress.

Asked about the formation of a new government in Pakistan and its possible approach towards India, Abdullah on Saturday said Islamabad has to decide whether it wants peaceful relations with India or not.

"What Pakistan does, is their problem. It is their nation and it is for them to decide whether they want to live in peace with our nation or they don't want to live in peace.

"Kashmir was acceded to India by Maharaja Hari Singh and that accession is even today and that will last forever," he said, adding, "We are part of India and there is no problem for us. It is for them to decide what they want to do."

To a query on Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav's statement likening Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Adolf Hitler, he said, "I do not know what he had said and under what conditions".

"He (Modi) is not a prime minister of BJP. People who voted for him are just 37 per cent but once one becomes a prime minister he represents every Indian. He also represents 1.4 billion when he goes outside the country.

"He represents Muslim, Hindu, Sikhs, Christians and every other single religion and those who have no religion," he said.

Muslims Join Pandits

a Kashmiri Pandit who was part of the procession.

Sanjay Pandita, a local Pandit youth said that the participation of local Muslims in this event underscores the spirit of inclusivity and unity prevailing in the region. "It is heartening to see local Muslims proceeding side by side with us in this procession. I was invited by scores of these Muslim homes to have meals. This generosity fills one's heart with good hopes. Many good things await us. I pray that we live as Humans and give hatred no space," Pandita said.

Reports inform that special security arrangements were put in place by the Ganderbal Police to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the event. Notably, SSP Sandeep Gupta, along with district police and civil department officials, graced the ceremony and joined in the festivities.

It was reported further that at the Hari Krishna Temple in Nunar, prayers were offered for peace in Kashmir, symbolizing a collective aspiration for harmony and tranquility in the valley.

Local Muslims also expressed their joy, noting that the event evoked memories of the pre-1989 era when peace and brotherhood prevailed in Kashmir—(KNO)

12 Coaches

gravity of the situation is undeniable, fortunately, no casualties were reported. The incident underscores a systemic issue within the Railway Department, where operational oversights pose significant risks to passenger safety. During the process of connecting the coaches to the engine, the failure to properly secure the compartments led to the detachment of several coaches, causing three to derail," official said.

It was reported further that prompt action was taken by the station master, who immediately alerted authorities at Jammu and neighboring stations to the unfolding crisis. Concurrently, a Vande Bharat train en route from Jammu to Delhi was halted just behind the Vijaypur railway station, ensuring safety precautions were observed.

"The timely intervention prevented a potential disaster, as the Vande Bharat train was held for approximately fifteen minutes until the railway tracks were deemed safe for passage. Once the necessary precautions were taken and the tracks were inspected, the Vande Bharat train resumed its journey to Delhi," railway sources privy to the development said—(KNO)

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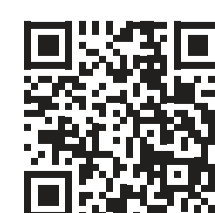
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OR SCAN

Encroachments, Official Neglect Threaten Hygam Wetland

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The once pristine Hygam Wetland, a designated Ramsar Site in the Sopore area of north Kashmir, is now grappling with illegal encroachments and neglect, which has led to its degradation over the past two decades. The lack of conservation efforts has severely impacted its delicate ecosystem, resulting in decreased migratory bird arrivals and pollution.



The Hygam-Wetland, once internationally known as Maharaja Protected Wetland, is now losing its sheen, as illegal encroachment, unabated pollution and lack of conservation measures are taking a heavy toll on its fragile ecosystem, which leads to a decrease in the arrival of migratory birds to the water body.

Speaking with the news agency, Aijaz Ahmed Dar, a social activist and a member of the Environmental Policy Group (EPG) said the wetland is in a deteriorated condition. "It has been reduced to a big pond as the concerned authorities as well as the successive governments have miserably failed to protect it," he said.

He said the authorities had earlier identified the encroached land of at least 2,300 kanals and illegally occupied 1200 kanals which have been converted into crop cultivation but are yet to be retrieved.

Dar also questioned the wetland's fencing, saying it has "no sense at all". The fencing didn't follow the demarcation done by the authorities earlier. It has no line and length, he said.

The water siltation of about 15 feet and the diminishing area, which is forcing the migratory birds to find an alternative habitat, speaks to the deteriorated conditions of the wetland, Aijaz said, adding that the wetland's main source Nallah Khalari, originating from Wagila, too has been encroached.

The diversion of other Nallahs to the source is the major reason for siltation in the wetland area, he said.

Dar said Hygam Wetland has been encroached upon at many places including Haritar, Hygam, Lolipora, Gohul, Goshbug, etc, and scores of structures have come up over the past several years while hundreds of kanals of land were being used by encroachers illegally for cultivating paddy.

The Hygam Wetland is spread over 7.25 kilometres and has around 1,400 hectares of land. The area was once dominated by extensive reed beds and was home to many migratory birds including White Heeled Duck, Shoveller, Red-Crested Pochard, White-Eyed Pochard, Pintail, Mallard, Gadwall, Coot and Graylag.

Tariq Ahmed Rather, a local of Hygam, said the official inability to act in time has encouraged more and more people to grab the land.

The wetland supporting a wide range of biodiversity is shrinking with each passing day and the administration must intervene as soon as possible, he said, adding that though scores of cases are registered against the encroachers, there have not been any concrete attempts so far to evict the land from the encroachers.

"The wetland is an asset and provides a significant livelihood to hundreds of people in and around. It used to yield fish, nadur, water chestnuts and a renowned bird sanctuary; however, it is now devoid of such characteristics, Tariq added.

Till 1987, the wetland used to draw the attention of both for-

eigners and domestic visitors just to have a glimpse, but the "apparent neglect" by the authorities has led to a situation where there is nothing to witness in this once-thriving and bustling wetland, Rather added.

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, an environmental activist and a member of the Environmental Policy Group (EPG), lamented over the deteriorating situation of the wetland. "Wetlands hold significant importance in the ecosystem, akin to the kidney's function in a human body, but unfortunately, pollution (solid waste and liquid waste), illegal encroachment, the construction of new structures and the silt deposition have significantly impacted it and its ecological balance," he said.

Unfortunately, over the last 20-25 years, human encroachment has led to significant change, threatening the ecological balance of this vital ecosys-

tem, Dr Muzaffar said.

"While we are making efforts from our end by filing cases in NGT, the government holds a prime responsibility in preserving it alongside the local populace. The government should take strong notice of the deteriorating conditions of the wetland," he stressed.

Bilal Ahmed Dar, a cinematographer, lamented, "I used to capture the beauty of the wetland through my lens, but it is disheartening to witness the deteriorating situation here. Now, most of the areas of the wetland are dry or have little water due to pollution."

Locals urged the administration to take steps towards restoration and development of the wetland. "We hope the government restores the wetland to its former glory," said a local.

Wildlife Warden, Wetlands, Altaf Hussain, responding to queries, said, "I have recently joined, and at this initial stage, I won't be able to comprehend it correctly. After comprehensive understanding, I will be able to answer the query."

It's worth mentioning that earlier an official from the department listed eight new bird species observed in Kashmir, with Falcated Duck at Hokersar Wetland, while Smew Duck, Horned Grebe, Western Reef-Heron, Long-tailed Duck and Broad-billed Sandpiper at Wular Lake in north Kashmir besides Northern Wheatear at Pahalgam.

In 2022, the government included the Hygam wetland along with Shalbug in the Ramsar Site list. Ramsar is an inter-governmental treaty conceived in 1971, which helps in the better conservation of wetlands on an international scale—(KNO)

Ahead Of Ramzan, Kashmir Markets Wear Festive Look

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the auspicious month of Ramzan-2024 is approaching, the markets across Kashmir Valley, especially in Srinagar City, have come alive with a joyous atmosphere as the people were seen buying essentials to embrace the month of blessings.

According to the news agency, shops are adorned with colourful decorations and the aroma of traditional delicacies fills the air, creating an ambience of warmth and togetherness.

"Ramzan is a time of spiritual renewal and community bonding," says Sahil, a local resident of Srinagar, adding the bustling markets and the sight of families shopping together evoke a sense of joy and unity.

Shopkeepers, too, are gearing up for the holy month, ensuring ample stocks of essential items like dates, a staple commodity during Ramadan.

"Dates hold special significance during Ramzan," added a shopkeeper, who has his shop in the center of the city Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

"Dates are not just a food item; they symbolize the spiritual nourishment that Ramadan brings," says Bilal, another shopkeeper.

Moreover, as the countdown to Ramzan begins, the fervor and excitement among the people of Kashmir Valley continues to grow—(KNO)

JKPCC Chief Distances Himself From Omar Abdullah's Statement

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Congress's Jammu and Kashmir Chief, Vikar Rasool Wani on Saturday distanced himself from National Conference (NC) Vice President Omar Abdullah's statement in which he refused to accord Anantnag seat with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

While talking to the news agency, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, said that India alliance is yet to take final call over seat sharing in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Whatever Omar has stated, it is his proposal or opinion, but not INDI Alliance's decision," he said.

Wani said that the leader Mukul Wasnik, who is helming the INDI bloc is in constant touch with both Omar Abdullah and PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti and that it is expected that the final decision will come before very soon.



He added that Congress intends that all the alliance partners of J&K must fight together and defeat the BJP, which according to him is plunging the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in deep crisis.

It is ironic that J&K in terms of unemployment is standing second after Haryana and that the jobless amongst the youth is touching new heights, he added.

"PDP should not fall prey to BJP manoeuvre and should not imitate Ghulam Nabi Azad or Altaf Bukhari, who are out to create a vote division and benefit the BJP," he added—(KNO)

Anjuman Sharie Holds Public Rally in Sonawari

Observer News Service

PATTAN: In a show of strength, Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiayan led by Agha Syed Hassan, organised a first major political rally in Sonawari in Bandipora district on Saturday.



Thousands of people attended the rally which had been earlier scheduled for 7th of March but was deferred as the dates coincided with the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Kashmir.

Agha Hassan, a former senior Hurriyat leader along with his sons Agha Mujtaba and Agha Muntazir was taken in a cavalcade to the venue by the enthusiastic workers of the religious party.

Addressing the gathering Agha Hassan sought government's attention towards what he described as the underdeveloped and neglected Sonawari constituency which has a sizeable Shia population. Agha Hassan accused successive civilian gov-

ernments which have ruled Kashmir in the past of only securing votes from the people of the area but neglecting them after every election.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Agha Mujtaba, the heir apparent of senior Agha.

Mujtaba, who is vice president of the Anjuman Sharie, said Sonawari has been deprived of all developmental activities by the successive regimes and urged the LG administration to focus on this Shia dominant area so that the people there also

benefit from basic facilities.

North Kashmir is likely to witness a triangular contest with the National Conference pitted against Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference and Apni Party of Altaf Bukhari. While Lone has already announced his candidature, National Conference, according to party insiders, is fielding Agha Hassan's estranged nephew Agha Ruhullah as its candidate from North Kashmir.

Mujtaba dismissed speculations that today's rally was in anticipation of upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

J&K Bank Organises Home-Loan Mela In Srinagar And Jammu

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank on Saturday kick-started a two-day Home Loan Mela - an outreach programme to facilitate a range of financial facilities primarily housing loans to the people - at Sangarmal Complex, Srinagar in Kashmir and Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash inaugurated the loan mela at Jammu in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Sunil Kumar, Narjay Gupta and Shareesh Kumar besides Deputy General Managers, Cluster Heads, marketing teams and other senior officers.

Talking to the media persons on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "J&K Bank has been undergoing a transformation for some time. And the purpose of this mega mela is to highlight the fact that the Bank has improved its products and services especially the loan facilities that have been made more affordable, conveniently accessible with a very short turn-around time (TAT) for the customers."

"In addition to providing a choice from our wide range of loan products and services to access easy and adequate finance, the loan mela

also offers the customers opportunity to avail the best and latest modelled home, car or bike from the leading vendors available in the markets", he added.

While commending the commitment of staff for serving the customers even on holidays, he said that the loan mela provided a platform to make people feel for themselves the transformation in the functioning of the Bank.

"Besides, it is a win-win proposition for all the participants especially customers and the vendors, who have put their best products on display for the people here", he said, adding, "We have given wide publicity to the organisation of this two-day loan mela and I would request people to come here in large numbers and avail comprehensive financial solutions for their varied requirements."

Meanwhile, the Srinagar leg of the event was inaugurated by the General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Tabassum Nazir in the presence of Deputy General Manager (Consumer and Commercial Banking) Arshid Hussain Dar, Zonal Heads, Cluster Heads, Branch Managers, marketing teams and other officials of the Bank.

Dir Employment Inaugurates Mega Job Fair At Kashmir Haat

KO NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Director Employment, J&K, Nisar Ahmad Wani, on Saturday inaugurated a one day Mega Job Fair at Kashmir Haat, Srinagar, in presence of Joint Director Employment Kashmir and Joint Director Employment, Jammu.

Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of the department were also present in the event.

The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the Job Seekers including 10980 job seekers who had registered online for participation in the event. Around 125 companies & employers with more than 7000 vacancies in diverse sectors were part of this mega event.

Besides, government departments implementing the self Employment Schemes also installed Stalls at the venue for the benefit of the Job Seekers.

On this occasion, Director highlighted the importance of holding such Job Fairs for providing a common platform to the Job Seeker & Job Providers for mutual interaction placement & selections besides registering the unemployed youth on Departmental Portal which is integrated with NCS Portal of Government of India and provides free access to 24.38 lakh Job Providers.

He said the department provides a platform of 800 free of cost counselors, 4600 types of jobs and online job fairs besides, providing counselling to the youth regarding career options & Self Employment schemes being implemented by various departments in the Union Territory.

Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION HANDWARA
E-mail, id, xenmhdhandwara@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| e-NIT No: | 30 of 2023-24 |
| Date: | 07-03-2024 |

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, invites online e-bids in Two Cover system on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K UT Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

| S. No | Name of Work | Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs) | Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees) | Earnest Money Deposit(In Rupees) | Time of Completion | Position of funds | AA | Technical Sanction |
|-------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 01. | Construction of Prefabricated Plant room PUF (60'x40') for housing of Hot Water Generators and allied machinery of central Heating System at District Hospital Handwara. | 54.07 | 1000.00 | 108500 | 30days | Available with indenting Department | Accorded | Awaited |

1. Downloading of Bids: The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Qs), Set of Terms & Conditions of Contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov. Infrom from 07-03-2024 (06.00PM)
2. Submission of Bids: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 08-03-2024(10.00 AM) in two covers.
3. Opening of Bids: The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 28-03-2024 (14.00 PM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
4. The bidders are required to submit their offers in two (02) covers.
5. The bid for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. (Cover-II)

Cover-I shall contain: Scanned copies of following documents:

| | | |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| I | Tender Fee | Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees five hundred only) in shape of e-Challan / e-receipt / online Bank transfer acknowledgement excluding mPay or any other mobile banking App., to be uploaded with each online bid pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara. Tender Id to be written also on the voucher. Bank: J&K Bank. Branch: Handwara main. IFSC Code: JAKA0HNDWAR Account No: 0131010570000099. |
| II | EMD | Scanned copy of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR equivalent to 2% of value of the advertised cost pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara. The Earnest money shall be released after completion of works in favour of the successful Bidder while as for unsuccessful bidders it shall be released immediately after placement of work order |
| III | Terms & Conditions | Scanned copy of the Annexure duly accepted by the bidder. |
| IV | Tax Clearance | Registration Certificate of Sales Tax Department quoting GST Number. |
| V | GST | Scanned copies of PAN Card / GST Registration / Latest GST clearance certificate or acknowledgement of latest returns. |
| VI | Undertaking | Undertaking that the bidder has not been blacklisted or debarred by any Govt./Semi Govt. Department. |
| VII | Performance guarantee | An amount equivalent to 05% of the value of the Contract shall be submitted by the successful bidder before release of his EMD as "Performance Guarantee" in the shape of BG pledged to Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara, and shall be retained by the department during the currency of contract and shall be released on completion of 60 days after expiry of DLP. |
| VIII | Contractor Card/ Experience | Duly renewed "A/B" class civil Contractor Card issued by a competent authority. The bidder shall upload verification report of registration card duly signed by issuing authority of the registration card. OR The bidder shall submit a documentary proof of having successfully executed similar nature (Puff and Structural Steel Works) of work amounting to 80% of the estimated Cost in single contract or 50% of the estimated cost in two contracts each or 40 % of the estimated cost in three contracts each in the last Seven years within the country in any Govt./ Semi Govt./ Autonomous Institutions along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent thereof. |

Note: - Successful Bidder (L1) needs to furnish original EMD and Fee Receipt to this Division / Department for obtaining Letter of Acceptance / L.O.I from this Division / Department.

Cover II shall contain the price bid as per BOQ which shall be inclusive of all taxes under GST. The price bid is to be uploaded only.

1. The complete bidding process will be online.
2. The Financial bid of only qualifying bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara after evaluation of the technical bid.
3. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) content. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
4. The cost of tender document is non-refundable and the tender shall in no case be accepted if submitted by any firm other than the purchaser.
5. Any tender found to have been submitted by the firm by furnishing false information to the Department shall be cancelled and the firm shall be penalized as and when it comes to the notice of the Department even during the currency of the contract. The tenders should be addressed to the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Division Handwara.
6. The Department shall not be responsible for delay in submission of bids due to any reasons, whatsoever.
7. The Department reserves the right to reject or accept any or all bids in part or in full without assigning any reason thereof.
8. The successful bidder has to carry out the repair jobs based on allotment order issued by the Department at the rates allotted under this contract from the date of issue of allotment Order.

No: - M&HDH/TS/2046-52
Dated: - 07/03/2024
DIPK-17624-23
DT: 09/03/2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospitals Division
Handwara

India Hammer England In Dharamsala Test; Claim Series 4-1

Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: Ravichandran Ashwin took a famous five-wicket haul in his 100th Test as India thrived on the impatience of England batters for an emphatic innings and 64-run victory in the final chapter of an action-packed five-match contest, handing the visitors their heaviest defeat in the 'Bazball' era.

With the series already in bag, India were playing for crucial World Test Championship points and England made their job simpler by self-implosion on day three here.

England were bowled out for 195 towards the end of the afternoon session with Ashwin running through their reckless batting line-up to end with a match haul of nine wickets.

Joe Root was the lone ranger for his team and batted beautifully for his 84 off 128 balls. He



was the last batter to be dismissed.

England's second innings moved at a rather frenetic pace

as the batters went on the offensive in their bid to survive against the Indian spinners but failed yet again.

The game appeared to be going only one way when India took a huge 259-run first-innings lead in the morning ses-

sion by posting 477 all out in response to England's 218 on day one.

For India, the series was a remarkable success considering they had the likes of Virat Kohli and Mohammed Shami unavailable throughout.

The youngsters, led by Yashasvi Jaiswal, grabbed the opportunities in the seniors' absence to give the team management more options for the future.

The writing was on the wall after Ashwin ran through England's self-destructing top-order to leave them reeling at 103 for five at lunch.

In the morning, the visitors took less than 20 minutes to wrap up India's innings with veteran James Anderson finally getting to the 700-wicket mark.

Young off-spinner Shoaib Bashir had Jasprit Bumrah stumped for his second five-wicket haul in his debut series.

Short TAKES

India Consolidate Top Spot In WTC Table After Series Win

The Rohit Sharma-led Indian team consolidated its top position in the World Test Championship rankings following its 4-1 series win over England.

India, following their innings and 64-run victory in Dharamsala on Saturday, improved their percentage points from 64.58 to 68.51 after nine matches.

India have won six, lost two and drawn one match in the current World Test Championship (WTC) cycle.

New Zealand, with 60 percentage points, are at second spot.

At 41, Anderson Becomes First Pacer To Take 700 Test Wickets



England veteran James Anderson added another glorious chapter to his remarkable tale of longevity when he became the first pacer and third bowler to take 700 Test wickets here on Saturday.

Anderson reached the milestone in his 187th Test by removing India's Kuldeep Yadav caught behind on day three of the fifth Test here.

Sri Lankan great spinner Muttiah Muralidaran has 800 scalps to his game, the most in Tests, followed by the late Shane Warne (708).

Real Kashmir Play Gokulam Kerala In Must-Win Match Today

Press Trust of India



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC are all set to take on Gokulam Kerala FC in an I-League 2023-24 fixture at EMS Stadium in Kozhikode today, Sunday, March 10. The game will kick off at 7:00 PM.

Gokulam Kerala are no push overs and the Snow Leopards will have to win the contest to maintain their charge on the I-League title. The Kerala side have won nine out of their 18 games, while Real Kashmir have clinched three points in their 17 outings.

The Srinagar-based club is

second in the I-League table, taking 33 points from its 17 games. Gokulam Kerala, meanwhile, has picked up 32 points from their 18 matchups. Table toppers, Mohammedan SC, have accumulated 41 points from their 18 games, making it imperative for the Snow Leopards to take three points in Kozhikode today to keep the pressure on Mohammedan.

Real Kashmir enter the game on the back of a thrilling 3-2 win over Sreenidi Deccan. On the other hand, Gokulam Kerala fell 3-2 to league leaders Mohammedan.

In the reverse fixture, the Ishfaq Ahmad-coached Real Kashmir trounced Gokulam Kerala at Synthetic Turf TRC.

The two teams have played each other nine times, with Real Kashmir picking up three wins and Gokulam Kerala clinching two victories. Four matchups have resulted in a draw.

Today's showdown will be a closely fought contest, but Gokulam Kerala, with its home advantage, are seen as favourites.

The game will be shown live on Eurosport, while FanCode and Indian Football YouTube channel will livestream it.

BCCI Triples Per Match Pay To Rs 45 Lakh For Tests

NEW DELHI: Living up to its promise of giving highest priority to Test cricket, the BCCI has decided to give an incentive of Rs 45 lakh per game to all those who would play 75 per cent or more of the scheduled red-ball games in a particular season, Board secretary Jay Shah said on Saturday.

additional reward structure on top of the existing match fee for Test matches, set at Rs 15 lakh," he further stated.

The incentives will be retrospective and would factor in players, who were part of Test cricket during the 2022-23 season.

HOW THE MATHS WORKS

To put things in perspective,



A Test player, who appears in a possible 10 Tests in a season will be richer by a whopping Rs 4.50 crore as incentive apart from a possible Rs 1.5 crore (15 lakh per game) in usual match fee.

The top cricketers also get an assured retainer fee from their annual central contracts.

"I am pleased to announce the initiation of the 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' for Senior Men, a step aimed at providing financial growth and stability to our esteemed athletes," Shah stated on 'X'.

"Commencing from the 2022-23 season, the 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' will serve as an

one can take the example of Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, who has appeared in all 10 Tests (World Test Championship final, 2 vs West Indies, 2 vs SA, 5 vs England) during the 2023-24 season.

Rohit will get Rs 1.5 crore (Rs 15 lakhx10) in usual match fee and for giving priority to Test cricket, he will get another Rs 4.5 crore (RS 45 lakhx10).

Hence, his earnings from Test cricket alone would stand at Rs 6 crore.

Add to it, he has an annual retainership of Rs 7 crore per season, which takes his earnings to Rs 13 crore.

Fernandes, Rashford Score In Man United's 2-0 Win Over Everton

Agencies

MANCHESTER: Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford converted first-half penalties won by Alejandro Garnacho as Manchester United beat Everton 2-0 on Saturday to recover from back-to-back Premier League losses that had jeopardized its Champions League qualification hopes.

Fernandes tucked away his spot kick in the 12th minute for his first home goal since August after James Tarkowski clipped the leg of Garnacho just inside the area.

The Portugal midfielder then handed over penalty duties to Rashford after Garnacho went down under a rash lunge by Ben Godfrey. Rashford slotted his kick into the corner after a stuttered run-up to double the lead in the 36th.

Sixth-place United, which was coming off losses to Fulham and Manchester City in the league, trimmed the gap to Tottenham



in fifth to three points. Spurs, which plays fourth-place Aston Villa in a crucial match on Sunday, has two games in hand on United.

United will be hoping the Premier League has five places — rather than the current four — in next season's expanded Champions League format. An extra berth will be determined by English clubs' overall performance in European competition this season.

"Now every game, the manager said, is a final," said Garnacho, a 19-year-old Argentine winger who was a persistent danger on the counterattack. "We have to win every single game, we're Manchester United."

Everton, which started the match at Old Trafford five points clear of the relegation zone, had more shots than United (23 to 15) but many were from long range

and few seriously troubled goalkeeper Andre Onana.

Sean Dyche's team is now winless in 11 league games stretching back to Dec 16, while its situation could soon get worse if the Premier League decides to hand the club another sanction for breaching the competition's financial rules. Everton has already been docked six points this season for overspending. (AP)

Kane Scores Hat Trick As Bayern Routs Mainz 8-1 In Bundesliga

Agencies

BERLIN: Harry Kane scored a hat trick and set up two goals as Bayern Munich reduced Bayer Leverkusen's Bundesliga lead to seven points with an 8-1 rout of Mainz on Saturday.

It was the third straight game that Kane scored two goals or more, and the second successive game in which Bayern looked like its old self after a 3-0 win over Lazio in the Champions League on Tuesday. But Leverkusen can restore its 10-point lead with a win over visiting Wolfsburg on Sunday.

Bayern didn't have to wait long for a familiar face to break the deadlock when Jamal Musiala set up Kane for his 28th goal of the season in the 13th minute.

Kane struck the post with a header and Leon Goretzka connected with the rebound to make it 2-0 in the 19th.

But then Nadiem Amiri pulled one back with a

thumping free kick in the 31st. Kane made it 3-1 before the break, and Musiala set up Thomas Müller for 4-1 after it.

Kane returned Musiala's earlier favor for the 21-year-old Germany midfielder to score in the 61st and Bayern still pushed for more.

JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK
OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION (KASHMIR)
(A unit of AIJKBOF Affiliated to AIBOA)
Rajbagh extension above JK Bank TRC Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

CONGRATULATIONS

A proud moment for J&K UT especially for J&K bank as for the first time one of the office hearers of AIBOA com. Riyaz Ahmad Bhat (Joint Sectt) signed the ninth Joint Mote with the Indian Banks Association for revising wages of Indian Bank officers.

This has not only boosted the morale of the J&K Bank Officers, but also has opened doors for J&K Bank Officers to be a part of such big platforms. This has proven that the officers of J&K bank have ably elected the right candidate (com. Riyaz Ahmad Bhat) whose capabilities have proved a boon for the organisation by bringing such loreal and have listed the JKB amongst the well reputed financial institutions

Mufti Shujaat
Gen. Sectt JKBOA (K)

Abbas Ads.