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2-day Wet **Spell From Thursday: MeT**

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The two-day moderate wet spell is expected in Jammu & Kashmir from March 21, weatherman predicted on Tuesday.

Director Meteorological department (MeT) said that the weather is expected to remain generally dry till tomorrow.

However, the light to moderate rains and snow is expected at many places with thunder, lightning and gusty winds over plains of Kashmir and Jammu division on March 21 and March 22.

Furthermore, he said that the weather would remain dry on March 23 and partly to generally cloudy with light rains, snow at few places.

In the detailed forecast, the MeT Director has stated that on March 25 and 26, | More on P6

Zojila Highway To Reopen Next Week

he 434-km long Srinagar-Leh highway is scheduled to reopen next week, as the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and Project Vijayak have accomplished snow clearance on both sides of the highway, reaching Zero | More on P6

Increase Utilization Of 'Aysuhman' Cards In Govt Hospitals: LG

Calls For Efficiency, Effectiveness & Equity in Healthcare Services



Observer News Service

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a review meeting of Health and Medical Education Department with the senior officials and Principals of Government Medical Colleges. Heads of Departments also participated in the meeting. The LG called upon offi-

cials and all the stakeholders to focus on the goal of 'Health

for All' and ensure healthcare services are efficient, effective and equitable. He reviewed the utilization of funds under various schemes, progress of new Government Medical Colleges and other key health infrastructure projects in the Union Territory.

The LG directed the officials to conduct an analysis of the facilities extended to the patients in Hospitals and Health centres and work out

a strategy to further improve the functioning of the healthcare facilities.

He said the principals must ensure the optimal utilization of medical equipment in their respective hospitals and 3-Tier faculty structure should be implemented without any delay.

On the progress of Cancer Institute Jammu, the Chair was informed that the essential equipment have been procured and the facility will

be made fully operational in the next few months.

Tuberculosis (TB) and AIDS.

the human resources in Hospitals, Para Medical & Nursing Colleges. He directed that the | More on P6

Directions were issued for monitoring of the functioning of J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited and Drug de-addiction centres, and taking dedicated measures to control diseases like

The LG also reviewed

Amit Shah Press Trust Of India

Hindus, Muslims

Of PoK Are Indians:

New Delhi: Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is part of India and its people irrespective of their religion are Indians, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday.

He also strongly defended the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 and said the law was enacted to provide Indian nationality to persecuted minori-ties from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

"PoK is part of India. The people of PoK are also Indians - be it Hindu or Muslim. Both Hindus and Muslims of PoK are our own," he said at an interaction at the India Today Conclave.

On the CAA, Shah said the law was passed in 2019 and the rules were issued now as he sought to dismissed criticism over its timing.

He said those opposing the CAA claiming it is based on region are the same people who support laws such as the Muslim Personal Law.

The home minister recalled that during the Partition, including Congress leaders, first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, had said that the minorities from Pakistan would be wel-

Kashmir Googled 'Watermelons' The Most Last Week

Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir's love affair with watermelon hit a snag this Ramazan. As a doctor's advice sparked a social media frenzy, casting doubt on the fruit's safety, Kashmiris turned to the internet in search of answers.

As per the Google Trends, maximum Google searches from Jammu and Kashmir have been regarding the watermelons last week.

Google Trends suggest that the Google searches regarding the fruit began with the commencement of

fruit reached the 100 mark, the highest on the scale. The calculation of Google

Trends is based on a graph that shows the relative frequency of any search term on a scale of zero to 100. Hundred represents the highest level.

Searches mostly, 'Is watermelon crop harvested in India in February?', 'How are watermelons artificially ripened?', and 'How to identify that a watermelon is artificially ripened?' dominated the

Google search engine. As per the Google Trends data, the frequency of Google searches have declined especially after the Food and

LS POLLS IN J&K JKAP, DPAP Hint At Pre-Poll Alliance

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) on Tuesday said they are open to discussions with like-minded parties for a pre-poll alliance in the Union Territory for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. However, Altaf Bukhariled JKAP ruled out any tie-up with the BJP for now due to

ideological differences. "We have proposed to talk to various like-minded

Azad Likely To



parties who want to work for the prosperity of the people secretary Rafi Mir told reof J-K. If they approach us porters here. from their end, we will disinvite the other like-minded cuss with them very seriously for the interests of the parties and | More on P6

fter indicating a potential alliance with Altaf Bukhari's Apni

and Vacant Posts comed in India. | More on P6 **Omar Questions 'One** Nation, One Election' Slogan

Press Trust Of India

PROJECTS REVIEWED

Bone & Joint Hospital

Additional Block at LD

Hospital Srinagar

>> Medical Supplies

>> Drug De-addiction

>> Implementation

Of 3-Tier faculty

>> Human Resources

Corporation

Centers

structure

>> Cancer Institute

>> Labour Room at

SMGS Hospital

Jammu

Jammu

Jammu

200 Bedded

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asked if the Centre cannot hold assembly and Lok Sabha elections together in Jammu and Kashmir, how can it conduct simultaneous polls across the country.

Abdullah was reacting to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar's remark that the officers of the Union Territory administration had expressed inability to conduct the elections simultaneously in view of the requirement of a large number of security forces. "When the CEC addressed a



"In such a situation, I am forced to question that when no assembly polls are being conducted in other states like UP, and Bihar, and you cannot conduct simultaneous elections now, then when you talk about one nation, one election, and have to conduct the polls simultaneously in states like UP. MP and Bihar, then where from will you get the forces?" Abdullah told reporters here. He said the ECI had an opportunity to conduct | More on Pe

On March 16 and 17, the searches regarding the

department came up with a clarification.

Contest From Anantnag, Bukhari **From Srinagar**

Party, Ghulam Nabi Azad, chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) is reportedly gearing up to enter the electoral arena from the reconfigured Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency in south Kashmir, setting the stage for a highly | More on P6

16 Students Studying Outside J&K **Take Own Lives Since 2016: JKSA**

Majid Nabi

Ramazan

Srinagar: At least 16 Kashmiri pursuing higher students education in colleges and universities outside Jammu and Kashmir have tragically lost their lives to suicide since 2016, according to the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA). Mental health struggles, particularly depression, are suspected to be a contributing factor in most of these cases.

The most recent incident involved a 23-year-old student from south Kashmir's Pulwama district. He was found dead in his hostel room at Desh Bhagat University Punjab, with preliminary investigations suggesting severe depression as a possible cause.

THE TOTAL NUMBER **OF SUICIDE INSTANCES MAY DIFFER,** but if we carefully review the records that have been periodically released, I believe there are more than sixteen cases."

According to the University administration, Zahid was sulking and keeping a distance from his fellow students as he was also suffering from severe

depression. "The police closed the case as suicide and his family also did not demand an investigation. Zahid was exhibiting

depressive symptoms and was keeping his distance from his classmates and friends," a DBU official informed Kashmir Observer.

Back in September 2021, Umar Ahad Dev, a Radiology student from Beerwah area of Budgam district was found dead at RIMT University of Puniab. The media incharge of former Punjab Chief Minister, Raveen Thukral in a series of Tweets claimed that he was informed by Punjab Director Genral Of Police that Umar was in depression and he left behind a suicide note. "Please pardon me, papa. I

am unable to notice anything in depression. Please do not hold anyone responsible for whatever transpired since I am taking this extreme | More on P6

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Backdrop Appointee Cannot Be Regularized: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Once the initial engagement of a candidate is not by the competent authority, his services cannot be regularized, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh ruled on

Thursday. The Court was hearing a petifiled tion by one T. Arif, stating that he came to be engaged on consolidated work

on the recommendation of then Minister for PHE, Irrigation, Flood Control and Tourism of the erstwhile State of J&K on 12 April 2008. He was disengaged a few months later. However, the order of disengagement was rescinded in 2010 and fresh order of his disengagement from services was issued on 1-06-2022. In his plea, Arif had sought regularization of his services even as he stated that he had received his wages. In its response to Arif's plea,

Mir said the party would

the government said that public employment is a national wealth and all eligible candidates have a right of consideration for being selected/appointed. An equal opportunity for competing for em-

ployment is guaranteed by the constitutional scheme as mandated in terms of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. The government further stated that the order of disengagement was issued pursuant to the communication dated 25.05.2022 after | More on P6

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ECI and all political parties are ready for polls, but the current administration (in J-K) put hurdles, saying they need more security forces.

press conference, he said the

India's 1st Battery Storage Gigafactory To Start In J&K By Oct

Will Help Cut 5 Million Tons Carbon **Emissions Per Year**

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: GoodEnough Energy has announced plans to launch India's first battery energy storage gigafactory in Jammu and Kashmir by October.

The facility will help industry in cutting more than 5 mil-lion tons of carbon emissions in a year, GoodEnough said in a statement. India has set a 2070 goal for becoming net zero. GoodEnough has already

spent 1.5 billion rupees

(\$18.07 million) on the 7 gigawatts per hour (GWH) facility and will spend 3 billion rupees by 2027 to raise capacity to 20 GWH, Reuters quoted founder Akash Kaushik as saying.

Battery energy storage projects are critical to India's ambitious plan to expand its renewable energy capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, from 178 GW at present.

India's government is offering \$452 million in incentives to companies under a programme to promote battery storage projects.

Such systems enable the storage of energy from solar, wind and More on P6

Drug Peddler's House Attached

ammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached a residential house belonging to an alleged drug peddler in Kulgam district under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, officials said. A police official said the single storied residential house worth around Rs 10 lakh belongs to notorious drug peddler Ghulam Mohammad Mir alias Gull Kasai, a resident of Bugam area. "The action was taken under sections 68-E read with | More on P6

2 Held for **Online Fraud**

wo Maharashtra natives were arrested for online frauds of around Rs 6.7 lakh with some residents of Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. A laptop and seven mobile phones were recovered from their possession, a police spokesman said. Parsanna Iyer and Dipin Sarkar of Thane district of Maharashtra were arrested following investigation into a complaint lodged at Billawar Police Station in Kathua against two unidentified | More on P6

Duo Held With 90 Kgs of Poppy

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wo persons were apprehended with a whopping ninety kilograms of poppy-straw in Pahalgam area of Anantnag district, an official said on Tuesday. An official said that on receipt of reliable inputs, police laid a naka during which it intercepted a duo in possession of ninty kilograms of poppy-straw. Identifying the duo as Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohammad Jabbar Bhat and Ubaid Gulzar Lone, son of Gulzar Ahmad Lone, both residents of Takiyabal | More on P6

Woman Found **Dead In Handwara**

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woman was found dead under suspicious condition in the Waskhuro Handwara area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday. An official said that a woman was found dead under suspicious conditions in Waskhuro Handwara. He said that the body has been taken to District Hospital while further proceedings have been taken up. He said that the police have registered a case and an investigation is going on.

PDD Suspends 12 Employees

he government on Tuesday suspended twelve employees of the Power Development Department and initiated disciplinary proceedings against them. Principal Secretary Power **Development Department H Rajesh** Prasad in this regard has issued suspension orders against 12 employees. The suspension and disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against five In-charge **Assistant Executive Engineers** (AEE's), two | More on P6

Fire Engulfs Forest Area In Bandipora

blaze engulfed forest Compartment number 81 in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, an official said on Tuesday evening. An official said that different kinds of trees and dry bushes were caught in a massive fire in the compartment falling in the Yali Pethkote forest area. A joint operation by Fire & Emergency Services Bandipora. Fire Services' NHPC Kralpora and Forest Department was undertaken to contain the blaze.



KASHMIR OBSERVER[™] | ∩ Srinagar | Wednesday | 20-03-2024 🝊

New Study Reveals How Smoking Habits Influence Stroke Risk

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have explored in detail how varied smoking habits influence the risk of getting a stroke, in a new study published in the journal eClinicalMedicine. It found that current smokers are at a higher risk of getting a stroke compared to those who never smoked, with the association being stronger for ischaemic stroke, the most common kind and caused when blood fails to reach the brain. The international study included researchers from St John's Medical College and Research Institute, Bangalore.

Both filtered and non-filtered cigarettes were linked with an increased stroke risk, and passive smoking - exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) - for more than ten hours a week was found to nearly double the stroke risk, especially that of ischaemic and intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH). ICH is caused by bleeding of a ruptured blood vessel in the brain.

The team also found that in young heavy smokers (more than 20 cigarettes a day) under 50 years of age, stroke risk more than doubled, which was higher compared to increasing 1.5-fold in participants aged 70 and above.

Among those aged 50-59, they observed an 8-fold risk increase of large vessel stroke, involving large vessels supplying blood to the brain.

Regionally, the researchers found that the Western European and North American regions had the highest risk of stroke among current smokers. Data of participants from 32 high-, middle- and low-income countries were analysed, including those from Africa, South Asia (India and Pakistan) and South America. They were recruited from January 2008 to August 2015.

The researchers found that across income levels, stroke risk from smoking was higher in high-income countries (HICs) than low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with younger smokers at higher risk than older ones. Risk of stroke rose with the number of cigarettes smoked per day, especially in HICs, they said.

The study findings are relevant to global efforts directed at reducing tobacco use and exposure, the researchers said.

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan **Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Zeeshan Haider Lone S/o Aijaz Ahmad Lone R/o Waripora Bala Kreeri Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 23-03-2018 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Iram Jan D/o Ghulam Hassan Mian R/o Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 15-05-2019 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the

issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Pakeeza Hidayat S/O Hidayat Ullah Rather R/O Boochu Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 25-02-2016 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

از دفترنا ئې تخصيلداريڻن

فريده بيكم بيوه عبدالرشيد نجار

نديم رشيدولد عبدالرشيد نجار مزدوري

نيلوفررشيددختر عبدالرشيد نجار زريعليم

ساحل رشيد ولد عبدالرشيد نجار زريعليم



Grand Bagh

Rajpora Road Harwan FOR BOOKING OF

1.Balcony Delux Room Double (Free Break Fast)

2.Delux Room Double (Free Breakfast)

> CONTACT Faroog Ahmed | 7006270985

PUBLIC NOTICE

We have applied for the registration of our Homestay under name and style PEACESTAY'S Homestay situated at Nowrozbaba Khag Budgam . If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained. 5492859350 | 7889459842

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice My name has been wrongly written in Aadhaar Card as Safeena Jan while my correct name is Aatifa Jan which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Aatifa Jan D/o Noor Mohd Chopan R/o Meemandar Shopian

fko

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Harim Shabir Mir S/o Shabir Ahmad Mir R/o Adipora Sopore Tehsil Sopore District Baramulla with vertified date of event (birth) as 29-05-2020 occurred at HSDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko Naib Tehsildar Patt



Life Expectancy Dropped By 1.6 Years During Pandemic: Lancet Study

Press Trust Of India

Global life expectancy dropped by 1.6 years between 2019 and 2021. a sharp reversal from past improvements, according to a research published in The Lancet journal.

One of the first to fully evaluate demographic trends in the context of the first two years of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the study has published findings, which researchers said, could have implications for health systems, economies and societies around the world.

The findings also included those of an ageing worldwide population.

The study found that life expec-tancy declined in 84 per cent of countries and territories during this time. This demonstrated the "devastating potential impacts of novel pathogens", the researchers said.

Places such as Mexico City, Peru and Bolivia experienced some of the largest drops, the study found.

The researchers also found a marked increase in adult mortality rates globally during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, reversing past decreasing trends.

However, child mortality con-tinued to drop amid the COVID-19 pandemic, albeit more slowly than in earlier years, with half a million fewer deaths among children under five years in 2021 compared to 2019, they found.

The researchers said stark differences in child mortality persisted regionally, with one in every four children who died globally living in South Asia and two in every four children who died living in sub-Saharan Africa.

The estimates reported here will enable key stakeholders to better understand and address the profound changes that have occurred in the global health landscape following the



address the profound changes that have occurred in the global health landscape following the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and longerterm trends in the future

first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and longer-term trends in the future, they said.

The research, coordinated by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington (UW), US, presented updated estimates from the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2021.

GBD 2021, the newly published most recent round of GBD results, is one of the first studies to fully evaluate demographic trends in the context of the first two years of the pandemic.

Measuring mortality, excess mortality from the COVID-19 pandemic, life expectancy and population, the researchers estimated that global death rate jumped among people aged over 15 years -- by 22 per cent in men and 17 per cent in women --

from 2019 to 2021.

Roughly 131 million people died globally from all causes in 2020 and 2021 combined, of which the pandemic caused about 16 million, either directly by infecting or indirectly by bringing about social, economic or behavioural changes, they estimated.

The team identified high mortality during the pandemic in places previously less recognised or reported such as Jordan and Nicaragua. The high pandemic-related excess deaths in these countries were not apparent in previous all-age excess mortality estimates, they said.

Conversely, they found Barbados, New Zealand and Antigua and Barbuda to be among those places experiencing some of the lowest excess mortality from the pandemic.

completely erase historic progress made in enhancing life expectancy at birth, which rose by nearly 23 years between 1950 and 2021, they said.

researchers found that in 2021, the global population almost touched 7.9 billion, with 56 of 204 countries and territories peaking and subse-

was observed to begin in 2017 following years of stagnation, which accelerated during the pandemic.

however, continued to see rapid population growth, with the largest share coming from Sub-Saharan Africa (39.5 per cent) and South Asia (26.3 per cent), they said.

The researchers said that further, the global population is ageing with the number of people aged 5 years and older now increasing faster than the number of people younger than 15 years in 188 of 204 countries and territories.

The pandemic did not, however,

Assessing population trends, the

quently shrinking. The decline in global population

Many lower-income countries,

fko

Office Of The The District Election Officer

(Deputy Commissioner Kupwara) "Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy"

Email: entkupwara@nic.in | Phone/Fax:- 01955-23100

Subject: -General Elections to Lok Sabha-2024 - Prevention of Defacement of Property and other Campaign related items- Reg.

Ref:-Election Commission of India's letter No. 3/7/2023/SDR dated 12th Oct 2023.

ORDER NO:-25-DEO/KUP of 2024 Dated: - 18-03-2024

In pursuance of the instructions issued in the above referred communication of Election Commission of India, it is hereby ordered that:

1. All unauthorized wall-writings, posters/papers, or defacement in any other form, including cut out/hoardings, banners, flags etc. on any Government property situated within the territorial jurisdiction of District Kupwara shall be removed within 24 hours from the issue of this order; and

2. All unauthorized political advertisements, in the form of wall writings/posters /papers or defacement in any other form, cut outs/ hoardings, banners/flags etc. at any public property and in public space like bus stands, roadways, government buses, electric/telephone poles, municipal local bodies' buildings etc. situated in territorial jurisdiction of District Kupwara, shall be removed within 48 hours from the issue of this order; and

3. Subject to any local law and countr's direction, all unauthorized political advertisements displayed at any private property, situated within territorial jurisdiction of District Kupwara, shall be removed within 72 hours.

It is further enjoined upon all concerned Departments/ Election Nodal officers/ Officers that any defacement to the government, public or private property subsequent to the announcement of elections shall be dealt with as per the standard protocol provided in the guidelines of redressal of complaints received at C-Vigil. The cases of defacement, other than received at C-Vigil, shall also be redressed promptly, as soon as complaints are received

(Ayushi Sudan) IAS, District Election Officer/Deputy Commissioner Kupwara

No:-DEOK/2024/1361-71 DIPK-18135/23 Dated: 19 -03-2024

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Haider Ali s/o Asif Ali Malla R/o Sonium Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 25-05-2021 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan

Executive Magistrate 1st Class

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Abdul Bazil Qadri And Bareen Zehra Qadri S/O Nisar Ahmad Qadri R/O Poshwani Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birthS) as 07-09-2018, 28-04-2020 occurred at SDH Pattan In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. Executive Magistrate 1st Class fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib-Tehsildar Pattan **Executive Magistrate 1st Class**

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/ Block Development Officer Lolpora) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Hamzah Bin Tanweer S/O Tanweer Ahmad Pandith R/O Khambiyar Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 02-06-2022 occurred at SDH Pattan

In this connection, if anybody having any objection to the issuance of said registration may contact this office within seven (07) days, after which no objections shall be entertained. **Executive Magistrate 1st Class** fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

گھریلوکام

یی خبر اِنتہا کی دُکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ جاوید احمد گنا کی ولد غلام قادر گنا کی ساکن ناؤیورہ خیام چوک مرى تكرمور خد 18 مارچ 2024ء بروزسومواركوعلالت ك بعداس دارفانى ، رحلت كر ك سالله و إنا إلَيْه وَاجعُون ٥ مرحوم نيك سيرت ،ملنسار،خوش اخلاق اورصوم وصلوة ك پابند مت الله سجان وتعالى مرحوم كو جنت الفردوس میں اعلیٰ مقام عطا کرے۔ آمین إس سلسط ميس مرحوم كي اجتماعي فاتحة خواني 22 مارچ 2024ء بروز جمعة المبارك بوقت 2.30 بج

أن کے آبائی مقبرہ داقع ناؤ پورہ ہز دیک ہوٹل کہکشاں سری نگر میں انجام دی جائے گی۔ سوگواراں inf

از دفتر نائب تخصيلداريڻن

عنوان: د درخواست منجانب شریف الدین تیلی ولد عبدل رحیم تیلی ساکنه پین بمراداجرانی 🚽 عنوان: د درخواست منجانب ندیم رشید و نیلوفر رشید و ساحل رشیداولا دان عبدل الرشید نجار

تیلی پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گٹی ہے 📗 نجار پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیرکاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گٹی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل واقعی تیلی ذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائل پٹن بخصیل پٹن میں 🛛 جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائلان واقعی نجارذات سے تعلق رکھتا ہے اور سائلان پٹن بخصیل پٹن رہائش پذیر ہےاور بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں کی ہے ۔ سائل کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر شتل ہے میں رہائش یذیر ہے ادر بھی بھی ترک سکونت نہیں گی ہے سائلان کا کنبہ بذیل افراد پر شتمل

مزدوري	شريف الدين ليلى ولد عبدل رقيم
گھریلوکام	گلشنه بیگم زوجه <i>شریف</i> الدین

عابده شريف دختر شريف الدين تحمر يلوكام

شاهستهاختر دختر شريف الدين زيرتعليم

جشیده بانودختر شریف الدین زریقلیم محمد اسلم تیلی ولدشریف الدین زریقلیم

سائل مٰدکورہ شوشل کاسٹ سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خواں ہے اور کنبہ کی سالا نہ آ مدنی

سائل مذکورہ شوشل کا سٹ سرٹفیکیٹ حاصل کرنے کا خوال ہے اور کنبہ کی سالانہ 27000 رویے تک ہے ۔ سر نفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کسی خص کو کوئی 🏼 آمدنی 21000 رویے تک ہے ۔ سر نفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہ اگر کسی خص کو کوئی عزریاا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد شتہراخبار سات دن کے اندرا ندراً بینے عذریا عتراض ودالت هذا مزرياا عتراض ہوتو وہ بعد مشتہرا خبارسات دن کےاندراندرآ پنے عذر پاعتراض ودالت ھذا کودفتری د قات کے دوران پیش کریں۔بعد گز رے میعاد کو پی عذر یا عتر اض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ كودفترى ادقات كے دوران پیش كريں۔ بعد گزرے ميعادكويى عذر باعتر اض قابل قبول نہيں ہوگا۔ FKO FKO

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نائت تحصيلدا



KASHMIR OBSERVER | Srinagar | Wednesday | 20-03-2024 🔾

AIRPORTS

RAILWAYS

Man Clears Traffic On Road To Pave Way For Ambulance, **Receives Applause**

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a heart-warming display of compassion and humanity, a video of a selfless act has gone viral on various social media platforms, Facebook.

The video shows an unknown man, dashing ahead of an ambulance stuck in traffic near Qamarwari Chowk, desperately beckoning to drivers to make room for the emergency vehicle.

A video, apparently shot by the ambulance driver, records the man's efforts as he runs ahead of the ambulance from Qamarwari to Noor Bagh Chowk, trying to ensure a clear path through the congested road stretch.

He can be seen tirelessly running and clearing the way on the road stretch, allowing the ambulance to move through the jam-packed vehicle road.

The person's generous efforts have sparked appreciation from netizens and the general public alike, with many praising his fast thinking and altru-

ism in a difficult situation. A Facebook user, while commenting on his action wrote that, "This man is a gem. May Allah bless him with his choicest blessings." Another FB user wrote,

"love and respect. This is the real hero at ground zero". The viral video is avail-

able on social media and has already garnered over 8 Lac views, with over 9.5K shares and over 570 comments on Facebook

Shabir Ahmad, a Srinagar resident praised the unknown man's act and said in a time when acts of kindness are often overlooked, this demonstration serves as a reminder of the power of compassion and communal spirit.

He stated that as the video continues to circulate on social media platforms, the act serves as evidence of the influence that individual efforts may have in reducing emergency situations and po-

tentially saving lives.



Tulip Garden To Open For Visitors On Mar 23

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Asia's Largest Tulip Garden at the foothills of Zabarwan Hills will bloom with 17 lakh flowers of different varieties this year and will be thrown open for visitors on March 23. Divisional Commissioner

(Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri convened a meeting to review the arrangements at Asia's largest Tulip Garden for visitors.

SMC, officers of Tourism department and Srinagar Smart City Limited.

The meeting held threadbare discussion regarding opening of garden for visitors, traffic management, parking space, sanitation, cleanliness drive, fixing of potholes, online ticketing and other arrangements.

Addressing the officers, Div Com directed concerned officer of Floriculture to facilitate online ticketing and put QR Code scanning facilities at different locations for the convenience of tourists.

Board (DNB) is equivalent to a

postgraduate Master's degree,

similar to the MD/MS degree

awarded to specialist doctors in

India after completing a three-

pressed anger over the recurrent

delays in receiving their sti-

The PG resident doctors ex-

PG Resident Doctors At GMC Srinagar Face

Delay In Stipends, Threaten Protest

year residency.

He also enjoined the operation

of colorful lights to enhance the visual vibrancy of the place. Moreover, he directed SMC to

conduct a sanitation and cleanliness drive at the garden besides ensuring availability of a separate mobile toilet facility for Ladies and Gents at the venue.

Further, he directed the concerned authorities to repair potholes on the roads leading to the garden.

The meeting was informed that the department has added 4 Kanals of additional parking space at the garden for the conve nience of visitors.

gations. With approximately 600

residents in their first, second,

and third years, many have been

without stipends since January

ident doctors, said that despite

repeated appeals to the authori-

ties, the issue of delayed stipends

Junaid Ahmad, one of the res-

PATTAN: 01954-293507 OAZIGUND: 01951-296153 **HIGHWAY STATUS** Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open) Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh- (Closed) PRAYERS FAJR 5:12 HIJRI ZUHR 12:40 CALENDAR ASR 4:58 09 Ramzan Magrib 6:45 1445 ISHA 8:05

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686

Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +919484100200

×

PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

2479488,2452222,2452155 CAPD: 18001807011

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259

ANANTNAG: 01932-228243

BARAMULLA: 0194-102029

BIJBHERA: 01932-228243

PAMPORE: 01933-294132

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :

SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

PDD: 0194-2450213

This Day In History

- 1942 General Douglas MacArthur vows "I came through and I shall return" after escaping Japanese-occupied Philippines
- 1942 Major German assault on Malta
- 1943 German U-384 bombed & sinks
- 1944 Mount Vesuvius in Italy erupts
- 1945 US 70th Infantry division and 7th Armour division attack Saar
- 1951 Indonesian army offensive against Darul Islam on Java
- 1952 Final ratification of peace treaty restoring sovereignty to Japan by US Senate
- 1956 Tunisia gains independence from France 1956 - USSR performs nuclear test
- 1957 Britain accepts NATO offer to mediate in Cyprus, but Greece rejects it
- 1964 ESRO established, European Space **Research Organization**
- 1968 Military intervene in South-Yemen (leftist ministers resign)
- 1977 Communists and socialists win French municipal elections



2-day International **Conference Begins At** GCW, M.A. Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day International Conference on 'Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation' began at Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar on Tuesday (March 19) with academicians and policymakers deliberating on the merits and scope of the collaborative approach in the field of education and research.

The inaugural session was addressed by Commissioner Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department, Dr. Rashmi Singh; Commissioner/Secretary, Science & Technology Department, Saurabh Bhagat; MD/CEO of J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash and Director Colleges, Prof. Yasmeen Ashai. The Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. John Zheng of Mississippi Valley State University.

Among others present

Principal Kashmir, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir; Deans, Controller of Examinations and Principals of the constituent colleges of Cluster

University Srinagar. Dr. Rahsmi Singh, who is also the Principal Resident Commissioner New Delhi, was the Guest of Honor at the event and delivered the Plenary Talk of the conference. Referring to the relevance of the conference theme, Dr. Rashmi said the multidisciplinary approach of research is not just about team-work and collaboration, but it represents the very thought process that aims to understand the issues in a more comprehensive manner paving way to solutions and innovations. She said while such confer-

ences have broader utility,

they are particularly benefi-

cial to young scholars who

are enthusiastic about ex-

The meeting was attended by Director Floriculture, SSP Traffic Srinagar, Joint Commissioner

ploring the dynamic world of research. the occasion included Nodal

monthly stipends The Diplomat of National

Srinagar: Postgraduate resi-

dent doctors at Government

Medical College (GMC) Sri-

nagar are facing hardships

as they continue to experi-

ence delays in receiving their

Observer News Service

pends, which has left them strug gling to meet their financial obli-

continues, with little action tak en to address it.

or February.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir **Kashmir Power Development Corporation** Office of Executive Engineer ED-IV Khanyar

Email:emre.ediv@gmail.com Tel No 0194-247026

e-tender short Abbreviated Notice

E-NIT No. 27/EDIV of 2023-24, dated: 18.03.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Jammu and Kashmir UT, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-IV Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Contractors/firms Notice electrification of polling stations within the jurisdiction of Electric Division 4 Khanyar for upcoming parliamentary election 2024 as under:

s	5.	Particulars		Estimated
N	Io			cost
	1	Electrification of polling stations within the jurisdiction of Electric Division IV Khanyar for upcoming parliamentary election 2024	1 Job	5.00 lacs

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	22.03.2024; 10:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	29.03.2024 ; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/Clarifications	22.03.2024.: 11.00 Hrs to 22.03.2024 ; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	22.03.2024; 10.00 to 29.03.2024; 16:00 Hrs
v)	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date & Time	Shall be communicated letter
vi)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	30.03.2024 up to 14:00 Hrs
vii)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
viii)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Soft Copy Electronically and Hard Copy in the office of Executive Engineer, Electric Division IV. Srinagar
ix)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred Only) (Non-refundable)
x)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 10000.00 (Rupees Ten Thousand Only)

DIPK-NB-6074/23 dated: 19-03-2024

Executive Engineer Electric Division IV, Srinagar

Government of (UT) Jammu and Kashmir **Office Of The Executive Engineer** Jal Shakti (PHE)Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-nail: phegwd@yahoocom Tel/F'axNo:- 194-2411285

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Sub: 1. Design, supply, insiallation 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 / lOkl tank, v/ith five years on site and unconditional Warrantee anywhere in ut of j&k on turnkey basis for various constituencies of Kupwara district.

Reference: This office e-NIT No: JS-PHE/ GWDS/ 56/ JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2023-24 issued vide fhis office endorsement No: -JS-PHE/ GWDS/ Corrs. /10075-87, Dated: 12-02-2024 bearing tender ID No: 2024_PHE_244794_1, 2 & 3.

Due to technical issues/ reason the above mentioned works advertised vide this office above guoted reference is hereby cancelled.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/Corrs./11716-27 DIPK-18139/23 Dated: 19-03-2024

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Div. Srinagar

rinagar- The residents of Kashmir have expressed their happiness over the government's go ahead for the repair of the old Mughal Road that once linked Poonch district of Jammu with the Kashmir Valley.

The government has decided to resume work on the aforesaid alternative road project that will link the Kashmir Valley with Jammu -the state's winter capital. The road is called as Mughal road as it was the route toed by the Mughal's to visit India during the 17th and the 18th century. Asarai (resting place) at Shadimarag is still witness to the grandeur of Mughal carvans passing 'through this road.

By now, the lone. 300-kilometre national highway was the only link between Jammu and Srinagar, which often gets blocked due to frequent snowfall and landslides.

More than 350 people died this year when the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the main lifeline, was cut off from the rest of the country due to the worst snowfalls in several decades.

The government has now given go ahead to the Mughal Road, which once completed will link Poonch district of Jammu with the Kashmir Valley.

'This road should be constructed. It will greatly help us. It takes us two-three days for us to reach Srinagar. We can reach Srinagar the same day once this road is completed. I am very thankful to the government," said Abdul Rashid at Thanamandi. Mukhtar Ahmed, another local, said, "Once the road is completed, business activity will also pick up. Roadside hotels will come up as more passengers will come here. Moreover, it will take much less time to reach Kashmir Valley.

Work on the road was stopped due to security concerns, as the army feared that the road may enhance the mobility of the militants in the militancy infested Poonch district.

The 89-kilonietre stretch was first taken up for execution in 1979 when there was no sign of militancy in the state. The construction of the road was simultaneously started from two sides-Shopian on the Kashmir side and Bafliaz on the Poonch side. However, the construction was not completed.

Five hundred years ago. Mughal emperor Akbar's legions marched down this road to defeat King Yousuf Shah Chak and integrate Kashmir with the rest of his empire. Now the state is looking again to the 84-km-long Mughal Road for much the same reasons.

The urgency of the Mughal road comes because of the unpredictability of the Jammu-Srinagar highway.

"Unpredictability" is actually a mild term for the vulner-ability of the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Scanty rain or heavy snowfall, the sole roadlink between Kashmir and the rest of the country is known to collapse at the least provocation But the death of more than 200 villager in settlement barely two hours away from the snowed-up highway has perhaps driven home the urgency of the situation like little else could have.

Running past fields of maize, pine groves, lush meadows and gushing streams. 84 km of the Mughal Road will reconnect Shopian in Kashmir to Bufliaz in the Poonch district of Jammu, cutting travel time considerably. At present the road, which cuts through the Pir Panjal mountain range, is motorable upto Sarbal. 20 km from the apple-rich belt of Shopian. While the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway is 300 km long, the Mughal Road between Jammu and Srinagar stretches 190 km.

The Mughal Road apart from shortening the distance of journey between Jammu & Srinagar would also create an environment, which would help in, greater Inter Regional Culture and Economic exchanges. The geographical isolation of the specific areas, which discouraged people to people contacts, will end and greater economic activity between the regions would follow

(Kashmir Observer, 20 March, 2005)

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KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Wednesday | 20-03-2024

Escalating Violence In Gaza

he invasion of Gaza by Israel which has so far killed over 31,000 people, most of them children and women, seems unlikely to end anytime soon. On the contrary, it is only intensifying with Israel set to invade the crowded Rafah, where the Palestinian refugees of the war have sought refuge. And in doing so, Israel is defying most of the world. The humanitarian crisis unfolding in the region is a stark reminder of the urgent need for diplomacy and peacebuilding efforts to halt the cycle of violence and bring about much-needed ceasefire.

For far too long, the people of Gaza have endured the devastating consequences of hostilities between Israel and Hamas. The latest escalation has only exacerbated the already dire situation, with civilian casualties mounting by the day. It is unacceptable that thousands of innocent lives, including women and children, are being wantonly killed, subjected to unimaginable trauma and hardship.

The toll of this conflict extends far beyond the loss of life. Basic necessities such as food, water, and medical supplies are in short supply, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza. The United Nations has warned of an impending famine, underlining the urgent need for unrestricted access to humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

The international community must act swiftly and decisively to broker a ceasefire agreement that addresses the root causes of the conflict and ensures the protection of civilians on both sides. Dialogue and diplomacy must take precedence over military escalation, as there can be no lasting peace without a two-state solution along 1967 borders.

A ceasefire would provide much-needed relief to the besieged population of Gaza, allowing humanitarian organizations to deliver life-saving assistance to those in need. It would also create an opportunity for political leaders to engage in meaningful negotiations aimed at a sustainable peace agreement.

Moreover, a ceasefire in Gaza would have far-reaching implications for regional stability and security. The ongoing violence only serves to perpetuate a cycle of animosity and distrust, further complicating efforts to achieve a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By prioritizing dialogue and de-escalation, the international community can create a conducive environment for meaningful peace talks and reconciliation.

The suffering endured by the people of Gaza demands urgent action and unwavering commitment from the international community to uphold the principles of human rights and humanitarian law. It is incumbent upon all parties involved to prioritize the protection of civilians and respect for international law, including the principles of proportionality and distinction. Time is of the essence, and failure to act decisively risks further escalation and untold human suffering.



Why Investment in Shares is Considered Risky in Kashmir

Why Isn't Climate Crisis an Election Agenda in India?

Himalayan CSOs prepare Demand Charter for Political Parties





Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

Jammu & Kashmir has been facing a severe climate crisis for the last many years. The choking of our wetlands, destruction of rivers, lakes and streams plus dumping of municipal solid waste in open and near water bodies are some of the big environmental challenges we are facing. Even as these problems are reported almost daily by the media, this has never become an election agenda neither for political parties nor are people pushing for this

mains an outlier in India's electoral

politics and that is the reason this

isn't even discussed or debated dur-

ganisations -CSOs working in India

have mostly been focussed towards

the livelihood sector and that is the

reason environmental issues don't

get better advocacy. For last many

days Sonam Wangchuk, a Ladakh

based social entrepreneur and in-

novator is leading a "climate fast" to

demand tribal area status for Lada-

kh, which he says will help protect

the fragile ecology and tribal iden-

tity of the region, but unfortunately

media isn't giving enough coverage

concerned about environmental is-

sues and their election manifestos

don't include issues related to the

climate crisis. With an aim of ad-

dressing these gaps several civil

society organisations from different

Himalayan states recently joined

hands to create a joint platform so

that a demand charter is prepared

and submitted to various political

parties before the lok sabha elec-

concerned citizens under the ban-

ner People for Himalayas met at

Palampur Himachal Pradesh on

February 27th and 28th to discuss

During the two-day meeting, civ-

il society actors, activists, concerned

citizens from Jammu & Kashmir,

and deliberate on this issue.

People for Himalayas

Several organisations and

Political parties are also least

to this peaceful protest.

tions.

The NGO's. Civil Society Or-

ing the election campaigns.

Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and other Himalayan states assembled at Palampur under the banner of People for Himalayas. It was discussed during the two days meeting that major factors leading to occurrence of disasters in Himalayan states were setting up of big hydropower projects, unregulated urbanization, excessive tourism, deforestation, construction of 4-lane highways, mega railways etc. These things have increased the vulnerabilities of the people living in the Himalayan states. Today, while a demand is being raised from within the society for sustainable and needbased development, the governments of the Himalayan regions approach is limited only to relief and rescue operations in the form of compensation for loss of life and property. The recent environmental disasters have made it very clear that the governments of the Himalayan states are incapable of handling such disasters

ways, new railway lines and tunnels in J&K as this will prove to be disastrous in the future. One understands the importance of Baramulla- Srinagar- Udhampur Railway project but to take railway lines to Pahalgam and Kupwara or Uri by sacrificing so many apple orchards and green forests would prove to be disastrous. Kashmiri people would have loved to give their land for this project had their landholdings been huge like we see in states like Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat or Rajasthan. If someone loses his half acres (4 kanals) of apple farm will he be able to buy a new one or set up a new farm? No, because there is hardly any land availability in the apple producing areas of South and North Kashmir.

More compensation in land acquisition

The Govt must pay more compensation for land acquired in Himalayan states like J&K Himachal

Uttarakhand and Ladakh and the

Right to Fair Compensation Act 2013

must be amended to incorporate

these provisions because people in

these regions have small landhold-

ings and once a developmental proj-

ect is taken up the affected people

has frustrated the local population.

Promoting Eco Tourism

At a time when population is on the rise in J&K and other Himalayan states the agricultural land is shrinking at an alarming rate in these areas. The Govt has to devise policies that would ensure sustainable utilisation of our natural resources. The lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams of J&K have become garbage dump sites and setting up sanitary landfill sites in J&K has become a challenge for authorities. In Srinagar administration is not able to acquire even 100 acres of land for setting up a scientific landfill site. The only landfill site in Srinagar city located at Achan is fully choked. There is no wasteland available in Srinagar or its outskirts where a new landfill site would be set up, isn't this a big challenge?

Conclusion

Irshad Mushtaq

he stock market in Kashmir, also known as the share market, has garnered a reputation for being a risky place for investors. This negative perception is largely due to aggressive intraday trading, illegal practices by certain stock brokers, and a lack of understanding of fundamental investment strategies.

Aggressive trading, often with the use of leverage, has led many individuals to trade with amounts that far exceed the actual value of the stocks. This high-risk practice can result in significant losses when the market experiences volatility. The unpredictable nature of the stock market makes it particularly risky for those who engage in such practices. Additionally, illegal activities by some brokers have also contributed to significant financial losses for investors in Kashmir. Trading in clients' accounts and making false promises of guaranteed profits can lead to severe consequences when the market turns negative, leaving unsuspecting investors in a financially compromised position.

Another contributing factor to financial losses in the share market is the lack of understanding about long-term investment. Many individuals engage in intraday trading with the hopes of making quick profits, without realizing the high level of risk involved. It is important for investors to recognize the importance of long-term investment and the patience required to see significant returns.

Additionally, there is a lack of awareness about the risks involved in aggressive trading and the importance of diversification. It is essential for investors to understand the potential consequences of engaging in high-risk trading practices and to diversify their investment portfolios to mitigate these risks.

In conclusion, the share market in Kashmir can be a risky place for those who fail to take proper precautions. By avoiding aggressive trading, illegal practices by brokers, and leveraging trading, while focusing on long-term investment strategies buy only quality companies , hold with discipline, patience ,proper diversified portfolio and mutual funds, individuals can minimize the risk of losing money in the share market. It is essential for investors to educate themselves about the intricacies of the stock market and make informed decisions to protect their financial interests. This increased awareness and cautious approach can help in avoiding substantial financial losses and building a more secure investment portfolio.

The writer is entrepreneur partner , M I Securities ,Sharekhan Email:irshad@bp.sharekhan.com The situation is not better in and are silent on the real issues. "Today, no Himalayan stat

The situation is not better in other Himalayan states like Himachal Pradesh , Uttarakhand, Ladakh, North Eastern states etc. Even the states located in plains like Delhi are gasping for clean air. Bangalore is facing a severe water crisis. Despite all this, the environment re-

Today, no Himalayan state is untouched by these disasters and now the need is being felt that concerned citizens and people working on social and environmental issues of all the Himalayan states should develop a mutual understanding regarding these disasters and work on a joint strategy, keeping in mind the 2024 elections, so that the voice of the Himalayan states

can be raised with the Govt of India as a concrete demand

garding these disasters and work on a joint strategy, keeping in mind the 2024 elections, so that the voice of the Himalayan states can be raised with the Govt of India as a concrete demand.", reads the document prepared by People of Himalayas.

Marginal Farmers in Himalayan States

More than 90 % of farmers in all the Himalayan states are marginal farmers as per official figures. The size of small agricultural landholdings in Himachal Pradesh , Uttarakhand . J&K and adjoining areas was estimated to be less than a hectare. This figure came down further in the 2015-16 Agriculture Census. In the Kashmir valley, where most farmers own less than an acre of land, any government policy related to land acquisition, especially for "development projects", needs to take into account the fragile mountainous environment and climatic conditions as well.

No to big highways & railways Govt should not set up big highlose enough land which they cannot purchase again. Thus the government of India must include a provision in the land acquisition act for better land compensation in Himalayan states.

Moratorium on Hydropower Projects

The Hydropower projects have caused lots of displacements and environmental disaster in many Himalayan states including J&K. A moratorium must be imposed for setting up of new hydropower projects and instead solar and wind energy must be explored in J&K which is yet unexplored. In Doda and Kishtwar districts of J&K we have had huge hydropower projects set up in the last 20 years but the people in these districts continue to suffer on account of electricity. 24 x 7 electricity supply still remains a distant dream for people in Chenab valley which is a matter of serious concern. On one hand people in this region have given so many sacrifices during setting up of power projects but in return they have got nothing and continue to suffer due as the electricity crisis

As explained above, around 67 Civil Society Organisations working in different Himalayan states have prepared a joint demand charter to be submitted to various political parties. This document calls upon the leadership of the country to seriously think about conserving and protecting Himalayan biodiversity which is under serious threat. When the Govt seeks investments in setting up good hotels in Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Uttarakhand, Ladakh or North East India , a lot of thrust has to be given to protect the local biodiversity and environment, considering large-scale shrinking of our land mass. Instead of going ahead with construction of massive hotels in Kashmir , Himachal and other places the Govt must consider setting up eco-friendly lodges and huts, or high end tented accommodation. Govt of India has in-fact come up with a National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism last year wherein thrust has been given on Sustainable Tourism. This policy document has to be implemented on the ground now. The Political parties need to come clear on the environmental crisis in Himalayan regions and they must devise a plan to overcome it and the same must be incorporated in their Lok Sabha election manifestos which they would be issuing in the coming weeks.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is Climate Action Fellow Anant National University . He is Srinagar based writer , activist and independent researcher

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP | Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K | Editor: Sajjad Haider | RNI Registration No: 69503/98 | Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16 | Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 1947969705 | Editorial: (0194) 2502327 | Email: editor@kashmirobserver.net

KASHMIR OBSERVER[®] Srinagar | Wednesday | 20-03-2024

Ramazan Muslims Hypocrisy or Reverence?

Jewel Khufia Noor

The month of Ramazan is a time of spiritual rejuvenation and introspection for Muslims around the world. It is during this sacred month that many individuals, who may not actively practice their faith throughout the year, find themselves drawn to Masajids, prayer, and acts of charity, earning them the label of 'Ramazan Muslims'(Muslims only in Ramazan).

This term often carries a hint of skepticism, questioning the sincerity of these temporary changes. However, could these seasonal transformations be indicative of a deeper, underlying faith waiting to be reignited? Is this phenomenon a form of hypocrisy, or does it reveal the presence of dormant faith, however faint, within the hearts of Muslims?

RAMAZAN'S INFLUENCE IN AWAKENING THE SPIRITUALLY DORMANT

The symbolism of Ramazan, with the opening of the gates of Paradise and the closing of the gates of Hellfire, holds deeper significance than mere metaphors.

These things happen in the realm of the unseen and the spiritual part of the believers perceive these changes, resonating with their spiritual senses and drawing them closer to acts of worship and self-reflection.

One striking manifestation of this spiritual awakening is witnessed in the phenomenon of 'Ramazan Muslims,' individuals whose devotion intensifies during this month. Despite their minimal engagement with religious practices outside Ramazan, they find themselves drawn to religious acts, indicating a hidden faith yearning to be revived.

An illustrative example of this awakening is observed in the story of a non-Hijabi girl embracing the Hijab during Ramazan. Her Hijab, becomes a visible sign of the light that exists within her heart.

Similarly, individuals grappling with Quranic recitation find solace in the knowledge that their sincere efforts are valued by the Divine.

Moreover, the sight of Masajids



The sincere repentance of a person, regardless of their past actions or shortcomings, can be accepted and rewarded by Allah (SWT). Conversely, even acts of worship spanning decades may be rejected if tainted by ostentation or insincerity

It is crucial to understand that

not everyone progresses at the

same pace on their spiritual jour-

ney. Some individuals may ex-

perience rapid growth and pro-

found spiritual transformations

within a short period, while oth-

ers may stumble and need to re-

start multiple times. This diver-

sity in progression is part of the

human experience and should be

embraced rather than criticized.

journeys, including failures and

setbacks, highlights the impor-

tance of embracing imperfec-

tions and learning from them.

In many other aspects of life,

such as education or career

development, failures are seen

The disparity in religious

bustling with worshippers during Ramazan symbolizes more than increased religious fervor; it signifies that the truth still exists within the community.

THE DAMAGING EFFECT OF EXCESSIVE CRITICISM ON RELIGIOUS GROWTH

Critiquing and failing to encourage the small acts of devotion exhibited by Ramazan Muslims can have a detrimental effect on the delicate seed of faith (Iman) sown during this blessed month. Each individual's spiritual journey is unique, akin to a seed that requires nurturing and care to blossom into a beautiful flower of faith. as opportunities for growth and learning. However, when it comes to religious practice, there is often an expectation of perfectionism, which can be unrealistic and discouraging. Instead of focusing solely on

outward displays of religious devotion, it is essential to value intentions and efforts. God appreciates sincerity and the striving spirit more than flawless execution. Every small act of worship contributes to the overall growth of faith.

REALIGNING OUR SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES: CLARITY, COMPASSION, AND SHARED SUCCESS

As Muslims, our ultimate goal is to attain Jannah (Paradise) for

ourselves and our loved ones. However, in our pursuit of this noble aspiration, it is essential to maintain clarity in our objectives and cultivate compassion towards others.

Just as a child passionately defends her favorite toy or treat in front of her mother, we should strive to protect and cherish the spiritual well-being of ourselves and those around us. This means focusing on the positive aspects of people's actions and encouraging their efforts towards improvement, rather than dwelling on their shortcomings.

Having a clear vision entails seeing beyond differences and recognizing the sincerity in others' intentions. It involves wishing for them the same mercy and understanding from Allah (SWT) that we seek for ourselves, ultimately aiming for collective success in attaining Jannah.

By embracing this mindset of compassion and clear vision, we not only strengthen our own spiritual journey but also contribute to a more supportive and harmonious community, where everyone strives towards the shared goal of pleasing Allah (SWT) and earning His ultimate reward.

RESPECTING DIVINE AUTHORITY: LEAVING JUDGMENT TO ALLAH

It's important to refrain from judging the intentions of others, especially among Ramazan Muslims, as we cannot accurately analyze their hearts and motives. Only Allah (SWT) has the ultimate knowledge and authority to judge individuals' sincerity and intentions.

The sincere repentance of a person, regardless of their past actions or shortcomings, can be accepted and rewarded by Allah (SWT). Conversely, even acts of worship spanning decades may be rejected if tainted by ostentation or insincerity.

Therefore, our focus should be on our own sincerity, seeking forgiveness, and striving to improve ourselves without passing judgment on others. Ultimately, the reward and acceptance of our deeds lie in the hands of Allah (SWT), who knows the true intentions behind every action. Let God do his job and not try to take over his role.

CONCLUSION

Ramazan acts as a mirror, reflecting the latent spirituality within individuals, akin to detecting life in a cataleptic patient. The crucial question is whether we will endeavor to revive and nurture these spiritual traces or allow them to wither under the weight of our criticism!

Let's reflect and relate the wisdom captured in these lines: *Abhi Sooraj dooba nahi, zara se*

shaam to hone do.. Me khud he laut jawuga, mujey nakaam to hone do!

The author is an engineer

Spiritual Rejuvenation During Ramazan

Dr. Tauseef Ahmad Parray

't is a well-known fact that humans, as rational beings, possess a physical body, rational faculty and a soul. For the physical body, we try our best to remain fit and healthy by having a balanced diet, remaining away from unhygienic stuff and unsuitable environments. and taking medicines if we feel unwell. We also do different types of exercises and activities to keep our physical bodies strong. We also take care of our mental health and consult a mental psychologist or psychotherapist if the need arises. The way we protect and care for our physical and mental health, we need to be careful and vigilant about our soul and spiritual elements as well. One such ways and means is spiritual rejuvenation, considered as an important aspect of personal growth and development, which involves taking time to connect with oneself and one's soul, whether through prayer, meditation, or other means.

Islam, as the complete way and philosophy of life, provides us with guidelines, means, and methods for being spiritually well grounded and, on occasion, provides us training programs to nourish, nurture, improve and rejuvenate our spirituality. One such means and methods is the fasting in the Ramazan, a blessed month that is not only a month of fasting or a month in which the Quran was revealed but also a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion.

In other words, the month of Ramazan, both for Muslim men and women, is a month full of moral lessons and philosophy. It provides ample food for nourishing our spirituality and revitalizing our inner self-through attaining and then endeavoring to maintain piety and righteousness, getting closer to our Creator through acts of self-restraint, and by means of many spiritual exercises. It is a time both for spiritual purification and rejuvenation, rekindling the spiritual spark in our hearts and refreshing our love for our Creator and Sustainer, Almighty Allah.



Fasting helps us to learn the merits of remaining patient, steadfast and determined. We try our utmost not to think or do any evil, but to spend time to think well, to be benevolent to others, and to re-establish a strong connection with Allah.

Among the many blessings of Ramazan are that it helps us to change our attitude towards others—to reaffirm to behave better, to live in kindness and love with others—be they our family members, neighbors, colleagues and indeed strangers.

During the month of Ramazan, not only the intake of food is restricted, but more importantly, it trains all of our physical senses (eyes, ears, tongue, etc.) to stay in control. Ramazan is a time to focus, look at the positive side of life, and eschew the negative. It is also an excellent time to break bad habits, like smoking, speaking ill of others, backbiting, etc.

In short, the month of Ramazan is full of blessings, full of moral teachings, and full of lessons and messages helpful in growing and grooming spiritually.

Let's pray to Almighty Allah to bless us all with the innumerable benefits and blessings of this blessed month, and help us grow physically, intellectually and spiritually.

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at Govt. Degree College Ganderbal (J&K)

Women Can Help Build A Sustainable Future For The World

By Alisha Moopen

Two hundred and sixty-seven or 267 years – That, according to United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), is the number of years it would take to bring about equality in women's economic empowerment and participation.

Gender equality is listed as a fundamental human right and made part of international human rights law that was adopted by the United Nations in 1948, three years after the end of the Second World War. However, 75 years later, a healthy inclusion of women across all sectors is yet to become a reality.

NEED FOR A LEVEL PLAYING GROUND

Gender equality is listed as UN's SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) #5 that aims for sustained gender equality, and empowering women and girls. (1). Even today, more than 2 billion women do not enjoy equal employment opportunities. (2)

It is estimated that this will take about a century before the global remuneration gap between genders is closed. In fact, the wage gap is alarming at present - for every \$1 that a man earns, a woman earns just 80 cents. (3)

WHY RIGHTS OF WOMEN MATTER?

Despite the emphasis on the importance of legislated gender quotas in achieving equality in politics, we need to help open more areas of employment for women, as of today more than 20 per cent of the countries are yet to set aside quotas for women's representation in parliament.

At a micro level, today, nearly every second woman in the world does not have the power to take decisions regarding her own sexual and reproductive health and rights. (UN Sustainable Development Report of 2023) **INCLUSION A DEFINING DECISION**

Inclusion is a non-negotiable prerequisite to pave the way for a



sustainable future. It will ensure a healthier and much more robust business sector which translates to a better and healthier lifestyle for all. A fact pointed out by a report from McKinsey Global Institute which states: if women and men shared identical roles at the workplace, the annual global GDP would increase by a whopping 26 per cent. (4)

According to the report, closer home, if women's participation is fully equal to men's, it could result in an overall gain of \$101 billion. In other words, it would result in a GDP of \$10,985 per person! (5).

It is also becoming increasingly apparent that when women enjoy equality in society, their health improves which has a huge trickle-down effect on every aspect of life. While a healthy woman will raise healthier children and thereby a healthy generation, such women also aspire to have the same education and job opportunities as men, and as mentioned above, more women entering the workplace can positively impact the nation's GDP. A win-win for everyone. **THE BLUEPRINT FOR INCLUSION**

Can we ensure women take an equal chair at the local, regional, national, and global tables for a sustainable future?

One of the first prerequisites is providing women with adequate health care facilities. A recent World Economic Forum study found that women's health and reproductive biology as a scientific field ranked low on the priority scale at not just educational institutions but also in research and clinical settings.

We also need to ensure that women are literate not just academically but financially as well. This will ensure that they are well-placed to demandand manage- better incomes for the holistic development of the family and thereby society.

Next on the list of priorities is asking all related entities to offer support to women's organizations and businesses to help them grow and diversify. Making them aware of their rights is also as important as financial literacy.

GENDER EQUALITY AND PEACE

Last but not in the least, at a time when violence and wars are grabbing headlines regularly, it is heartwarming to note that gender equality has been linked to greater peace.

Ensuring women's representation at major if not all decision-making levels from national to regional and even corporate boardrooms — has been found to have a positive impact in nurturing durable and peaceful environments.

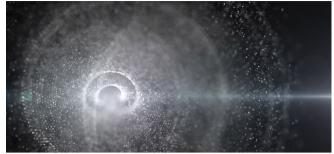
A World Bank blog report found that including women as mediators and signatories to peace deals increased the probability of a lasting deal by up to 35 per cent. Now, who doesn't want a peaceful, sustainable, equitable and prosperous world?

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

News

KASHMIR OBSERVER® 06 SRINAGAR | WEDNESDAY | 20.03.2024

New study challenges existence of dark matter in the universe



Agenceis

A groundbreaking study from the University of Ottawa has shaken up the current model of the universe by suggesting that dark matter may not actually exist. Professor Rajendra Gupta, from the Faculty of Science, utilised a novel combination of theories to reach this thought-provoking conclusion.

In the traditional cosmological framework, dark matter is believed to constitute a significant portion of the universe, playing a crucial role in shaping the behavior of celestial bodies. However, the new research challenges this notion, proposing a different explanation for the observed phenomena.

Gupta's innovative approach, which combines covarying coupling constants (CCC) and "tired light" (TL) theories, has not only raised questions about the need for dark matter but has also garnered support from various cosmological observations. This suggests that the universe may operate

differently than previously thought, potentially reshaping our understanding of its funda-

mental properties. "This study's findings confirm that the universe does not require dark matter to exist, challenging the prevailing understanding in standard cos-mology," affirms Gupta. "The accelerated expansion of the universe, often attributed to dark energy, may actually be a result of weakening forces of nature as it expands, rather than the influence of dark energy." The study's methodology in-

volved a meticulous analysis of data from recent papers on the distribution of galaxies at low redshifts and the angular size of the sound horizon in the literature at high redshift. Gupta emphasized the significance of this research, stating, "There are several papers that question the existence of dark matter, but mine is the first one, to my knowledge, that eliminates its cosmological existence while being consistent with key cosmological observations.

Fish consumption rises 81%, production twofold in India during 2005-2021 period

Agenceis

India's annual per capita fish consumption increased to 8.89 kg in 2021 from 4.9 kg in 2005, indicating changes in dietary mix driven by higher income and rising prosperity, according to a study

Among fish-eating popula-tions, per capita annual fish consumption increased from 7.43 kg to 12.33 kg, an increase of 4.9 kg (66 per cent).

The study was conducted by WorldFish, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in association with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and other government bodies. The timeframe for this study was 2005-2006 to 2019-2021.

During the 2005-2021 period, the country's fish production jumped over twofold to 14.164 million tonnes, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.63 per cent.

Out of the total fish output, the domestic consumption of fish accounted for 82.36 per cent in 2005-2006, 86.2 per cent in 2015-2016 and 83.65 per cent in 2019-2020. The rest was used for non-food purposes and exports.

The study noted that there was a rapid rise in the quantity of imported fish and fishery products for consumption within the country. These increased 543 per cent over the timeframe, with a CAGR of 12.84 per



cent, from about 14,000 tonnes in 20052006 to 76,000 tonnes in 20192020.

Considering both locally sourced and imported fish, the total quantity of fish consumed in the domestic market increased 120 per cent to 11.924 million tonnes, from 5.428 million tonnes.

"Annual per capita fish con-sumption increased from 4.9 to 8.89 kg, an increase of 3.99 kg (81.43 per cent) with a growth rate of 4.05 per cent," said the report titled 'Fish consumption in India: Patterns and trends'.

outperformed the India World Bank's lower-middle income country group, with a 60 per cent increase in per capita

fish consumption compared to the group's 45 per cent average, the report said, but added that India's consumption remained lower than the group's average of 14.94 kg in 2020. PTI

"Remarkably, fish consumption is surging faster than the global population growth rate, attributed to rising incomes, heightened awareness of its health benefits and the expanding urban footprint.

the rise, positioning the nation as the third-largest consumer of fish in the world by volume. However, per capita fish consumption in India continues to lag behind the global

average," ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak said in the report.

This study investigates the dynamics of fish consumption in India from 2005 to 2021, using comprehensive, nationally representative surveys conducted by the Government of India.

According to the report, Tripura had the highest proportion of fish consumers (99.35 per cent) among various Indian states, while Haryana had the lowest (20.55 per cent). The eastern and northeastern

states, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Goa had the highest fish-eating populations (more than 90 per cent). Northern states such as Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan had the lowest (less than 30 per cent).

Kerala (53.5 per cent) and Goa (36.2 per cent) had the highest percentage of daily fish consumers, while Assam (69 per cent) and Tripura (69 per cent) had the highest percentage of weekly consumers.

"Jammu and Kashmir experienced the highest increase (20.9 percentage points) in people eating fish. However, there was decline in fish consumers in Punjab (3.9 percentage points)," the report said.

India's fish-eating population increased 6.1 percentage points from 66 per cent to 72.1 per cent.

"Egg consumers increased 7.35 percentage points, fol-lowed by fish (6.1 percentage points), and chicken or meat 5.45 percentage points)," the report said.

"By the end of the surveys, 5.95 per cent of the popula-tion ate fish daily, 34.8 per cent weekly and 31.35 per cent occasionally," it added.

Fish consumption increased among both genders, with a shift toward weekly consumption.

"Men (78.6 per cent) had a higher fish consumption rate than women (65.6 per cent).

Urban areas (42.7 per cent) had a higher proportion of weekly fish consumption compared to rural areas (39.8 per cent).

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

2-day Wet

the weather is expected to remain dry while on March 27 and 28, there is a forecast of light rains and snow at few places.

Amid forecast for generally cloudy weather with possibility of light rain/ snow from March 21, night temperature recorded a drop at most places in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, news agency GNS reported that Srinagar recorded a minimum of 2.5°C against 3.5°C on the previous night which was below normal by 2.2°C for the summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 2.2°C against 2.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said

Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.9°C against minus 1.3°C on the previous night and it was 10°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir. Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 3.8°C against 3.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.3°C above normal, the official said. Kupwara town recorded a low of 1.5°C against 1.3°C on the previous night and it was 1.6°C below normal there, the official said. Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 1.0°C against minus 0.5°C on the previous night and it was above normal by 1.3°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 14.4°C and it was below normal by 0.5°C for the winter capital of I&K

vacant posts in SKIMS should be referred to **J**KSSB and PSC.

The meeting discussed impor-tant matters related to healthcare projects including Cancer Institute SKIMS, Srinagar; Bone & Joint Hospital Jammu; extension of Labour Room at SMGS Hospital, Jammu; Construction of 200 Bedded additional block at LD Hospital, Srinagar; Operationalization of Integrated Ayush Hospital at Harwan, and the achievements registered under National Health Mission and Ayushman Bhav campaign.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to LG; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health; Administrative Secretaries; Principles of GMCs, HoDs and senior officials attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

be given a shape in a day or two," he added.

Mir said the Apni Party has some ideological differences with the BJP and right now, talks with them are difficult.

"We will see in the time to come. We want to fight on our own strength right now," he said.

Nizami said discussions with likeminded parties for the alliance were in the initial stage.

departure from the Congress.

Sources revealed that du

challenging the abrogation of Article 370, asked the government to conduct the assembly polls in JK by September

Asked when the party would an-nounce its candidates for the Lok Sabha polls, the NC leader said they were in no hurry.

announced yet, Congress and other parties have not announced (their candidates).... We are in no hurry," he

Kashmir Googled

said.

Pertinently, the sales of watermelons had declined by more than 50 percent in the first week of Ramazan following the controversy regarding the fruit. Earlier, addressing a press confer-

ence, Deputy Commissioner, J&K Drug & Food Control Organisation, Shagufta Jalal, had said that they had taken samples from all the districts of the Kashmir valley after apprehensions were raised about the use of

anxieties about the future, student roles and interactions with peers, and academic hurdles," he said.

Nasir Khuehami, National Convener of J&K Students Association said, "The total number of suicide instances may differ, but if we carefully review the records that have been periodically released, I believe there are more than sixteen cases.'

"I have personally followed these cases and discussed these matters with the higher-ups in the police and administration. It became apparent that these students committed suicide due to mental health issues,' Khuehami told Kashmir Observer.

"While there may be other factors contributing to suicide, I found that being away from home and experiencing academic stress are the main causes of depression."

Researches also suggest that pressures of academic life contribute to many college students experiencing a range of mood, anxiety and de pressive conditions. The demanding academic environment, coupled with the social isolation for students living away from home can create a breeding ground for feelings of depression.

conclusion that the initial engagement of the petitioner was not in accordance with law, he cannot be allowed to con-tinue to work with the respondents," the court said, adding, "There is no illegality in the impugned order passed by the respondents (government)".

India's 1st Battery

other renewable sources so it can be released when needed.

The company is currently in the process of establishing its plant, aiming for operational readiness by October of this year, with an initial manufactur-ing capacity for battery energy storage systems (BESS) set at 7GWh per annum.

During an event unveiling its BESS technology, Kaushik told PTI that the company has invested Rs 160 crore thus far in developing a BESS manufacturing facility capable of producing 7GWh

Kaushik further outlined the company's plans, detailing a proposed investment of Rs 450 crore to expand the BESS manufacturing facility to achieve a total capacity of 20GWh per annum by 2026. The Gigafactory aims to establish a fully integrated ecosystem, facilitating the production of advanced battery energy storage systems to empower various industries in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

30 this year. "Only three candidates have been

DPAP chief spokesman Salman

"The final decision will be made in the coming days by (DPAP) chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad," Nizami said. **Azad Likelv**

contested election.

Bukhari, after his party announced its openness to negotiate an electoral alliance with similar-minded parties, is reportedly in contact with Azad, who established DPAP following his

"Simultaneously, domestic demand for fish in India is on

Banihal recorded a low of 5.0°C, Batote 8.3°C and Bhaderwah 4.6°C, he said

Zojila Highway

Point Zojila.

Despite heavy snowfall this year, the BRO and Project Vijayak managed to complete the challenging task of snow clearance, which had kept the highway closed since February.

Key areas such as Sonamarg, Zojila Pass, Zero Point, Gumri, Matayan, Drass, and Meenmarg experienced significant snow accumulation, posing obstacles to reopening the route.

A BRO official while talking to the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO), highlighted the daily challenges faced by the snow clearance team, particularly in the stretch from Zojila to Matayan Drass, known for its heavy avalanche risk. However, through perseverance and dedication, both entities successfully reached Zero Point, a critical milestone in the reopening process.

Dr. Jaffer, Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Kargil, personally inspected the progress of snow clearance at Zojila Pass and commended the efforts of the BRO team and Project Vijayak.

He expressed confidence that the pass would be fully connected within the next two days, signaling relief for travelers and residents alike.

Increase Utilization

Hindus, Muslims

He said the Hindu population in Pakistan reduced from 23 per cent at the time of the Partition to two per cent now, in Bangladesh, the number of Hindus decreased from 22 per cent to 10 per cent and in Afghanistan the number of Sikhs reduced from two lakh to just 378.

"We fulfilled the promise made by the Congress leaders," he said.

Asked about the exclusion of Muslims from the purview of CAA, which will provide citizenship to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Christian and Parsi refugees from the three countries, the home minister said all three nations are declared Islamic state and Muslims cannot face persecution there.

"No one will lose citizenship because of CAA. I would ask Muslim brothers and sisters not to listen to the opposition. The opposition is merely doing politics with you again," he said. Asked about National Register of

Citizens (NRC), he said he would talk about it after the elections.

On Rahul Gandhi's often-repeated statement of OBC welfare, Shah said the prime minister himself is an OBC. but Rahul Gandhi cannot see it.

"There are 27 OBC ministers in the Union cabinet, but they can't see it. Rahul Gandhi does not know what he is saving." Shah said.

On West Bengal, the home minister said the BJP will win more than 25 seats out of the 42.

He accused the Mamata Banerjeeled government of indulging in appeasement politics in West Bengal.

"When a state is run based on appeasement and vote-bank politics, neither law and order can be maintained nor development can happen. State-sponsored infiltration is being done for the vote bank," he claimed.

JKAP, DPAP Hint

try to give a shape to the alliance for the benefit of the people of J-K.

"We will invite all the like-minded parties and contest the elections together. This is just a start. We expect few people will approach us and we will also approach people. The party has empowered the president to take the discussions forward. I think, it will meeting held on Tuesday, the leaders engaged in extensive deliberations, analyzing feedback from both political and parliamentary spheres. The focus was on assessing the prevailing political scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and devising an effective election strategy.

The two parties might contest all five Lok Sabha seats together in case the alliance talks mature, sources said.

If reports are to be believed. Altaf Bukhari is likely to contest Lok Sabha Polls from Srinagar constituency, while Usman Majid, Vice President Jammu Kashmir Apni Party is likely to contest from Baramulla.

Notably, the recent delimitation has redrawn the Anantnag constituency with which Jammu division's Poonch district and parts of the Rajouri have been merged. The Anantnag constituency will go to polls in the third phase on 7 May, but no political party has yet announced its candidate for the seat.

PDP chief Sources said that Mehbooba Mufti is interested in contesting from Anantnag constituency and BJP is also making significant efforts to make inroads in the constituency after the government recently granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and 10% reservation in jobs to the Pahari community of Rajouri and Poonch who are in the voters list in considerable numbers.

Azad has already announced his trusted lieutenant GM Saroori as the DPAP candidate in Udhampur against Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Omar Questions

the assembly polls in J-K, but the Union territory administration did not want to have elections as they did not want to leave power.

"It was an opportunity to conduct the elections. But they (administration) do not want it...they have become uncrowned kings. They have all the power which they do not want to leave. But thank God for the Supreme Court order that the elections have to be conducted before September 30," he added.

The Supreme Court in December last year, while pronouncing its judgement after hearing a batch of petitions watermelons.

She said that the test results that came today have shown that watermelons are safe for consumption.

"Nothing adverse has come in the test reports and we appeal to the people not to pay heed to rumours." Ialal said, adding that watermelon is not a seasonal fruit.

About action against those who have spread the rumors, Jalal said the matter has been taken up with the higher ups.

The fruit dealers said the sales have now gone normal after the government cleared the air regarding the controversy. "We are highly thankful to the government which came up with valid test reports and urged people to consume the fruit," said Ali Muĥammad Khan, a fruit seller.

Watermelon is the most consumed fruit in Kashmir during the holy month of Ramazan. Every year watermelons worth crores of rupees are being consumed in Kashmir during Ramazan.

16 Students Studying

step out of my free will and consent," the note read.

Mental health experts believe that various challenges faced by Kashmiri students studying outside J&K, including personal setbacks, can contribute to feelings of isolation and depression,

can stem from various causes, unfortunately impacting students as well," an assistant professor at Government Psychiatric Hospital Srinagar told Kashmir Observer. "Academic pressure and a family history of depression are known risk factors," he added.

According to him, excessive levels of academic stress can lead to an increased prevalence of psychological disorders like major depression, anxiety, nervousness, which can negatively impact academic performance of a student.

"More stress and suicidal thoughts are often reported by accomplished students than the average students. There are many different contexts in which these issues might arise, including high parental expectations,

Additionally, financial stress can be a major burden on students, especially those far from home.

Backdrop Appointee

examining the records pertaining to the case.

Precisely, the government said that Arif managed his engagement and continuance in connivance with then Executive Officer who also facilitated drawal of Arif's salary and because of the same, the Government decided to retire the then Executive Officer MC Baramulla prematurely. It is also averred that Arif's engagement was initially on consolidated wages and he continued to work on an extension basis. @The petitioner (Arif) was, in fact, a backdoor appointee and he was engaged just on the recommendation of then Minister, which has resulted into denial of opportunity of participation in selection process for engagement to the other eligible candidates,@ the government said, adding, "Once the officer who engaged the petitioner (Arif) was not having competence to engage (him), the petitioner (Arif) cannot claim any right to continue at the post.

After hearing both the sides, a bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal upheld the government decision to disengage

"There is substance in the submissions made by learned counsel for the respondents (government) that the engagement of the petitioner (Arif) even on consolidated basis has resulted into denial of opportunity of participation in the selection process to other eligible candidates," the court said, adding, "There is not even an iota of doubt that the petitioner (Arif) has been engaged just on the recommendations of then Minister without any selection process."

Otherwise also, the court said, it is settled law that once the initial engagement of a candidate is not by the competent authority, his services cannot be regularized.

"Once this Court has come to the

Drug Peddler's

68-F (1) of the NDPS Act of 1985 & is linked with case FIR No. 166/2015 U/S 8/15 of the NDPS Act & 77/2022 U/S 8/15 of the NDPS Act of PS Kulgam," the official said.

He said during the course of investigation, the property was identified as illegally acquired.

"The property was prima facie acquired from illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances by the drug peddler," he added.

2 Held for

persons for their involvement in online fraud.

They were arrested by a team led by Billawar Station House Officer Inspector Jatinder Singh, the spokesman said

Duo Held With

Bijbehara, the official further said that a case vide FIR number 8/24 under section 8/15 NDPS has been registered in Police Station Pahalgam for further proceedings.

PDD Suspends

Assistant Engineers (AE's) and five Junior Engineers

Prasad in different suspension orders of the employees of KPDCL and JPDCL said that the disciplinary proceedings under rule-33 of the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956 are contemplated against them.

Accordingly, the Principal Secretary therefore placed all the 12 employees under suspension with immediate effect.

"The suspended officers shall remain attached with the concerned Executive Engineers till further orders," it reads

increasing the risk of suicide. "Suicidal thoughts and behaviors

STATE

LG emphasizes collaboration to boost J&K education

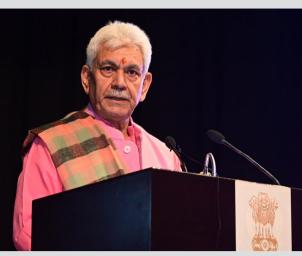
KO NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday addressed the inaugural ceremony of 'Goonj-2024' a multigenre mega festival hosted by University of Jammu.

Goonj-2024 has been curated to celebrate vibrant and diverse culture, offers educational institutions to highlight their strengths, promote collaboration and contribute to strengthen the educational landscape in J&K UT.

The Lt Governor congratulated the entire team of University of Jammu for providing a unique platform to the students to express their creativity, showcase their talents and engage in a dynamic learning environment.

He called upon the Universities and the educational institutions to replicate the important initiatives of University of Jammu, such as Design Your Degree, College on Wheels and Goonj program which have become the me-



dium of lifelong learning, new ate young minds, who will change the world," the Lt Govdiscovery, and a powerful instrument to ignite creativity ernor said.

He said the University "In the 21st Century, ideas campus should be known for will be the new wealth of the collaboration and inspiring nations. The role of a Univercreativity for change maksity and College Campus will ers. In order to make it work expand further. They will efficiently for the benefit of no longer be seen as an acasociety, we must focus on reldemic institution. They will evant subjects, research and innovation to contribute to be known as the base to cre-

are not receiving deworm-

ing treatment, which

prevalence

anaemia.

months

contributes to the

According to

NFHS-5 data,

approximately

three-fourths

(73%) of chil-

dren aged 6-59

anaemic in In-

dia. This includes

25% with mild anae-

mia, 44% with mod-

erate anaemia, and 4% with

of

are

the transformation of villages and towns, he added.

At the inaugural ceremony, the Lt Governor impressed upon the teaching community to reinvent classroom learning and mentor the students to unleash their true potential.

To make educational institutions relevant in the future, teachers should ignite the creativity within the students and make their consciousness pure, simple, easy and independent, the Lt Governor said. 'Education should help the students to develop the consciousness full of courage and

it should be future-oriented. The education should inspire the students on adventurous exploration and passion for generating new ideas, new research and innovations," he added.

The Lt Governor further emphasized on implementing National Education Policy 2020 in letter and spirit and to connect the young generation with India's rich culture and

ancient knowledge systems. The Lt Governor visited the photo exhibition of College on Wheels and stalls put up by various educational institutions and departments.

He said the 'College on Wheels' initiative helps students to uncover their unique and unmatched personality and achieve the potential that they can be. He further observed that the initiative provides a lifetime opportunity to students to learn through experience, focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and creativity. The Lt Governor also re-

leased a souvenir of the Fest and publications related to the College on Wheels initiative and project report of the University of Jammu. A documentary about 'College on was showcased on Wheels' the occasion.

Earlier, the Lt Governor took salute at an impressive march past by the contingent of students and also paid tributes to General Zorawar Singh.

Sonam Wangchuk Plans Ladakh Border March

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Wednesday | 20-03-2024



Agencies

LEH: On hunger strike for the past two weeks in support of statehood and constitutional safeguards under sixth schedule for the Union Territory of Ladakh, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Tuesday said they are planning a border march soon to highlight the "ground reality" to the outside world. Wangchuk, a renowned edu-

cation reformist, has been on climate fast' here since March 6, a day after talks between the joint representatives of Leh-based Apex body and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) heading an agitation in support of fourpoint demands and the Central government hit a deadlock. On the beginning of day 14

of his climate fast', Wangchuk took to X and said that 250 people slept hungry in minus 12 degrees Celsius to safeguard Ladakh's land, environment and tribal indigenous culture.

"Our nomads are losing prime pasture land to huge Indian industrial plants to the south & Chinese encroachment to the north. To show the ground reality we're planning a Border March of 10,000 Ladakhi shepherds & farmers soon," he announced.

The KDA has called a half-day general strike and a rally in Kargil town on March 20 as part of the ongoing agitation.

Docs Warn Of Child Health Risks From Worms, Stress Deworming

within.

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Children who have worms often feel tired due to malnutrition and anemia, which can lead to impaired physical and cognitive development, doctors have warned.

In discussions with the news agency, doctors said that while worm infections are relatively easy to control, parents must remain vigilant about their children's health and behaviour. "Untreated worm infections not only hinder healthy growth but also contribute to poor nutrition, reducing a child's ability to concentrate and learn," they said.

"The treatment is simple, safe, effective, and free of charge. A single dose of deworming treatment drastically reduces the number of worms in each child," they explained.

Dr Junaid, a pediatric specialist, said that worm infec- Dr Shugufta clarified that detions can result in various worming can be administered health problems such as anae-

arrhoea. They can lead to loss of appetite, malnourishment, impaired mental and physical development, as well as tissue damage requiring corrective surgery, he said. Similarly, Dr Shugufta

proves a child's immunity, protecting them from chronic illnesses bу caused worms. "It hances con-

said that deworming im-

encentration

severe anaemia. The overall prevalence of anaemia in chiland attendance in school. increases nutrient uptake, dren has increased from 43% in NFHS-4 to 73% in NFHS-5, and controls infections like anaemia and loose bowels. It affecting both girls and boys also improves work potential equally. and livelihood opportunities Children born to mothers with anaemia are more likely while reducing worm infec-

tion in the community," he to be anaemic themselves. regardless of their mothers' Addressing misconceptions, educational background. In Jammu & Kashmir, threefourths (74%) of children are in any season at regular interanaemic, even if their moth-

General Manager Reviews Northern Railway Performance

KO NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway, held a review meeting with departmental heads of Northern Railway and DRMs. According to a statement, deliberations were held on keeping focus on passenger amenities at stations for the upcoming Holi festival.

"In this review meeting, he emphasized on convenient movement of railway passengers at stations and proper management of other facilities for passengers, clearance of additional rush of passengers during the upcoming Holi festival," the statement reads.

GM, as per the statement, also reviews the arrangement of cleanliness, proper supply of drinking water at platforms. He emphasized the timely completion of work related to the provision of 2nd entry, foot over bridges, provisions of Escalators, lift facilities and other passenger amenities.

nerformance Apart from



ployees for their contribution towards maintaining high standards for safety and security of passengers and railway property. He presented awards to the staff deputed in operation/RPF for outstanding work in maintaining

He also reiterates that safety is the prime concern over Northern Railway. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks.

He instructed the divisions to intensify the drives to enhance the safety on tracks for safely running of trains and counsel the staff whenever necessary and required. He said the monitor-

Budgam Village In Panic After Twin Leopard Attacks

Agencies

BUDGAM: Panic has gripped the entire Samsan village in Central Kashmir's Budgam district after two recent leopard attack incidents have occurred in the vicinity within a week. The locals however, while

istration to capture the leopard and ensure their safety. The first attack occurred

in the same village. BO wildlife department Budgam said that the department has been active in the village since the first incident, intensifying search operations and increasing manpower to catch

the leopard. "The efforts are

KO NEWS SERVICE

hiding spots for the leopard, but we are vigilant," he said.

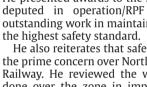
Officials have advised residents to stay indoors, especially during morning and evening hours, to avoid further attacks until the leopard is captured.

The rise in human-animal conflicts has heightened fear among the villagers, prompting urgent appeals for action from the admin-

istration. "The recent leopard attacks have left us trembling with fear. We can't even step out of our homes without worrv-

ing about the safety of our children. It's a nightmare that we never imagined facing in our own village.' said Javed, a resident of Samsan village, whose son was injured

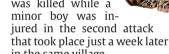
in the attack. "We demand immediate action from the authorities to catch this leopard before it claims more innocent lives Mehmooda, another concerned villager said—(KNO)



ing of signals, rail fractures and rail welds should be done extensively and no error should be left.

talking to the news agency urged the admin-

last Monday in which a minor girl was killed while a



mia, abdominal distention, se- vals. However, she expressed vere abdominal pain, and di-

concern that many children

ers have 12 or more years of schooling–(KNO)

view the GM also presented Safety Awards to 4 vigilant em-

the leopard. The dense bushes and Karewas in the area provide

DEO Anantnag Holds Election Related Meetings With Political Parties & Media

said.



KO NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: The District Election Officer (DEO) Anantnag, SF. Hamid on Tuesday convened meetings with representatives from various political parties and members of the media.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police Anantnag, ADC Anantnag, Deputy DEO and DIO.

The primary objective of these meetings was to provide training and guidance to stakeholders on the principles outlined in the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The DEO emphasized the paramount importance of strict adherence to the MCC by

all individuals involved in the electoral process. Political parties were urged to demonstrate unwavering commitment to ethical campaigning practices, avoiding any actions that could potentially compromise the integrity of the electoral system. Recognizing the pivotal role of the media in ensuring free and

fair elections, SF. Hamid said that fair and unbiased reporting, free from partisan influence is essential to preventing the menace of fake news and also in ensuring accurate information reaches the electorate. He also announced the establishment of the Media Centre and the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees in Anantnag.

Man Crushed To Death By Train In Samba

Agencies

SAMBA: A 39-year-old man died after being run over by a goods train in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

It is yet to be ascertained if the victim committed suicide or was hit by the goods trains while crossing the railway tracks, they said.

The deceased has been identified as Dalbir Singh, a resident of Chandli Sumb village, based on an identity card found on him, the police said.

Singh's body was found by a patrolling party of the Government Railway Police near Nanak Chak around 6.30 am, they said. The body has been sent for post mortem and a case has been registered, they added.

Police Recovers Rs 1 Crore Misappropriated Funds In Jammu

to the effect that the accused

R/O Shant Nagar Janipur Jammu

,then working as Accountant of

Jamkash Vehicleads had com-

& cheating by transferring huge

funds of Jamkash Vehicleads

same amount for online betting.

Accused Sheraz Mir was arrest-

ed, about 22 lakh misappropri-

ated amount was recovered

and a preliminary charge sheet

law for judicial determination.

Agencies

IAMMU: Crime Branch, EOW, Jammu has achieved a major success by recovering huge misappropriated funds amounting to rupees 1.10 crore from an ex-employee of Jamkash Vehicleades Pvt. Ltd.

SSP Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh deputed a team of highly professional officers of Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu to Indore & Delhi and after all out efforts during in-depth investigation, the team succeeded in recovering rupees one crore ten lacs embezzled funds.

On 19th of July 2022, a case FIR No. 118/2022 u/s 420,406, 408,109 IPC was registered at Police Station Channi Himmat Jammu on the written Complaint of Executive Director

BSF Special DG Reviews Operational Preparedness In Kupwara Agencies

SRINAGAR: Border Security Force (BSF) Spe-

cial Director General Y B Khurania reviewed the operational preparedness of the personnel deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, the force said on Tuesday.

"Y B Khurania IPS, Special Director General, SDG HQ BSF (Western Command), visited forward areas of #Kupwara to review the operational preparedness of #LoC deployed Units," BSF Kashmir said in a post on X.

The BSF said the special director general interacted with the troops and applauded them for their unwavering performance in challenging situations.

Jamkash Vehicleads Pvt. Ltd. for in-depth investigation and accordingly CB started thor-Sheraz Mir S/O Mohd.Bashir ough probe. Recently, investigation of the case was speeded up and thus the team of Crime Branch, EOW, Jammu thoroughly analyzed the suspected mitted criminal breach of trust bank accounts of the accused. Soon after further clues were amount of Rs. 1.32 crores in his struck, CB team conducted own bank accounts from the raids at several premises in Pvt.Ltd and further invested the Indore & Delhi and succeeded in recovering the entire remaining misappropriated amount to the tune of rupees 1,10,00,000.00 which is a major breakthrough With this huge recov

against the accused was filed by Jammu Police in the court of ery made by Crime Branch Jammu, entire misappropri-On 13th July, 2023, PHQ J&K ated amount of Jamkash Vehivide Order No. 2080 of 2023, cleades Pvt Ltd has been recovtransferred the instant case to ered and further investigation Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu is underway.(KNS)

GANDERBAL: The district-level NARCO Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting was held on Tuesday at the meeting hall of Dak Bungalow Ganderbal under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyambir. The meeting held a detailed discussion on the efforts of enforcement agencies in com-

bating drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district. A detailed discussion on previous directives to address the drug problem was also held.

Concerned departments and agencies shared the steps they have taken to make Ganderbal drug-free, including addressing

drug addiction and identifying hotspots of drug use.

The DC directed the Education Department to frame a calendar of activities for Nasha Mukt once ongoing examinations conclude and ensure compliance with COTPA guidelines, particularly regarding the prohibition of tobacco items near schools.

He emphasized the sustainability of Nasha Mukt status in announcing Panchayats and underscored the involvement of Civil Society members in ongoing activities. Additionally, all stakeholder departments were tasked with monitoring new drug addiction cases in Nasha Mukt Panchayats and submitting action reports.

Education Deptt Demotes Teachers with Fake Degrees

DC Ganderbal Discusses Efforts

In Combating Drug Abuse

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir has demoted two teachers. Anita Sharma and Raman Chanval, who secured promotions using fraudulent postgraduate degrees, reverting them back to teaching roles.

Reports inform news agency, that an investigation revealed that both teachers had obtained postgraduate degrees in Chemistry from Magadh University in 2003, despite the university not offering such a course at the time. As a result, Anita Sharma, currently serving as the Principal of Higher Secondary School in Sarna, Samba, and Raman Chanyal, Principal of Higher Secondary School in Machhedi, Kathua, have been directed to resume their duties as teachers.

The disciplinary action comes after it was discovered that Sharma and Chanyal had advanced in their careers based on falsified academic credentials. Sharma was promoted to the position of in-charge lecturer in 2004 following which she was posted at Government Higher Secondary School in Mansar. However, her failure to provide original qualification documents led to the suspension of her allowances between 2004 and 2006.

Official reports divulged that the School Education Department issued an order on March 5, instructing the Chief Education Officers of Samba and Kathua districts to reassign Sharma and Chanval to teaching roles. Both teachers have been directed to report to the office of the Chief Education Officer in their respective districts-(KNO)

Two Persons Held Under PSA In Poonch Agencies

JAMMU,: Two people, allegedly involved in sev-

Talib Hussain and Sharaz Ahmad Mir were arrested on Monday. They have been charged under the Public Safety Act (PSA) that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

"They have a history of involvement in theft, snatching, smuggling of illicit liquor, and influencing youth negatively, posing a significant threat to public safety. Hussain is implicated in seven criminal cases in Poonch, while Mir is linked to seven separate criminal cases in Poonch and Rajouri districts," a police spokesperson said.

eral criminal cases, have been arrested as part of the administration's effort to maintain law and order, police said here on Tuesday.

SPORTS Australia Call Off T20 Series Against Afghanistan Over Women's Rights

Agencies

MELBOURNE: Australia has called off a T20 series against Afghanistan citing a deteriorating human rights situation for women and girls in the Talibanruled country, Cricket Australia (CA) said on Tuesday. Australia withdrew from a one-day series scheduled for March last year in the United Arab Emirates after the Taliban imposed strict restrictions on Afghan women, including banning them from attending universities.

The teams were scheduled to play three T20 matches in the UAE in August this year but CA said that after consultations with the Australian government, it had decided to call off the series. "The government's advice is that conditions for women and girls in Afghanistan are getting worse," the cricket board said in a statement.

"For this reason, we have



maintained our previous position and will postpone the bilateral series against Afghanistan." Afghanistan Cricket The Board was not immediately available to comment. CA added that it would en-

gage with its Afghan counterpart as well as the International Cricket Council to "... determine what actions could be taken to support the resumption of bilateral matches in the future".

Afghanistan's women's team

was disbanded and several members fled the country after the country's Taliban takeover in 2021

Australia also cancelled a one-off test against Afghanistan in Hobart the same year.

flamboyant former India crick-

the T20 World Cup squad of not

just India but also other coun-

tries. After a decade-long stint

in the unforgiving world of politics, Sidhu and his 'Sidhuisms'

will be back on air starting with

the IPL, which precedes the T20

the World Cup. There is no oth-

er cricket happening. The eyes of the world are on IPL. This is

where you can snatch a berth

for the T20 World Cup, not only

Indians, even the foreign play-

ers," Sidhu told PTI in an inter-

"The IPL will set the tone for

World Cup in June.

PERTH TO HOST INDIA'S FIRST TEST AGAINST AUSTRALIA IN **NOVEMBER: REPORT**

Perth is set to host the opening Test of the five-match series during the much-anticipated India's tour of Australia later this year.

According to a report in 'Syd-ney Morning Herald', Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney have also been picked as the venues for the blockbuster series.

"Adelaide will host the second Test and Brisbane the third, with the Boxing Day and New Year's Tests keeping their traditional time slots in Melbourne and Sydney," the report said. The Adelaide Test will be a

day-night affair. Cricket Australia is yet to come out with its schedule for the next season but a final announcement is expected by the

end of this month. The series is likely to start in

late November this year.

IPL To Introduce Smart Replay System To Bolster Decision Making

Eye operators so that the view-

ers have clear understanding

The system will be able to

of the thought process.

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: A Smart Replay System will be introduced in the upcoming IPL to bolster speed and accuracy in decision making. The TV umpire will get inputs directly from two operators of the Hawk-Eye system who will sit in the same room as him and help with images captured from eight hi-speed cameras placed across the ground, a report in ESPNCricinfo stated.

Under the new system, the role of the TV broadcast director becomes redundant who serves as a 'conduit' between the umpire and the Hawk-Eye operators. The new system will enable the TV umpire to analyse more visuals than before



including split-screen images, those catches which are taken and will also broadcast live his inches off the turf. interactions with the Hawk-

The BCCI has recently conducted a two-day workshop here for select umpires as about 15 of them, comprising both Indian and overseas umpires, would work with the

help the umpire with more and clear visuals from differ-Smart Replay System in this ent angles when it comes to IPL. A similar referral system was trialled by the England judging catches near boundand Wales Cricket Board in ary ropes, caught behind, leg-before, stumping or even The Hundred competition.



view facilitated by the IPL's official TV broadcaster 'Star Sports'.

In the early years of the IPL, Sidhu provided the X factor to the commentary box and the stupendous success behind the mic made him a prominent face in the entertainment world where he was paid handsomely to appear on a comedy shows.

Short TAKES

KASHMIR OBSERVER® Srinagar | Wednesday | 20-03-2024

Want To Know How It Feels To Win IPL: Virat Kohli

C tar batter Virat Kohli on Tuesday hoped to emulate the Royal Challengers Bengaluru women's WPL winning feat and add the IPL trophy to the team's cabinet in the upcoming edition of the league, starting from March 22.

'That's a dream of mine to know what it feels like winning an IPL trophy. I will be here, be a part of the team that wins the trophy for the first time," said the former captain of RCB.

SKY To Miss Mumbai Indians' Season Opener In IPL 2024

Star batter Suryakumar Yadav is certain to miss Mumbai Indians' IPL opener against Gujarat Titans on March 24 as he is yet to get fitness clearance from the National Cricket Academy (NCA).

The world No 1 T20 batter Suryakumar has been stationed at the NCA in Bengaluru for his recovery and rehabilitation following a surgery for sports hernia.

Suryakumar had a fitness test at the NCA on Tuesday but PTI understands that the 33-year-old needs "further assessment".

Hasaranga Suspended By ICC, To Miss Test Series v Bangladesh

All-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga could be available for initial few games for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Indian Premier League after he was suspended from the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh by the ICC, despite coming out of retirement on Tuesday.

The ICC informed that the 26-year-old has 'breached the threshold of eight demerit points, which, pursuant to article 7.6 of the Code, have been converted into four suspension points' in his latest offence during the third ODI.

Messi Out Of Argentina Friendlies In The US Due To **Muscle Injury**



ionel Messi will not play in Argentina's two friendlies in the United States this month due to a right leg muscle injury, the Argentine Football Association said on Monday. The captain was injured last week while playing for his Inter Miami club in the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

The 36-year-old Messi will miss Argentina vs. El Salvador on Friday in Philadelphia and a friendly against Costa Rica four days later in Los Angeles, AFA said in a statement.

Not Even Thinking About CT Going Out Of Pakistan: PCB Chief

Press Trust of India

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board chief Mohsin Naqvi says he is not even considering the possibility of next year's Cham-



Rawalpindi, which would host the most Champions Trophy matches, would undergo renovation.

"Even as I speak plans have **PCB SET TO ANNOUNCE** been drawn up and work will begin soon on these three stadiums

here and the rest in Sri Lanka after the Indian team refused to travel.

REVAMPED SELECTION COMMITTEE

Box After Decade This IPL Press Trust of India NEW DELHI: Set to be back in the commentary box after a decade with the upcoming IPL,

Sidhu Back In Commentary

pions Trophy being moved out of his country despite the neverending speculation surrounding India's participation in the event. Addressing a media conference here on Monday night during the Pakistan Super League final, Naqvi confirmed that he held talks with BCCI secretary Jay Shah on the sidelines of the ICC meetings last week in Dubai.

"Yes we spoke for a while and it was cordial but it would be unwise to divulge details of what was discussed," he said.

Asked if India's reluctance to travel to Pakistan would cause the tournament to be shifted out of Pakistan, Naqvi said, "I am not even thinking on those lines we are confident we will host the Champions Trophy on schedule in Pakistan.

His comments come after an

ICC board member told PTI recently that it will not ask India

to defy any government policy that bars travel to Pakistan. Nagvi added that the PCB was also prepared to deal with any situation as the event came closer. He outlined that three sta-

diums in Karachi, Lahore and

to give the fans the best experience of watching the matches at

the venues," he added. India have not engaged in bilateral cricket with Pakistan since the November 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, in which over 150 people were killed. The last time an Indian cricket team travelled to Pakistan was the Asia Cup in June-July of 2008.

Last year's Asia Cup, which was to be held in Pakistan, was ultimately conducted in a hybrid manner with just four games held

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Mohsin Naqvi has decided to revamp the national selection committee to give it more independence and authority to appoint the captain and team.

"I don't want to get involved in appointing the captain, team and all that. I will be revamping the national selection committee and will give it more authority and independence to take cricket related decisions," PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi said on Monday during a press conference here.

Man United Teenager Kobbie Mainoo Gets First England Call-Up

Anchester United teenager Kobbie Mainoo's swift rise to prominence could yet see the midfielder play for England in high-profile friendlies against Brazil and Belgium in the coming days.

The 18-year-old Mainoo received his first call-up by England on Tuesday, his latest step in a breakthrough season that could yet end with a place in his country's squad for the European Championship in Germany across June and July.

An Independent Regulator Will Oversee English Soccer. Here's What Its Powers Will Be

Agencies

LONDON: Legislation to establish an independent regulator in English soccer will be introduced on Tuesday in an effort to ensure the financial sustainability of clubs and stop teams from joining breakaway competitions like the European Super League.

The Football Governance Bill, which will underpin the creation of a new regulator which will license clubs in the top five tiers of the English game, was described by British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak as a "historic moment for football fans."

The British government is acting on a recommendation from a fan-led review carried out in the wake of the collapse of two lower-league clubs - Bury and Macclesfield - because of financial mismanagement. It also comes in response to the failed attempts of 12 of Europe's elite clubs, including six from England's Premier League, to set up a European Super League in 2021.

The English clubs quickly shelved the idea after a backlash from fans and the government.

The government said the regulator will be a standalone body - independent of the government and soccer's



authorities – that is "equipped with robust powers revolving around three core objectives: To improve financial sustainability of clubs, ensure financial resilience across the leagues, and to safeguard the heritage of English football.

Under the bill, new owners and directors will face more stringent tests to stop clubs falling into the wrong hands, and face the possibility of being removed from owning clubs if they are found to be unsuitable.

Clubs from the Premier League down to the fifth-tier National League will, for the first time, need a license to compete in elite competitions. That license will require all clubs to meet certain mandatory conditions, such as basic requirements on fan engagement, corporate governance and financial reporting.

Clubs will be required to consult their fans on key off-field decisions, such as club heritage and the club's strategic direction. There will be protection against breakaway competitions and stadium relocations.

The regulator also will have the power to settle an ongoing row over financial distribution between the Premier League and the English Football League – the three divisions below the top-flight. "Backstop powers," as the government has called them, will be confirmed when the bill is introduced to Parliament on Tuesday.

"Football is nothing without its fans," Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer said. "We are determined to put them back at the heart of the game, and ensure clubs as vital community assets continue to thrive.

"The new independent regulator of football will set the game on a sustainable footing, strengthening clubs and the entire football pyramid for generations."

Facing a possible reduction of its powers, the Premier League – the most-watched and most lucrative domestic league in the world – said it will study the bill and work closely with the government, having previously voiced concerns about how a regulator could potentially damage the league's ability to attract investment

"Mindful that the future growth of the Premier League is not guaranteed," the competition said on Monday, "we remain concerned about any unintended consequences of legislation that could weaken the competitiveness and appeal of English football."