

Floods, Water Woes On The Horizon?

122 Glaciers Shrinking In Pir Panjal: Report



Agencies

Srinagar: Over 100 glaciers are shrinking in the Pir Panjal, a study on the damage caused by climate change has revealed. The report has raised concerns about potential glacial lake outburst floods.

Researchers have identified 122 glaciers in the Pir Panjal range, whose size has drastically decreased since 1980. Glaciers covering an area of approximately 25.7 square kilometers have diminished to just 15.9 square kilometers.

This revelation comes from a study conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Technology, Srinagar, led by Mohammad Ashraf Ganai

and Syed Qaiser Bukhari. The findings have been published in the International Journal of Hydrology Science and Technology.

The researchers analyzed data spanning four decades, from 1980 to 2020, focusing on the glaciers within the Pir Panjal range of the Kashmir Basin in India.

Glaciers facing south have experienced more significant melting compared to those facing north. Additionally, glaciers situated at an average altitude of 3,800-4,000 meters above sea level have exhibited more pronounced melting than those at lower elevations.

The decline in glaciers poses a threat of **| More on P6**

Ensure Adequate Power During Summer: LG To Officials

Chairs Review Meeting Of Power Development Department

KO Web Desk

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a review meeting of the Power Development Department. Various matters pertaining to power supply during the upcoming summer months and progress of key projects and schemes were discussed in the meeting.

The LG discussed the power situation and reviewed the progress of key power projects. He took stock of the measures taken to curb AT&C losses, capacity additions,



and the progress registered on smart meter installation.

Addressing concerns over power theft, the LG stressed upon the need **| More on P6**

No One Has Guts To Throw A Stone In Kashmir: Shah

KO Web Desk

Rajasthan: Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday evening took potshots at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for predicting turmoil in Jammu and Kashmir over the removal of Article 370, saying no one has the guts to throw stones in the union territory now.

He took the jibe at a roadshow in Rajasthan's Udaipur.

Amit Shah said Mufti and 'Rahul Baba' used to predict bloodbath in Jammu and Kashmir if the special status was removed.

"In Kashmir, (Peoples Democratic Party chief) Mehbooba Mufti and (Congress leader) Rahul Baba (Gandhi) used to say there would be bloodbath



here once Article 370 is removed...Rahul Baba, five years have passed (since the abrogation of Article 370). This is the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Leave alone the talk of the bloodbath, no one has the guts to throw a stone there," Amit Shah said, per ANI. **| More on P6**

SPECIAL LOK ADALATS IN J&K

217 Cases Of MACT, Bank Recovery Resolved

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: As many as 217 cases of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and bank recovery were resolved by the Special Lok Adalats in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, an official said.

The Special Lok Adalat was organised throughout the Union Territory with special emphasis on amicable settlement of MACT and bank recovery cases that were pending disposal before

various courts, said Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, A K Gupta.

As per the data received from various district legal services authorities, he said that a total of 667 cases were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 217 cases were amicably settled involving a total amount of over Rs 6.83 crore giving a huge relief to the litigants.

Ganderbal district emerged as the front runner **| More on P6**



SRINAGAR BOAT TRAGEDY

KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Day 5- No Breakthrough In Finding Bodies Of Missing Trio

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Desperation grows with each passing day for the families of three people missing in the Jhelum river following a boat capsizing incident at Gandbal area of Batwara. Despite a relentless search effort spanning five days, no trace of Showkat Ahmad, his son Hazik Showkat, and Farhan Parray has been found.

The tragic incident occurred on April 16, resulting in the deaths of six individuals and

leaving three locals missing.

"We've been searching relentlessly for the past five days, but unfortunately, there haven't been any signs of the missing trio," said ASI Abdul Rashid of the SDRF. "The search area has been expanded, including the vicinity of Chattabal Veer due to the possibility of bodies surfacing there."

The initial search yielded four school bags recovered near Chattabal Veer, with two more retrieved later by SDRF personnel. However, no

bodies have been located.

The families of the missing trio grapple with a mixture of grief and hope. "It's incredibly difficult," said a close relative of Showkat Ahmad.

"It's like the world has stopped, and with each passing day the hope seems to be slipping away."

"All we want is to give them a proper burial," he said. Meanwhile, people, including religious clerics, have been visiting the bereaved families to offer condolences and pray

for the safe recovery of the missing persons.

Meanwhile in-view of inclement weather and intermittent rains, Srinagar administration on Thursday issued an advisory to the people, especially those living along the banks of river Jhelum and in Dal Lake.

The administration has advised people to refrain from venturing near water bodies while also limiting their activities until the weather improves.

Tourists, boatmen, sand miners, and **| More on P6**

LOK SABHA POLLS 2024

BJP Supporting 'Patriotic' Parties In Kashmir: Raina

Defends Its Decision Not To Field Candidates From 3 LS Seats

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Facing criticism for not putting up candidates on the three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir valley, Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Saturday said sometimes "decisions are made to achieve a big goal" and the BJP is supporting "patriotic" parties.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina said the party is finalising its strategy under the leadership of national president J P Nadda on the three seats of Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar and Baramulla on providing support to the contesting candidates as he requested people to reject the Congress, National Conference and PDP for the larger interest of the region.

Raina said this while addressing a press conference before chairing a high-level



meeting at party office here, which was attended by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, national general secretary, incharge J&K, Tarun Chugh and others.

"We were desirous of fighting the elections from all the three Lok Sabha seats in Kashmir on our own strength. But sometimes different decisions are made to achieve a big goal, setting aside personal interests. We are supporting those parties who are patriotic, working for betterment of

Kashmir, strengthening peace and brotherhood and eager to serve the society," Raina said.

Without identifying any such candidate or the party, he said they will soon meet Nadda and other central leaders to discuss the strategy and will reveal the names so that the BJP workers and supporters can vote for them.

"We will work in accordance with the roadmap with full force and the candidates having support of the BJP will definitely win the elections as our party has a strong support base and organisational structure and network in every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Raina said Union Home Minister Amit Shah, addressing an election rally in Jammu on April 16, had asked the people in Kashmir to reject the Congress, National Conference and PDP, who **| More on P6**

LS Polls About Saving J&K's Resources: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

Anantnag- The Lok Sabha elections are not about addressing the day-to-day development issues but safeguarding the identity of Jammu and Kashmir and saving its resources, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said on Saturday.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, who is contesting the general elections from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, took part in a roadshow in the Pahalgam area of south Kashmir as part of her campaign.

"This election is not about



building roads or water and electricity supply. This election is about safeguarding the identity of Jammu and Kashmir, its youngsters and their dignity, and saving Jammu and Kashmir's resources," the People's **| More on P6**

'Consider Lok Sabha Polls As Referendum'

The PDP's Srinagar candidate on Saturday appealed to Kashmir's youngsters to consider the general elections as a "referendum" to send to New Delhi a message about their "dissatisfaction" with the Centre's decisions post August 2019. Waheed Parra, who is also the youth wing chief of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), said there is a need to send a message "that you (New Delhi) should not accept the silence of Kashmir as its acceptance". **| More on P6**

Omar Calls Mehbooba 'Greedy'

Press Trust Of India

Pulwama: National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah on Saturday said it was "unfortunate" that his party was contesting elections in the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency against a friend who turned "greedy" for a Lok Sabha seat.

Abdullah was apparently referring to PDP president Mehbooba Mufti contesting the polls from the seat in south Kashmir. The NC has fielded its senior Gujjar leader Mian Altaf from the seat.

"The fight on the south Kashmir seat is not with the BJP, NC's contest there is unfortunately with one of our friends who was with us till some days ago. Unfortunately,



they left us for the greed of a seat. Our contest at least in south Kashmir is not with the BJP or its 'B' or 'C' teams," Abdullah said here.

He was speaking to reporters after addressing an election meeting in support of the party candidate from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi.

The NC and PDP, who are part of the **| More on P6**

Sajad Lone Seeks Apni Party's Support For LS Polls

Agencies

Srinagar: In a major political development, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Saturday sought Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari's support in North Kashmir for the upcoming parliamentary elections, emphasizing the paramount importance of consolidating votes to prevent fragmentation that has historically favored the NC.

While addressing a press conference Lone said, "It's high time we unite to represent the true will of the majority in North Kashmir. We extend our hand to the Apni Party, seeking their crucial support in Baramulla, just as we vow to back them in Srinagar to defeat the forces that have long betrayed the precious mandate of



Kashmiris," he said.

Presenting an impactful statistical analysis, Mr. Lone exposed the stark reality of NC's stranglehold on North Kashmir.

"Since 1975, with the sole exception of 1996 elections, an astonishing nine out of ten MPs from Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency have hailed from

NC," he proclaimed. Lone attributed this anomaly to the fragmentation of votes, lamenting, "While the NC's vote share has plummeted from a staggering 65% in 1982 to a mere 29% in 2019, they still emerged victorious due to the division among anti-NC votes." Citing the 2019 **| More on P6**



Health-Related Behaviours Found To Be Stable During Middle Adulthood In Study

Press Trust Of India

Health-related behaviours adopted by people are relatively stable during middle adulthood, beginning when one turns 40 years old, new research has found. Following individuals over a 19-year period, researchers observed largely positive changes, such as reduced smoking and a general precaution concerning their health.

separately in studies, but our study approach takes into account that each of us engages in multiple health behaviours simultaneously," doctoral researcher Johanna Ahola, Gerontology Research Center and Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä, Finland, said. Researchers investigated smoking and alcohol consuming habits, along with physical activity, in close to 370 individuals in Finland, and were followed up when they were 42, 50 and 51 years old. "Smoking decreased significantly

during the follow-up period, which may be related not only to age but also to the prevailing societal circumstances. "It can also be speculated that with the increased incidence of diseases in middle adulthood compared to earlier ages, general health precaution and health-related goals may become more important, leading to changes in behaviour," Ahola, corresponding author of the study published in the journal Psychology and Health, said. The team also found that sociodemo-

graphic factors like marriage and education, among others, along with personality traits played a role in deciding what health behaviours one adopted. They observed that married women, having a degree and working white-collar jobs were more likely to engage in healthier behaviours. Similarly, individuals with higher levels of conscientiousness, openness, and agreeableness, and lower levels of neuroticism and extraversion, were also more likely to adopt healthier behaviours.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: IET India Scholarship Award 2024

Description: The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is inviting applications from undergraduate engineering students to sharpen their creativity, innovation, leadership, and excellence. The scholarship aims to recognise and nurture future engineering leaders in India. Eligibility: Open for students studying in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year of a full-time regular undergraduate engineering program (in any field) at an AICTE/UGC-approved institution. The scholarship is also open for lateral entry students who join a B.Tech. program in the 2nd year. They must have cleared all regular credit courses in a single attempt. Applicants must have scored at least 60% in aggregate or an equivalent CGPA of at least six on a 10-point scale in the semesters cleared so far.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships worth INR 10,00,000
- Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IET4

Scholarship Name 2: Global Scholarship Program AIS 2024

Description: Global Scholarship Program AIS 2024 is an opportunity offered by AIS Technolabs Pvt. Ltd. to undergraduate and postgraduate students. The main objective of this scholarship programme is to provide financial support and leadership opportunities to students in their preferred subjects. Eligibility: Open for citizens of India or any country/region. Applicants must have completed secondary school/high school education. Students must have applied for an

undergraduate/postgraduate course in any subject from an accredited college/institution/university in the world. Candidates must have completed at least one term in the respective course and should not be a college dropout.

Description: Kotak Securities Limited (KSL) invites applications from students studying in Classes 9 to 12 or pursuing general/professional graduation. Eligibility: Open to PwD applicants currently studying in Classes



- Prizes & Rewards: An annual scholarship up to two years and other benefits
- Last Date to Apply: 15-05-2024
- Application mode: via email only at - sunnyca@aistechnolabs.com
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GSPA6

9 to 12 or pursuing general/professional graduation in India. Applicants must have secured at least 55% marks in their previous academic year. PAN India applicants are eligible. Annual family income of the applicants must not exceed INR 3,20,000.

- Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship up to INR 1,00,000 per year
- Last Date to Apply: 30-04-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/KSSP1

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division Anantnag

Invitation for Bids (Notice Inviting Tenders) E-NIT No 01 of 2024-25 Dated: 20/04/2024.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State, e-tenders (In Two cover system Part A Techno-commercial Bid & Part B: Price Bid) valid for a period of 90 days accompanied with earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee @ 2% of the estimated cost (as specified in para-07 of tender notice) amounting to : 6.52 Lacs pledged to superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ at Anantnag are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved civil contractors/firms of appropriate class having sufficient experience (as per CVC guidelines) as defined in the SBD for the following works:-

S.No	Name of work	Estt..Cost (Rs.in Lacs)	AAA	Costoft/ Doc.(in Rs.)	Earnest money(in Tech. Lacs)	Sanction	Time of Completion	Class of contract	M.H of Account
1	Flood protection and Anti-erosion works at Holy Amarnathji cave	335.36	Under Process	1000	Rs. 6.70 Lacs	Under Process	03 months	AAY & Above	1. (UT CAPEX) 2. (REVEX Tourism)

Position of Funds: Demanded

The complete bidding documents can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	20/04/2024 at 1800hrs
02	Date of downloading of bidding documents	22/04/2024 at 1100hrs
03	Bid submission start date	22/04/2024 at 1400 hrs
04	Bid Submission end date	08/05/2024 at 1800 hrs
05	Date & time of opening Technical Bids (online)	09/05/2024 at 1100hrs
06	Date & time of opening Financial Bids (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation

(a) Prospective Bidders outside UT of J&K:-

Bids must be accompanied with tender document fee (non-transferable /non-refundable) in the shape of demand draft drawn in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority/Bid Inviting Officer)

(b) Prospective Bidders with UT of J&K:-

Bids must be accompanied with tender document fee (non-transferable/non-refundable) in the shape of e-Challan/treasury Challan/receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority/Bid Inviting Officer) deposited in Head of Account Rev-0702

2. Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantnag/Kulgam HQ. Anantnag Payable at Anantnag. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45days beyond bid validity.

3. Furnishing of hard copies of bids immediately after submission of e-tenders is dispensed with. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial bids as per Finance Department O.M. No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt: 07-06-2018.

4. The constructional material for the work/works has to be arranged by the successful bidder as per the estimated quantity as mentioned in the BOQ. However, the material cement, steel (ISI Mark) etc. what so ever may be the part of estimate, should be of standard quality supported with test check certificate of the concerned authorities. The in-charge site engineer shall ensure the standard quality as well as the specification as specified and shall record a certificate in respect of criteria of the quality of materials, while submitting the work done claim.

5. Further details can be seen in bidding document available on website www.jktenders.gov.in

Subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum if any shall be published on above website.

8. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason.

No: FCD/Ang/24/277-94
DIPK-143/24 Dated:- 20-04-2024

Sd/- (Er. Salim Jhangir Bandy) Executive Engineer, Flood Control Division, Anantnag

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Arsalan Lone S/o Ghulam Qadir Lone R/o waniloo Hajibal Tehsil Tangmarg District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 29/05/2020 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

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار زونیم سرینگر

عنوان: درخواست از جانب جوہر اختر بیوہ از اسٹین بیڑا زونیم سرینگر

نسبت اجرائی لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ
اشہار ہیرسٹیفیکٹ
معاملہ عنوان السدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہ اس کا شوہر متوفی ہے۔ ساکنہ باغ مورخہ 27-03-2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اسے حق میں لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ اجراء فرمائی جائے۔ بروے رپورٹ پیواری حلقہ متوفی لیمہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نام	عمر	رشتہ	پیشہ
جوہر اختر	52 سال	زوجہ	گھریلو کام
فیضان احمد	25 سال	پسر	زیر تعلیم

قبل اسکے کہ درخواست سائل پر مذکورہ کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سٹیفیکٹ حد اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر بذیل پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار media line

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار زونیم سرینگر

عنوان: درخواست از جانب محمد اقبال بٹ ولد مرحوم غلام مصطفی بٹ ساکنہ باغ شوره

نسبت اجرائی لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ
اشہار ہیرسٹیفیکٹ
معاملہ عنوان السدر میں درخواست سائل ہے کہ اس کا والد متوفی مرحوم غلام مصطفی بٹ ساکنہ باغ شوره مورخہ 23-01-2021 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اس نسبت سائل خواہاں ہے کہ اسے حق میں لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ اجراء فرمائی جائے۔ بروے رپورٹ پیواری حلقہ متوفی لیمہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

نام	عمر	رشتہ	پیشہ
محمد اقبال بٹ	49 سال	سائل	سرکاری ملازم
عائشہ	58 سال	دختر	گھریلو کام
ہاجمہ	52 سال	دختر	--
گل فرورہ	39 سال	دختر	--
شہناز اختر	38 سال	دختر	--

قبل اسکے کہ درخواست سائل پر مذکورہ کاروائی عمل میں لائی جائے۔ ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص کو سٹیفیکٹ حد اجراء کرنے میں کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر دفتر بذیل پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار media line

از نیابت پٹن

عنوان:- درخواست از جانب رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ کفایت حسین انیسواکن سلطان پورہ تحصیل پٹن

لیگل ہیر بکن متوفی غلام حسن کھانڈے
اشہار ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان السدر میں ساکنہ ایک دروایت بھڑھول لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زبردستی اس بارے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ ریاست جموں و کشمیر کا بعضی باشندہ ہے ساکنہ کا شوہر کفایت حسین انیسواکن غلام حسن انیسواکن سلطان پورہ جو کہ ملازم طبقہ سے وابستہ تھا مورخہ 16-03-2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان کا جائز ذیل ہے

رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ کفایت حسین انیسواکن	40	گھریلو کام	زوجہ متوفی
مہک جان دختر کفایت حسین انیسواکن	20 سال	زیر تعلیم	--
جبران حسین انیسواکن کفایت حسین انیسواکن	16 سال	زیر تعلیم	--
سداقت علی ولد کفایت حسین انیسواکن	15 سال	زیر تعلیم	--
افرت بیگم زوجہ غلام حسن انیسواکن	72 سال	عمر رسیدہ	--
غلام حسن انیسواکن زوجہ غلام حسن انیسواکن	80	ریٹائرڈ ملازم	--

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد انیسواکن نہیں ہے۔ سٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ بعد مشورہ اخبار رسالت دن کے اندر اندر اپنے عذر یا اعتراض واداعہ کو دفتر یا اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

NOTICE FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

I have changed my name from (old name) SYED MOHSIN AGA to (New name) AGA SYED MOHSIN AL MOSVI. In future I will be known as (new Name) AGA SYED MOHSIN AL MOSVI. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. AGA SYED MOHSIN AL MOSVI R/o DARUL MUSTAFA SHARIAT ABAD BUDGAM. Cell. 9797004999. mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of general public that My Motorcycle bearing Regd no: UK07B4.8665 was stolen Opposite District Hospital Shopian. If anybody has any information regarding the said motor cycle he is requested to share information on below given address Zubair Ahmad Malik S/o Mohd Yaseen Malik R/o Sidiqabad Shahlatoo Meemandar Shopian Cell: 9797051510 FKO_r

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Damiq Bhat S/o Mohammad Ishaq Bhat R/o Palpora Pattan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 30-11-2022 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Mohammad Azaan Malik S/o Tariq Ahmad Malik R/o Achabal Sopore Tehsil Watergam District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 09/07/2020 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Hafsa Sajad D/o Sajad Ahmad Sheikh R/o Singpora Tehsil singpora District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 07/09/2020 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration orders in respect of delayed Birth

Public Notice

The registrar Births and deaths (EO Municipal Council Pattan/Block Development Officer Pattan) has submitted a case file pertaining to Birth of Rohmaan S/o Liyaquat Ali Baba R/o Goshugh Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla with verified date of event (birth) as 16/01/2021 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 Naib Tehsildar Pattan fko

از نیابت پٹن

عنوان:- درخواست از جانب رفیقہ بیگم زوجہ کفایت حسین انیسواکن سلطان پورہ تحصیل پٹن

برادر لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ

اشہار ہر خاص و عام
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان السدر میں ساکنہ ایک دروایت بھڑھول لیگل ہیرسٹیفیکٹ پیش کی ہے جو کہ زبردستی اس بارے میں پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکنہ ریاست جموں و کشمیر کا بعضی باشندہ ہے ساکنہ کا شوہر کفایت حسین انیسواکن غلام حسن انیسواکن سلطان پورہ جو کہ ملازم طبقہ سے وابستہ تھا مورخہ 16-03-2024 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے اور متوفی کے وارثان کا جائز ذیل ہے

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

HC Asks SMC To Strictly Seal Offending Portion Of Building At HSHS

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Friday directed Srinagar Municipal Corporation to seal the offending portion of a building at Hari Singh Street here and ensure its directions are "scrupulously followed in letter and spirit".

"...in the 2nd paragraph of the order dated 15.04.2024, it shall be added that the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation shall also ensure that the direction of the learned Single Judge as reflected in paragraph 34(iii) of the judgment and order dated 29.01.2024 which has been challenged in the ...LPAs is scrupulously followed in letter and spirit," a division bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani said while modifying its April 15 order.

In terms of the paragraph 34(iii) of the judgment and order dated 29.01.2024, the Single Bench of the court had directed that the offending portion of the building shall be sealed by the Corporation till such time a decision is taken by the Commissioner SMC with regard to the question of compounding of deviations.

The court had disposed of the petitions by giving liberty to the petitioners— Aijaz Ah-

mad Baba, Manzoor Ahmad Baba and Nisar Ahmad Baba, all sons of Ali Mohammad Baba—to approach the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation with a petition for compounding of the deviations. "If and when such a petition is made by the private respondents before the Commissioner, the same shall be considered by the said authority in the light of the building permission granted in favor of the private respondents, the relevant building byelaws, the zonal plan and all other relevant statutes and guidelines on the subject," the court had said.

In terms of the order dated April 15 this year, the Court's Division ordered "...we are also adding that besides a petition for compounding of deviations, the same may also include a prayer for regularization if so permitted under the Rules."

"The Commissioner is also requested that if such an application is made, it is requested not to take any coercive proceedings till it decides that application," the court said, adding, "However, the respondents are also requested to ensure that they abide by Section 256 of the Jammu and Kashmir of Municipal Corporation Act, 2000 in letter and spirit till the disposal of the applications, if they are made."

Plan For Transportation Of Polling Staff, EVMs Finalized In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to ensure hassle free transportation of Polling Staff, EVMs and other election related material to the polling stations for smooth conduct of upcoming Lok Sabha Elections-2024 in the district, a meeting of concerned Officers was Saturday held under the chairmanship of District Election Officer (DEO) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Asish Mishra; Assistant Returning Officers, Nodal Officer Transport Management, GM SRTC, Deputy District Election Officer and other Officers at-

tended the meeting.

At the outset, the DEO Srinagar, who is also the Returning Officer (RO) 02-Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, discussed the Transport plan in a comprehensive manner for smooth dispatch of the poll material and polling personnel.

He took Assembly Constituency wise details about the transportation plan from the concerned Officers. The respective AROs apprised of the requirements of the vehicles and seating capacity of the vehicles so that they reach and depart polling stations in a hassle free manner particularly in the interior areas where polling booths have been set up.

Laam, Nishat Residents Demand Immediate Repair Of Boulevard Road

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The residents of Laam area in Nishat area of Srinagar here have raised concerns over the deteriorating condition of the famous Boulevard Road, urging the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department and authorities to expedite repairing work.

They added that they have highlighted the presence of a significant pothole on Boulevard Road many

times, but no action has been taken in this regard.

The locals from Nishat said these potholes have been causing inconvenience to the commuters and posing a potential risk to the vehicles.

"We emphasize the importance of addressing this issue promptly to ensure the safety and smooth flow of traffic in the area," said Sahil, a local. He added that this issue should be sorted at the earliest.



On the fourth day in a row, the search operation at Gandbal-Batwara continued, with crowds gathered close to the banks of the River Jhelum, waiting for the dead bodies to be recovered. KO Photo by Abid Bhat

Srinagar Records Over 450 Kidnapping, Rape Cases Since 2019

Witnesses At Least 170 Attempt To Suicide, 63 Murder Cases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In the past more than five years, Srinagar district have witnessed at least 455 kidnapping and rape cases and 63 murder cases.

Official data revealed that J&K police in Srinagar have registered at least 455 kidnapping and rape cases from 2019 to January 31-2024.

The official also said that during this period, the police authorities in the region has recorded at least 63 cases under crime head murder and 170 suicidal cases under crime head attempt to suicide.

This information was revealed by the Public Information Officer (PIO) of district police Srinagar in a reply to Right to In-

formation (RTI) application filed by the activist M M Shuja.

According to the official figures, police in 2019 have registered at least 15 suicidal cases under crime head attempt to suicide in Srinagar followed by 26 cases in 2020.

In the year 2021, it also recorded at least 51 such cases, 41 cases in 2022 and 34 suicidal cases in 2023.

The official figures further reveal that in 2024 till the month end of January, a total of three suicidal cases were registered in Srinagar district.

About the cases of kidnapping and rape, the PIO has informed that the district police Srinagar in year 2019 has registered at least 98 such cases followed by 21 cases in the year 2020.

It also said that the Srinagar

district in 2021 has registered at least 100 cases of kidnapping and rape under crime head and has also witnessed 128 such cases in 2022 and hundred cases in 2023 respectively.

The official figures states that that in 2024 till the month end of January, a total of eight kidnapping and rape cases were registered in Srinagar district.

Likewise, the PIO has mentioned that in the year 2019, police in Srinagar district have registered at least six murder cases followed by 13 cases in 2020, at least 24 murder cases in 2021, thirteen cases in 2022 and six cases in 2023.

The PIO has further revealed that in January-2024, police authorities in the district have registered only one such case under crime head murder—(KNO)

CAIT Kashmir Unit Proposes Streamlining Of Retail Sector Licensing Process

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Apr 20 (KNO): In a proactive move to address the burdensome licensing process for businesses in the retail sector, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Kashmir unit, under the leadership of Farhan Kitab, engaged in a productive discussion during

the Viksit Bharat Ambassador Program with Minister Harddeep Puri.

The session, according to a statement, highlighted the pressing issue of multiple licenses required to operate businesses, which hinder the growth and efficiency of the retail sector.

During the interactive session, CAIT Kashmir pro-

posed the implementation of a single license system linked to Aadhar, simplifying the process for businesses to operate and ensuring compliance with regulations.

Puri responded positively to the suggestion, acknowledging the need for reform in the licensing framework to promote ease of doing business.

NOTICE

In my driving licence my name is wrongly written as Din Mohd Bhat S/O: Ghulam Hassan Bhat instead of Mohd Sadiq Bhat S/O Ghulam Hassan Bhat. Now I am applying for the correction of same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authorities within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained. Name:-Mohd Sadiq Bhat R/O:-Hazratbal sringer License no:- jk0119860042982 Contact no:6006251928 inf

HAPPY AND HEALTHY MINDS

خوشحال اور صحت مند ذہن

درج ذیل ذہنی صحت سے وابستہ مسائل پہ قابو پانے کے لیے رجوع فرمائیں:

- عصبانیت اور زہنی تناؤ کا درمان
- بھیانک حادثات اور واقعات کے بعد آنے والا ذہنی عارضات، مثلاً بدخواہی، شدید تشویش اور واقعات کے بارے میں قابو میں نہ ہونے والے خیالات - (PTSD)
- انفرادی ترقی اور مثبت تبدیلی کی خاطر اپنے فیصلوں پر عملدرآمد کرنے کا عمل
- اداسی کی کیفیت
- ذہنی پریشانی کے آثار
- منشیات کی لت پر قابو پانے کے لیے مشاورت
- خودکشی کے انتہائی اقدام سے روکنے کی مشاورت

مفت ذہنی مشاورت کے لیے پیر سے ہفتہ، صبح 10 بجے سے شام 5 بجے تک رابطہ کریں۔

9070806160

HPVT فارمیسی بلڈنگ، دوسری منزل - دریش کدل چوک، سری نگر، جموں و کشمیر

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date- **13.05.2024** up to **15:00 Hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Two Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
19.04.2024	29.04.2024	13.05.2024/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender								
1.	25-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR	Construction of RUB of internal size 2 x 5.0m x 5.0m (twin RCC box from Dana mandi to chowki kot Mit Singh) at Railway track Km 6.934 on ASR-KEMK section by pushing method in the section under ADEN-II/ASR.								
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Advertised Value (Rs.)</th> <th>Earnest Money</th> <th>Validity of Offer</th> <th>Period of Completion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10,27,85,136.56/-</td> <td>6,63,900.00/-</td> <td>90 Days</td> <td>12 Months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	10,27,85,136.56/-	6,63,900.00/-	90 Days	12 Months
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion							
10,27,85,136.56/-	6,63,900.00/-	90 Days	12 Months							
Similar nature of work :- "Construction of bridge / Limited height subway with box pushing/pipe pushing method".										

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. No:- 25-2024-25-ADEN-II-ASR Date: 19.04.2024 1187/2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
PDD: 0194-2450213
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES :
2479488, 2452222, 2452155
CAPD: 18001807011
SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBERA: 01932-228243
PAMPORE: 01933-294132
PATAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

HIJRI
CALENDAR
12 Shawal
1445

PRAYERS

FAJR 4 : 25
ZUHR 12:31
ASR 5:14
Magrib 7:10
ISHA 8:36

This Day In History

- 43 BC - Battle of Mutina: Mark Antony is again defeated in battle by Aulus Hirtius, who is killed. Antony fails to capture Mutina and Decimus Brutus is murdered shortly after.
- 1453 - Turkish fleet sinks ships Golden Receiver in Constantinople
- 1521 - Battle at Villalar: Emperor Charles I beats Communards
- 1526 - Battle at Panipat: Central Asian conqueror Babur defeats Sultan Ibrahim Lodi, establishing the Mughal Empire in India.
- 1572 - France & England sign anti-Spanish military covenant
- 1649 - Maryland Toleration Act passed in the American colony, allowing freedom of worship for Christians but sentencing to death anyone who rejected the divinity of Jesus
- 1654 - England & Sweden sign trade agreement
- 1689 - William III & Mary Stuart proclaimed King & Queen of England
- 1739 - Spain & Naples-Austria sign peace accord
- 1796 - Napoleon and the French defeat the Piedmontese at Battle of Mondovì
- 1836 - Battle of San Jacinto, Texas wins independence from Mexico
- 1857 - Alexander Douglas patents the bustle
- 1898 - Spanish-American War: The U.S. Congress, on April 25, recognizes that a state of war exists between the United States and Spain as of this date.
- 1945 - Allied troops occupy German nuclear laboratory
- 1945 - He Shima Okinawa conquered in 5 days, 5,000 die
- 1954 - Gregori Malenkov becomes premier of USSR
- 1954 USAF flies French battalion to Vietnam
- 1960 - Brasilia becomes capital of Brazil
- 1963 - The Universal House of Justice of the Bahá'í Faith is elected for the first time.
- 1969 - The Ministry of Defence in London announces that British troops would be used in Northern Ireland to guard key public installations following a series of bombings
- 1972 - John Young & Charles Duke explores Moon (Apollo 16)
- 1972 - Orbiting Astronomical Observatory 4 (Copernicus) launched
- 1976 - Swine Flu vaccine, for non-epidemic, enters testing
- 1976 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1977 - Zia ur-Rahman appointed president of Bangladesh
- 1981 - US furnish \$1 billion in arms to Saudi-Arabia
- 1987 - Tamil bomb attack in Colombo Sri Lanka, 115 killed
- 1989 - Thousands of Chinese crowd into Beijing's Tiananmen Square cheering students demanding greater political freedom
- 1991 - French underwater archaeologist Franck Goddio discovers the San Diego, Dutch galleon sunk in 1600 off Fortune Island in the Philippines.
- 1997 - I. K. Gujral sworn in as Prime Minister of India
- 2008 - The United States Air Force retires the F-117 Nighthawk.
- 2012 - Two trains in Sloterdijk, Netherlands, injure 117 people in a head on collision
- 2013 185 people are killed in a conflict between Islamic extremists and the Nigerian military
- 2019- Teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg speaks at a Extinction Rebellion protest in London amid city-wide climate protests where Waterloo Bridge was occupied over four days
- 2019- Terror attacks on churches and hotels on Easter Sunday in three Sri Lankan cities, Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa kill at least 253 and injure hundreds
- 2019- Ukrainian comedian Volodymyr Zelensky wins the country's presidential election in a landslide
- 2020 - At least 25,000 extra people across 11 countries have died during COVID-19 pandemic that were not previously counted according to new mortality figures

V l o g g i n g

How This New Fad in Kashmir is Impacting Its Young

Zahid Ahmad Lone

“
The Culture Of comparison fostered by vlogging can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and contribute to mental health issues among the younger generation. Additionally, the pursuit of online fame may divert attention from more sustainable career paths

The emergence of vlogging as a trend among Kashmiri youth marks a significant shift in how young people engage with technology and express themselves in a region known for its breath-taking natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. With smartphones and affordable internet access becoming increasingly ubiquitous, vlogging has opened up new avenues for self-expression and storytelling. Through their vlogs, Kashmiri youth showcase not only the scenic landscapes of their homeland but also their daily lives, aspirations, and unique perspectives, providing viewers around the world with a glimpse into the realities of life in Kashmir.

However, alongside the excitement of building an online presence and gaining followers, concerns linger about the long-term implications of vlogging on the youth of Kashmir. While it offers a platform for self-expression and cultural exchange, there are also risks associated with exposure to online scrutiny, exploitation, and the potential for misinformation. Moreover, as vlogging becomes more ingrained in Kashmiri youth culture, questions arise about its impact on traditional forms of communication and community engagement. Balancing the opportunities afforded by vlogging with the preservation of local culture and values will be crucial in navigating its role in shaping the future of Kashmiri youth.

While vlogging in Kashmir presents opportunities for self-expression and connection, it also carries several negative implications, particularly concerning the addictive nature of online platforms and their potential to detrimentally impact the mental health and future prospects of Kashmiri youth. The allure of fame and recognition can lead to an unhealthy obsession with gaining followers and likes, creating a cycle of validation-seeking behavior that detracts from real-world experiences and personal growth. As young Kashmiris spend increasing amounts of time curating their online personas and chasing digital popularity, they

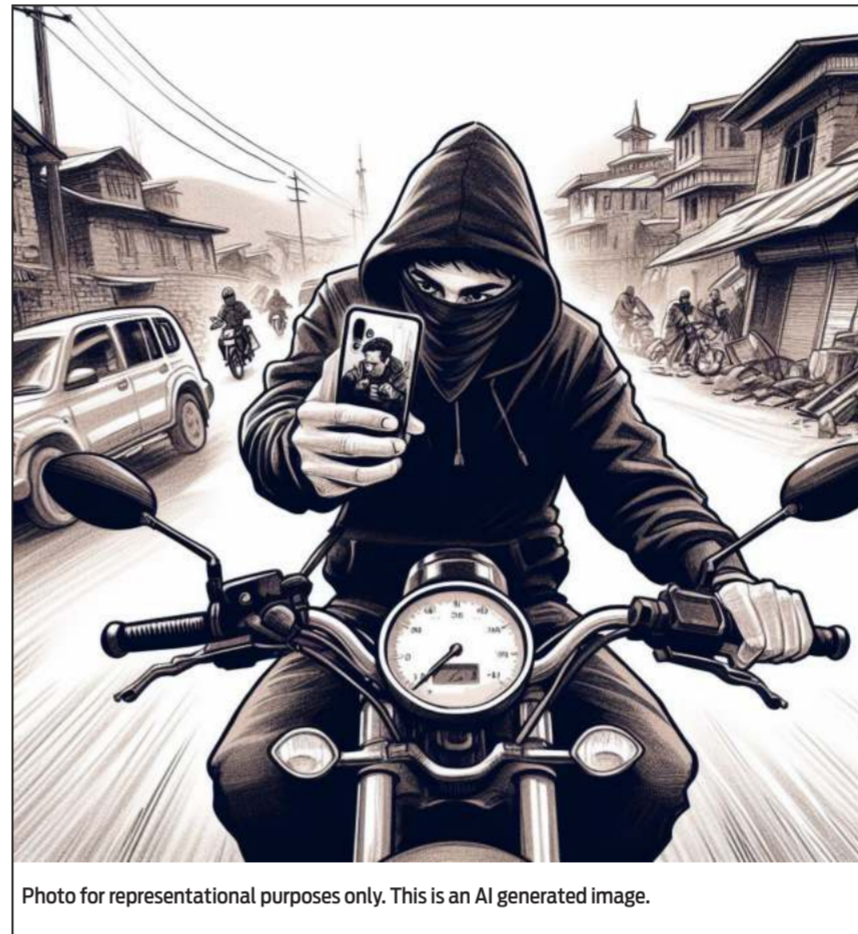


Photo for representational purposes only. This is an AI generated image.

may neglect other aspects of their lives, such as education, relationships, and career development.

Moreover, the pervasive influence of vlogging culture can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and comparison among Kashmiri youth. Constant exposure to highly curated and often unrealistic representations of life on social media platforms can breed feelings of insecurity and inadequacy, as individuals compare their own lives to the seemingly perfect images presented by influencers and vloggers. This pressure to conform to unrealistic standards of beauty, success, and happiness can erode self-esteem and exacerbate mental health issues such as anxiety and depression, particular-

ly among impressionable young people navigating the complexities of adolescence in a rapidly changing society.

Furthermore, the monetization of vlogging and the pursuit of online fame can divert Kashmiri youth from pursuing more sustainable and meaningful career paths. Instead of investing time and energy into acquiring valuable skills and education, some may prioritize short-term gains in the form of sponsored content and brand partnerships, leading to a reliance on unstable and unpredictable sources of income. Additionally, the lack of regulation and oversight in the vlogging industry can leave young content creators vulnerable to exploitation and manipulation by unscrupulous

individuals and companies seeking to profit from their online presence. As a result, the long-term prospects and financial stability of Kashmiri youth may be jeopardized by their immersion in the world of vlogging.

Thus, vlogging in Kashmir offers a platform for self-expression and connectivity, its negative repercussions cannot be overlooked. The addictive nature of online platforms can consume the attention and time of Kashmiri youth, hindering their personal growth and development in various aspects of life. Moreover, the culture of comparison fostered by vlogging can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and contribute to mental health issues among the younger generation. Additionally, the pursuit of online fame may divert attention from more sustainable career paths, jeopardizing the long-term prospects and financial stability of Kashmiri youth.

Moving forward, it's essential to strike a balance between the benefits and drawbacks of vlogging. Education and awareness programs can help young Kashmiris understand the potential pitfalls of excessive social media use and encourage them to prioritize real-world experiences and relationships. Furthermore, regulatory measures and ethical guidelines can be implemented to protect content creators from exploitation and ensure a safer online environment. Encouraging diversification of skills and promoting entrepreneurship beyond the realms of vlogging can also empower Kashmiri youth to pursue meaningful and sustainable career paths. By addressing these challenges proactively, Kashmiri society can harness the positive aspects of vlogging while mitigating its adverse effects on the well-being and future prospects of its youth.

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

The author is a researcher at University of Kashmir

The Indian Trade Policy Paradox

Plurilateral treaties are legally recognised with the WTO structure, included in Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement.

Pradeep S Mehta and Shruti Maheshwari

Regardless of whether it is justified, there is a perception among many delegations that India adopts an obstructionist role and is seldom constructive within the World Trade Organization (WTO). As part of its international relations strategy, India has been quite successful in cultivating an image of an independent global leader, which is exemplary. Yet, its trade policy seems to lag behind its more assertive foreign policy aspirations. In crucial areas such as trade within multilateral frameworks, India has continued to be seen as a frequent and assertive naysayer in spite of making promises to reform. It is time for our trade mandarins to follow the foreign policy mandarins.

India may justify its stance as protecting herand other developing nations' interests against those of wealthier countries. Nevertheless, this position has sometimes led to India being sidelined, even by poorer nations, as was evident in the context of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement (IFDA). The IFDA does not delve into contentious issues such as market access or investment protection. Instead, it aims to streamline administrative processes that hinder

foreign direct investment, especially at the entry point (rb.gy/v3c4kd).

However, at the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) held in Abu Dhabi recently, India took a formal stand against integrating the IFDA into the WTO framework, criticising it for being outside of the WTO's mandate and for not being multilateral. Our conversations with anonymous representatives from several missions in Geneva after this incident indicated their firm support for the IFDA and its perceived advantages for their economies. They also criticised India for its objections that led to non-acceptance of the IFDA, which was agreed to by 126 of the 164 member countries.

India's resistance to the IFDA is centred on a broader debate between plurilateral and multilateral approaches to trade negotiations. India critiques plurilateral agreements (PAs) like the IFDA as 'non-mandated' and 'non-multilateral', challenging their place within the WTO structure. However, this perspective overlooks the legal and practical aspects of these agreements, which have been part of the WTO's framework.

Plurilateral treaties are legally recognised with the WTO structure, included in Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement.

And India's claim that PAs are instruments for developed countries

“
India's resistance to the IFDA is centred on a broader debate between plurilateral and multilateral approaches to trade negotiations. India critiques plurilateral agreements (PAs) like the IFDA as 'non-mandated' and 'non-multilateral', challenging their place within the WTO structure

to dictate terms is unfounded. These negotiations can be, and often are, inclusive, as demonstrated by the IFDA initiative, which was predominantly driven by developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) (rb.gy/ycjxuj). With significant backing from these economies, the argument that India (and South Africa) are defending the interests of developing and LDC members seems questionable.

There is also an observable frustration with the slow progress at the WTO. The IFDA extends beyond simplifying

investment policies; it is pivotal for reforming WTO negotiation processes to address modern-day global trade challenges. This approach could successfully promote the development agendas of member countries through what can be termed 'new multilateralism'. PAs support the concept of variable geometry within the WTO, fostering an issue-based understanding of the challenges and finding a path for reform.

At this juncture, where the traditional consensus-based model of the WTO is faltering, a plurilateral strategy could reinvigorate the organisation and help reclaim its relevance in global trade governance. India, as a significant player in the WTO, is at a crossroads and should consider adopting a more proactive and forward-looking role in trade talks. Its current strategy, particularly its opposition to the IFDA talks led by developing countries, is inconsistent with the leadership role it aspires to. Similarly, India's strong resistance to addressing new issues like electronic commerce, gender, and micro, small and medium enterprises within the WTO's flexible framework underscores the need for an update in its traditional methods to align with the changing global trade environment. The WTO is struggling with the poor pace of negotiations and the changing geopolitical landscape. The

gradual demise of the Doha Development Round stands as a stark reminder that the consensus-based method of the past is ill-suited for the geopolitical realities and expectations of the present and immediate future. For India, as contended earlier (rb.gy/oy4b5z), this means transitioning from a position-based negotiation strategy to one that is interest-based.

India must acknowledge its strategic geopolitical advantages and progress with a definitive objective of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Failure to adapt may not only diminish India's influence in the WTO and impact our growth prospects, but also challenge our identity as a champion for the Global South.

Should India not change its course, it might face a situation akin to that of Italian footballer Mario Balotelli, who, plagued by negative publicity, famously wore an undershirt with the rhetorical question 'Why always me?' during a goal celebration to express his exasperation with ongoing criticism.

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

BOOK REVIEW

Islamic Da'wah in the Contemporary World

A Review of Dr. Nazir Ahmad Zargar's Recent Book

Ab Majeed Ganaie

Islam is a missionary religion, and *Da'wah* (the call to Islam) is a divine commandment. In common terms, *Da'wah* invites people to Islam. A person who invites people to Islam through a dialogue process is called *Dā'ī*. In a broader sense, it connotes an invitation to the *Imān* (Islamic faith) to the prayer or Islamic way of life. The book under review attempts to elucidate the methodological aspect of *Da'wah* in the contemporary era.

The author maintains an academic tone throughout the book and presents *Islamic Da'wah* as a means to eliminate misrepresentation, misinformation, and misconceptions regarding Islam and its worldview. Therefore, the main objective of this work is to make its readers understand that *Da'wah* is an attitude that presents the actual teachings of Islam and the real image of Islam, free from division and prejudice. The methodological aspect of this work highlights the role of a *Dā'ī* in contemporary times. In this context, the book offers a comprehensive approach to *Da'wah*. The author deals with the communication part of *Da'wah* methodology, including using social media and modern technologies to propagate the message of Islam.

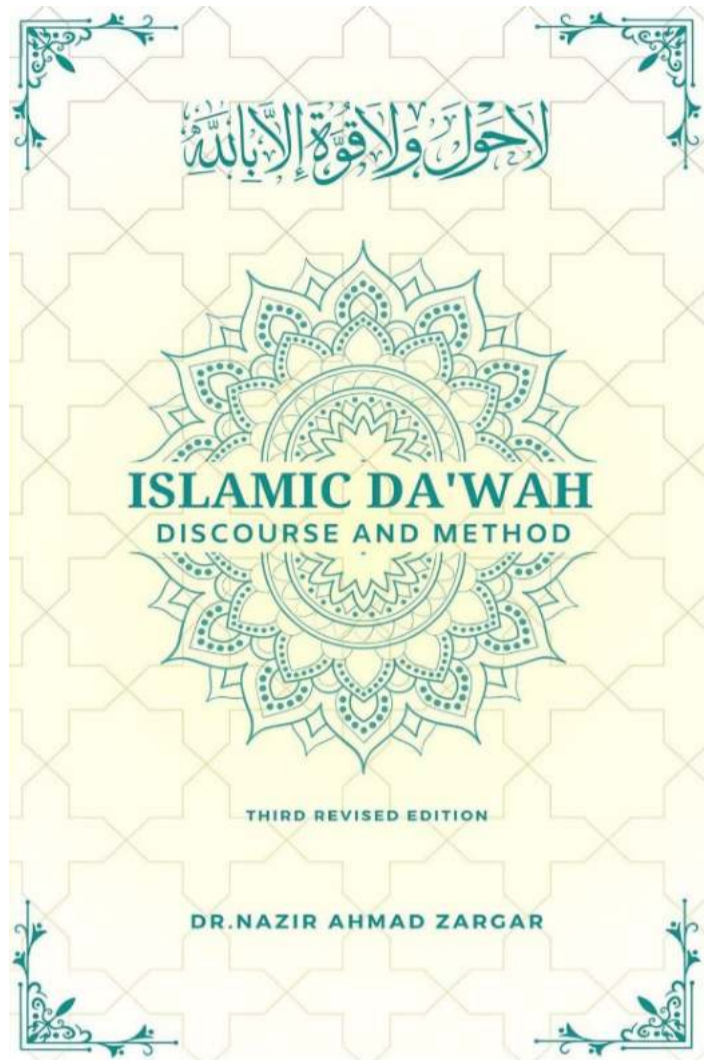
The revised third edition has been improved to a greater extent than early editions; some sections have been edited with great detail. A few portions have been added afresh. The foreword of the revised third edition is written by Prof. S. M. Yunus Gilani, Malaysia. He says, "This work is an invaluable resource for anyone seeking to understand the essence of Islam, its profound teachings, and the wisdom behind its principles. It provides a roadmap for those who are called to the noble task of conveying the message of Islam with wisdom, compassion, and integrity (pp. vi-vii)." This book is spread over five chapters, excluding a vast introduction, conclusion, appendix, and an epilogue to the protocols. In his detailed introduction, the author draws an outline of the fundamental concepts and basic principles of *Da'wah*. He introduces Islam as a peaceful religion and argues that it provides a solution to the problems

of mankind.

Furthermore, it discusses the relation of *Da'wah* with communal harmony and mutual co-existence. Similarly, it also analyzes conceptions such as the essences of *Wahy* (revelation) and *Risālah* (prophethood), the dichotomy between rational and revealed knowledge, and characteristics of a *Dā'ī*. This section also highlights the historical perspectives of *Da'wah* during the *al-Khilafah al-Rashidah* (Caliphate period) and *Da'wah* in contemporary times from a global context.

Chapter first, *Da'wah* and its significance, delves into the meaning and definition of *Da'wah*. The author here focuses on the different dimensions of *Da'wah*, such as ways and means, objectives, importance, causes of decadence, language and media of *Da'wah*, and role of *Da'wah* organization. Dr. Zargar is of the view that "the primary aim of a *Da'wah* organization is to unite the disarranged *Ummah* into a unified whole once again (pp. 25-26). The author emphasizes *Da'wah*, both individual and collective *Da'wah* programmes, keeping a view of a particular place's circumstances and social order. He argues that the prophet Muḥammad (SAW) preached the message of Islam both individually and in public. However, he asserts that there must be an organized group of individuals who can understand their responsibilities and perform *Da'wah*, and he substantiates his argument with the *āyat* (verses) of the Qur'an and *ahādith*. Dr. Zargar points out that the role of an organized group is not merely to perform the activities of *Da'wah* but to play his role in "construction and deconstruction simultaneously" (p. 125).

Chapter second, a brief historical survey of the development of *Da'wah* methodology, is through examination and analysis of *Da'wah* from historical perspectives and early methods. The author divides *Islamic Da'wah* into three major historical phases; the initial phase discusses the early *Islamic Da'wah* that started from the mount of Ṣafa and was carried out during the whole time of the prophet Muḥammad (SAW). Dr. Zargar believes that *Da'wah*'s scope, significance, and relevance grew gradually and substantiates



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his claim from the different *āyat* of the Qur'an (p. 132-34). The second phase discusses *Da'wah* in the period of *al-Khilafah al-Rashidah* as a state responsibility. This phase emphasizes the status of *Da'wah* as an obligatory duty for the rulers and examines scholarly opinions. The third phase elucidates the decline of activities of *Da'wah* at the governmental level and becomes more concerned at individual and collective

or group level. However, *Da'wah* continues to remain the duty of a Muslim. The author notes that the most crucial part of this phase is that throughout the first century of Muslims, the activities of *Da'wah* remained peaceful, and no force was used to convert people to Islam (p. 140). The author has quoted many historical events that support the fact that *Da'wah* activities were peaceful. For instance, he evidently

discusses how Berke Khan and other Mongols accepted Islam despite terrorizing Muslim lands. Therefore, the events in which Tartars became Muslim have been explicitly considered turning points in Muslim history. The concluding part of this chapter discusses the spread of Islam in India and the major factors responsible for the emergence of Islam. However, this section has been discussed briefly and needs further elaborations to substantiate the claims pertaining to major factors responsible for the spread of Islam in India.

Chapter third, 'the contemporary *Da'wah* movements', discusses four major *Da'wah* organizations in the contemporary era, such as *al-Ikhwān al-Muslimīn*, *Tablighī Jamā'at*, *Jamā'at-i-Islāmī* and *Ahl-i-Hadīth* movement of India. The chapter's main subject remains in discussing historical settings in which *Da'wah* movements emerged, their ideologies, objectives, approaches, basic principles, contributions, activities, methodologies, and achievements and weaknesses to *Da'wah* activities. For instance, the author states that the founders of *al-Ikhwān al-Muslimīn* have realized that Westernisation is a threat to Islam, which can be countered by returning to the basics of Islam (p. 153). Similarly, the author argues that the purpose of *Jamā'at-i-Islāmī* was to establish a "theo-democratic state" yet to be found (p. 166). Regarding *Tablighī Jamā'at* the author has made a comprehensive analysis and focused on its major activities and hallmarks, purpose, and methods of *Da'wah*. Dr. Zargar is of the opinion that while other *Da'wah* movements focused on producing literature alongside their activities in the field *Da'wah*, the *Tablighī Jamā'at* did not consider writing books any of the means of *Da'wah*. However, they are very concerned about working in practical fields. Subsequently, a lucid analysis of the *Ahl-i-Hadīth* movement of India and other movements has been conducted. Dr. Zargar made mention of *Ahl-i-Hadīth* movement in Kashmir and highlighted its role in the reformation as well.

Chapter four is dedicated to the communicational perspectives of *Da'wah* and highlights the basic qualities of a *Dā'ī* and *Mud'ī*, such as language, attitude,

knowledge, organizational qualities, discipline, and righteousness. Similarly, the fifth chapter of the book focuses on *Da'wah* in the contemporary global society. The author discusses here globalization from the Islamic perspective, post-modern materialistic society, concepts such as the definition of man in Islam, problems of materialism, individualism, and the decline of the West. Dr. Zargar has also highlighted the problems, concerned with *Dā'īs*, the importance of *Ijtihād* in *Da'wah* and education system, *Da'wah* and women, following the law of land, nationalism, and Muslim politics as well. It is pertinent to mention that this work presents a thorough analysis of the contemporary position, aims, and objectives of the Zionist movement, formation of UNO, the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel, and economic institutions and multinational companies to support the causes of Israel are debatable issues discussed in *Da'wah* and the Contemporary Global Society.

In sum, Dr. Zargar argues that Islam is indeed the religion of *Da'wah*. He asserts that *Da'wah* is the real force behind the success of Islam and Muslims. Therefore, he offers some ways to continue *Da'wah* in the contemporary era, such as inter-religious dialogue, debates, freedom of choice, and essay competitions. The book's appendix is another valuable contribution because it discusses the Jewish protocols, which consist of 24 documents containing the most comprehensive programmes for world subjugation published in 1905. The author's lucid explanations and examination of the protocols expose the aims, purposes, and approaches of Jews to the rest of the people of the world whom they called Gentiles. An epilogue to the protocols traces the need and significance of *Islamic Da'wah* and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. In sum, the book is a comprehensive guide and a valuable edition in the related field for students and researchers.

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The Dual Edges Of AI In Scientific Research

Aditya Sinha

Artificial intelligence (AI) is significantly transforming scientific research by enhancing computational methodologies and enabling the analysis of large-scale datasets across various disciplines. In the realm of biomedical research, AI technologies like machine learning models are crucial. For example, DeepMind's AlphaFold uses advanced deep learning techniques to predict protein structures with remarkable precision. This method employs a convolutional neural network that interprets amino acid sequences to predict protein folding patterns, facilitating rapid insights into biological processes and disease mechanisms, as demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic. In environmental sciences, AI is applied to improve climate modelling and forecasting. Researchers at Stanford University have developed machine learning models that integrate with traditional climate simulation software to refine predictions of weather patterns and climate events. These models use reinforcement learning and neural networks to analyse historical climate data, enabling more accurate predictions of extreme weather conditions and their potential impacts.

Furthermore, in the field of astronomy, AI algorithms manage and analyse data from astronomical observations to identify celestial bodies and phenomena. A notable application involved researchers

from the University of California utilising AI to process light curves data from the Kepler Space Telescope. By applying a neural network-based classifier, they were able to identify exoplanets from subtle signals in the telescope's data, showcasing AI's ability to enhance signal detection and pattern recognition in vast datasets.

A recent working paper published by National Bureau of Economic Research has suggested that the integration of AI into hypothesis generation and testing leads to more efficient resource allocation, accelerated research outcomes, and increased economic gains. The paper "Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery: A Model of Prioritized Search" by Ajay K. Agrawal, John McHale, and Alexander Oettl delves into the intersection of AI and the innovation process, specifically focusing on hypothesis generation. It introduces a novel model where the innovation process is seen as a sequential search over a combinatorial design space, using AI to prioritize which hypotheses to test. This method contrasts traditional approaches where theory and intuition guide hypothesis generation. The authors employ a discrete survival analysis to assess innovation outcomes like the probability of innovation, search duration, and expected profit. By shifting from conventional methods to AI-based predictions, the model suggests that there can be an increase in successful innovations, reduced search times, and higher profits.



However, this use of AI in scientific discovery has also other side to it. One should read the latest paper published in the *Journal Nature* by Lisa Messeri and M. J. Crockett. The authors suggest that the use of AI in Science is creating "illusions of understanding," where scientists may believe they comprehend more than they actually do. There are six reasons why AI is creating this illusion.

First, AI can analyse complex data sets and generate outputs that may appear insightful and comprehensive to researchers. However, these outputs are based solely on the data and algorithms used, without genuine understanding or contextual judgement. Researchers might believe they grasp the underlying principles or patterns in the data better than they actually do because the AI presents

results in a seemingly clear and authoritative manner.

Second, AI tools can perform tasks like data analysis and hypothesis generation quickly and efficiently. This reduction in cognitive load for scientists can lead them to accept conclusions drawn by AI without sufficient scrutiny. The ease and speed with which AI provides answers can discourage deeper investigation into the underlying

mechanics or potential inaccuracies of these answers.

Third, many AI models, especially those involving deep learning, are complex and not fully transparent, often referred to as "black box" models. Scientists using these models may not fully understand how the algorithms arrive at certain conclusions. This opacity can lead to misplaced trust where the users attribute too much credibility to the AI-generated results without a thorough understanding of the algorithmic processes and potential biases involved.

Fourth, AI tools are often designed to optimise specific types of analysis or data processing tasks. This specialisation can inadvertently lead researchers to focus on questions and methods that are best suited to AI's capabilities, neglecting other potentially valuable approaches. This creates a monoculture of knowing, where the diversity of scientific inquiry is reduced, and only the AI-compatible methodologies thrive.

Fifth, AI systems learn from existing datasets and can perpetuate or amplify any biases present in those datasets. This can lead to a situation where new insights are merely reflections of past data, reinforcing existing beliefs and misconceptions without challenging them with new, independent observations. Researchers might then wrongly assume they are gaining new understanding when they are essentially looking at regurgitated versions of old data.

Sixth, the emphasis on

the predictive capabilities of AI can overshadow the importance of understanding the causal relationships behind scientific phenomena. Scientists may become more concerned with whether an AI tool can predict outcomes accurately rather than whether it helps them understand why those outcomes occur. This shift from explanatory to predictive models can detract from the depth of scientific knowledge.

This transition raises fundamental questions about what it means to "know" something in science. If scientific knowledge becomes predominantly characterised by predictive accuracy rather than explanatory depth, the essence of science as a pursuit of understanding the why and how of phenomena may be diluted. This shift could redefine the goals of science, moving away from a comprehensive understanding towards a model where the primary objective is operational effectiveness and technological utility. Such a redefinition risks turning science into a field dominated by technological determinism, where the means—AI tools—start dictating the ends of scientific activity. This scenario compels a philosophical re-evaluation of the values that underpin scientific endeavours and challenges us to think critically about how we define progress and success in the scientific domain.

The article was originally published by Khaleej Times

FCIK Offers Condolences To Industry Leaders

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK) has expressed deep regret and sorrow over the sad demise of the young daughter of the prominent entrepreneur and former President KCCI Rauf Punjabi, who breathed her last on Thursday evening after a short, but brave battle with carcinoma. While praying for the eternal peace of the deceased, the Advisory Committee of FCIK, on behalf of the entire industrial fraternity of Kashmir, has conveyed heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family particularly to Rauf Punjabi, Qazi Burhan Shunthoo, Qazi Basharat Ahmad Shunthoo, Qazi Sajad Ahmad Shunthoo, Ajaz Ahmad Punjabi, Mushtaq Ahmad Wani and others. FCIK has also regretted the departure of Basharat Saleem Lankar

son of Bashir Ahmad Lankar to the eternal world after sudden cardiac arrest. The deceased happened to be brother-in-law of former FCIK Vice President Mohammad Yousuf Techo. FCIK has sympathized with the bereaved family including Mohammad Yousuf Techo, Ghulam Nabi Techo, Bashir Ahmad Lankar, Mehraj-ud-Din Lankar, Farooq Ahmad Lankar and others. Advisory Committee members including Shahid Kamili, Shakeel Qalander, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat besides Presidents and members of various industrial estates and associations participated in the last rites of deceased persons and visited the residences of both Shunthoos' and Lankars' to condole the bereavement of young deceased with the bereaved families. FCIK has also prayed for the patience of bereaved families at this crucial juncture.

Microplastics found to impact digestive pathways and organs

Agenceis

Researchers from the University of New Mexico have discovered that microplastics are significantly affecting our digestive pathways, making their way from the gut and into the tissues of the kidney, liver, and brain. The findings of this study shed light on the significant impact of microplastics on our digestive pathways and the potential implications for human health. As research in this area continues, it is crucial to understand the broader implications of microplastic exposure and to explore strategies for mitigating its effects. Eliseo Castillo, an associate professor in the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology at UNM, emphasized the pervasive nature of

microplastics, stating, "Over the past few decades, microplastics have been found in the ocean, in animals and plants, in tap water and bottled water. They appear to be everywhere". The study, published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives, involved exposing mice to microplastics in their drinking water over a four-week period, equivalent to the quantity of microplastics humans are believed to ingest each week. The researchers found that microplastics had migrated out of the gut into the tissues of the liver, kidney, and even the brain. Additionally, the study showed that the microplastics changed metabolic pathways in the affected tissues. Castillo highlighted the potential long-term implications of this exposure, stating, "Now, think

about how that equates to humans, if we're exposed from birth to old age". Castillo expressed concerns about the accumulation of plastic particles in the human body and the potential exacerbation of underlying conditions due to microplastic exposure. He also noted the impact of microplastics on macrophages, immune cells that work to protect the body from foreign particles. The researchers found that when macrophages encountered and ingested microplastics, their function was altered, leading to the release of inflammatory molecules. Castillo emphasized the importance of understanding the impact of microplastics on gut health, stating, "If you don't have a healthy gut, it affects the brain, it affects the liver and so many other tissues".

WORLD LIVER DAY 2024

Fast Food, Poor Diet, Sedentary Life Fuel Liver Disease: Experts

Srinagar, 19 April: On the occasion of World Liver Day, it is imperative to bring attention to the rising tide of fatty liver disease in India. A recent AIIMS study reveals that 38% of Indians have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). The global scenario is equally concerning, with around 25 to 30% of the world's population affected by NAFLD. According to Gastro Consultant at Paras Hospital Srinagar Dr. Wahid Akbar Lone, "If we talk about regional burden, then here in Srinagar, approximately 24% patients that come to us are diagnosed with fatty liver". "More alarming is the rise of fatty liver in school going children which are estimated to be 7.5 percent according to one of the largest study conducted in the Valley", said Dr. Wahid.

Experts say that the westernization of diets, characterized by increased intake of fast food, lack of healthy fruits and vegetables, and sedentary lifestyles, is a significant contributor to this condition. Furthermore, common over-the-counter drugs, when misused, can also cause liver damage. Another Gastro consultant Dr. Wajeed Yousuf said "to combat this epidemic, we must adopt a multi-pronged approach like regular screening and diagnosis, lifestyle modifications, such as a balanced diet, regular exercise, and weight loss in obese individuals, and most importantly avoiding self-medication and ensuring access to clean drinking water can prevent the spread of hepatitis A and E, which constitute 30% of cases of acute liver failure in India".

CONTD. FROM PAGE 1

122 Glaciers

water scarcity, impacting agricultural production and everyday life. The rapid and substantial melting of glaciers also increases the risk of glacial lake outburst floods, which could disrupt the ecosystem and pose significant hazards.(KNO)

Day 5- No Breakthrough

individuals using boat crossing points for travel across Dal Lake and River Jhelum are cautioned against crossing before verifying the condition and situation of these water bodies.

For any information, the general public can contact the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Srinagar and Police Control Srinagar, it said.

The Inspector General of Police V.K Birdi on Friday said that all efforts are underway to recover the three persons gone missing after a boat capsize incident here on Tuesday.

Birdi, talking to the media, said that the search operation is continuing amid inclement weather conditions.

"All efforts are being made to recover the three missing bodies to bring respite to the grieving families," Birdi said.

"Nothing new can be said as of now given as we continue to look for the missing persons," the police officer said.

Dry Weather

to mudslide at Mehad, Ramban and shooting stones at Kishtwari Pathar, Banihal yesterday.

As soon as the road was cleared, the traffic was allowed to ply in the late afternoon.

Regarding temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 9.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal for Srinagar for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 7.0°C against 8.6°C on the previous night and it was 0.4°C above normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 1.6°C against 4.8°C on the previous night and it was 1.8°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 5.8°C against 7.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.7°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of

6.0°C against 7.5°C on the previous night and it was 0.9°C below normal there, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of 0.5°C against 1.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 1.7°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a minimum of 16.8°C against 17.9°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 3.4°C for the winter capital of J&K.

Banihal recorded a low of 6.4°C, Batote 8.4°C and Bhaderwah 6.6°C, he added.

Hailstorm Damages

Dangerpora, Mooli, Trenz, Mohandpora and other villages.

Reports said that there was heavy damage to fruit orchards including the buds and flowers which will adversely affect the production of the fruit in these areas this autumn.

The fruit growers have appealed to the authorities to assess the damage caused by the hailstorm and provide relief to those orchardists whose trees have suffered heavy damage.

Expressing distress, a grower said, "Damage to apple trees in the early stage is a very big problem. We request the administration to intervene as we don't have any other source of income."

"The impact of hailstorm on apple orchards underscores the vulnerability of agricultural communities to natural disasters," another orchardist said.

"Authorities are urged to assess the extent of the damage and provide necessary assistance to affected farmers to help them recover from this devastating event," said the local.

Ensure Adequate

for heightened enforcement efforts on the ground. He further directed to streamline the process for new power connections for the ease of consumers.

The meeting also discussed the progress on underground cabling project for the Grid connectivity of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (from Rayil Pathri to Holy Cave and from Sangam to Panjtarni). The Lt Governor instructed the officials to ensure timely completion of work before the commencement of the holy Yatra.

The LG directed the officials to ensure adequate availability of power during the summer season. He also stressed upon raising awareness on

'PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' scheme through which the households will be able to save electricity bills as well as earn additional income through sale of surplus power to DISCOMs.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; H. Rajesh Prasad, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Dr. Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lt. Governor; and the officials of Jammu and Kashmir Power DISCOMs, Chief Engineers and other senior officers.

No One Has

In 2019, the Central government revoked the special status provided to Jammu and Kashmir by Article 370, and had also bifurcated the erstwhile state into two union territories.

Meanwhile, in an interview with NDTV, Amit Shah responded to the Opposition's charge that there would be a change in the Constitution if the BJP is voted to power again. He said the BJP government had never misused its majority over the past 10 years and that it was the Congress that had misused its majority when it was in power at the Centre.

Amit Shah also clarified that the BJP would never change the policy of providing reservation to the marginalised communities.

On Rahul Gandhi's allegation that the BJP had extorted donations through bonds, Amit Shah pointed out that the Opposition also received money from these individuals and companies.

"Their (opposition) parties have also received donations through bonds. Is that extortion as well? Rahul Gandhi must tell the people," he told the news channel.

217 Cases

with amicable resolution of 50 cases, out of 53, taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, Gupta said.

He said this was the fourth Special Lok Adalat of the current calendar year and the next special Lok Adalat shall be held on May 17, focusing on the settlement of consumer cases pending disposal in different consumer forums within J&K.

Gupta urged the advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special

Lok Adalats which are being organised by the J&K Legal Services Authority.

BJP Supporting

have "ruined" the region and prefer other parties contesting the elections from the three seats.

"The home minister made it clear that we have to fight together to defeat the dynastic parties who have pushed J&K into a fire. They have ruled J&K for many decades in the past and brought death and destruction in the valley. They (Congress, NC and PDP) are the enemies of Kashmiris because they have been indulging in politics of hatred and they are doing everything to push J&K back to the old days of violence," he said.

Chugh said the fight is between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who "freed Jammu and Kashmir from the clutches of Article 370", and the three dynastic parties - the Congress, National Conference and PDP - who "exploited" people over the decades under the constitutional provision.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the issue of BJP not yet declaring candidates on the three Lok Sabha seats in the Kashmir valley is being discussed.

"Best of the people are discussing this and I assure you that whatever is being evaded, will be taken care of soon," he said, adding that the party "has not left any ground".

LS Polls About

Democratic Party (PDP) chief told reporters.

Mehbooba said she feels an affection towards the people of Pahalgam as her father Mufti Mohammad Sayeed was fond of them.

"I have an affection for this area as my father was fond of this area. He did a lot of work here and I am thankful to the people who came to welcome me. This is my own area and I will address their development needs when I win," she said.

The Anantnag-Rajouri constituency goes to the polls in the third phase on May 7.

Omar Calls

opposition's INDIA bloc, were also a part of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), which was formed after of the abrogation of Article 370.

The alliance broke after the NC announced to field candidates from all the three constituencies in the

Kashmir valley, without leaving any seat for the PDP. The PDP also later announced to field its candidates on all the three seats.

The NC vice president said while the BJP was not directly contesting the parliamentary polls in the valley, it was supporting parties like the Apni Party and People's Conference (PC).

"The BJP is in the field contesting elections, but the only difference is they do not have their party symbol, they are contesting on 'cricket bat' (Apni Party's symbol) and 'apple' (PC's symbol)... We are well aware who the BJP supports here, but they stand no chance of winning," he added.

The former J-K chief minister said going by the response of the people, "I hope that God willing, the NC will win all the three seats."

In response to a question about the BJP's claims of the NDA crossing the 400-mark, Abdullah said everything would be clear after the results.

The Ladakh seat is slipping away from their hands, he claimed.

"After the polling yesterday, it seems they will not be able to save the Udhampur seat. Let us see what will happen on the Jammu seat as well," he said.

Asked about BJP's J-K president Ravindra Raina claiming that the party will win both the seats in Jammu, Abdullah said, "Let me remind Raina that the elections have not taken place on the Jammu seat yet and we do not even know how many votes will be polled there. Let the voting take place first, then the BJP should claim its victory. As of now, we feel their Udhampur seat is in danger," he said.

The NC vice president alleged the BJP claimed many things in Kashmir, but fled from contesting the polls in the valley.

"Why did they leave the field? What was their helplessness? Raina was preparing to contest the polls from the south Kashmir seat, but why did he not contest? What compulsion did they have that they had to push other parties be it 'cricket bat' or 'apple', Abdullah said, adding, "these parties were working for the BJP".

Sajad Lone Seeks

elections as a glaring example, Lone revealed that although the NC secured only 133,426 votes out of the 455,999 cast, a staggering 322,573 votes were cast against them.

"This means the NC secured a paltry 29% of the vote, while a resounding

71% of voters rejected their mandate. Alarming, for every single vote cast in their favor, 2.5 votes were cast against them. This travesty must end," he declared.

Lone affirmed that PC leadership had engaged in constructive discussions with Apni Party representatives and for now, their focus remains solely on forging a strategic alliance with Apni Party.

Apni Party has strong influence in Tangmarg, Uri, Rafiabad, Karnah, Budgam and Bandipora district.

According to observers, if the alliance firms-up, it would change electoral dynamics in north Kashmir and Central Kashmir Lok Sabha segments

'Consider Lok Sabha

He told reporters during an election campaign at HMT in the city's outskirts, "I think the main aim and issue of this election, especially for us, is not about who is against us. The people in Srinagar, especially the youngsters of Kashmir, should not consider these elections as less than a referendum."

"Do not think they (people of Kashmir) are happy with you (on decisions post August 2019). They are not. There are many reasons behind it. The future of the people, especially youngsters, is uncertain," he said.

In August 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370, which bestowed a special status on the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. It also bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into the Union Territories of Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Parra said, "They are scared. They do not understand how they will get the feeling of security. That's why I appeal to the youngsters of Srinagar because when they set a trend, it spreads throughout Kashmir."

"The people of Kashmir need assurances from Parliament about their identity and resources being safeguarded, the PDP leader said.

"The election is not about winning or losing. The issue is whether we can send a message to New Delhi that the people of Kashmir are not happy and if we can convey our apprehensions that our land, identity, resources are in danger," Parra said.

"We feel that all these things are in danger until the people of Jammu and Kashmir get a solid assurance from Parliament. Until we get it, there will be trouble," he said.

Srinagar goes to the polls in the fourth phase on May 13.

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OR SCAN

Wildlife Dept Deems 90% Of Leopard Sighting Reports In Urban Areas As False

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amidst escalating reports of leopard sightings in urban areas of Kashmir, the experts from wildlife department here have shed light on the multifaceted blend of factors contributing to these encounters, revealing that around 90% of such reports are deemed false upon investigation.

Parvez Ahmad, Wildlife Warden of the central division Kashmir, speaking to the news agency, highlighted that while social media platforms are flooded with purported leopard sightings, a significant majority—90%—are found to be baseless upon scrutiny.

"It may not be correct to say that there is a spike in the presence of leopards in urban areas," Ahmad stated. "Of the reports we receive, 90% turn out to be fake, and we take up the matter with the police against those involved in spreading false rumors about the presence of leopards."

Speaking over the possible reasons for leopards venturing into urban areas, Ahmad noted

that of the minor percentage where leopard presence is confirmed, the primary driving force is the search for food, as these animals move out of their natural habitat for sustenance.

According to Ahmad, a complex interplay of elements such as leftover foods and open garbage disposal systems are attracting stray dogs, which in turn become prey for these majestic felines.

Addressing the proliferation of misinformation on social media regarding leopard sightings, Ahmad stressed that actions would be taken against those spreading rumors, urging the public to refrain from sharing unverified reports to prevent unnecessary panic and fear.

"In the central division, since I took over about 10% of reported cases are confirmed to be authentic," Ahmad stated while underlining the importance of responsible reporting.

Elaborating on the reasons behind leopards venturing into urban areas, Ahmad highlighted the search for food as a primary driving force. He pointed out

that dogs, being soft prey, are attracted to areas with poor waste management practices, inadvertently drawing leopards closer to human settlements.

Ahmad underscored the importance of maintaining clean surroundings, advocating for the closure of unattended structures and the cleaning of bushes in empty lands to deter leopards from seeking shelter in urban environments.

He advised that communities residing near forested regions, national parks and protected areas take proactive measures to mitigate potential conflicts, such as securing garbage bins, refraining from feeding stray animals, and implementing community-driven conservation initiatives.

Meanwhile, some observers have attributed the surge in leopard sightings to rapid urbanization and habitat loss, forcing these elusive predators to adapt to changing landscapes.

The presence of abundant garbage and leftover food inadvertently creates a secondary food source in the form of stray dogs, further enticing leopards into urban vicinities—(KNO)



THE PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES of Pampore Karewa in South Kashmir's Pulwama district have become a magnet for tourists, thanks to the enchanting sight of wild tulips in full bloom. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Rs 5000 Fine For Unauthorized Roadside Parking In Baramulla

Agencies

BARAMULLA: Authorities in Baramulla have urged people to refrain from encroaching roads and parking their vehicles on roadsides, saying violators will have to pay a hefty fine of Rs 5000.

Street vendors, encroachment of roads by shopkeepers by putting merchandise, signboards and wrong parking of vehicles were the main reasons for obstructing public movement besides leading to frequent traffic jams, an official told news agency.

He said they have decided to relocate street vendors of civil lines Baramulla to Tashkan Adda (Kokar Bazar) and General Bus Stand Baramulla.

"Any vendor found with his cart outside these designated areas will be dealt strictly in accordance with law and a fine of Rs 2000 will be imposed on the spot," the official added.

Meanwhile, an administrative order notifying all the shopkeepers to remove their illegal encroachments of their own besides asked them not to park their vehicles along roadsides as well as bridges to ensure hassle free movement of pedestrians/commuters and to avoid undue traffic jams.

"Any person found violating the orders will be dealt strictly in accordance with the law, which shall include the fine of Rs. 5000," it said—(KNO)



IGP Kashmir Chairs Joint Security Coordination Meeting At Awantipora

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir V.K. Bardi along with IGP CRPF and GOC Victor Force held a joint security review meeting at DPO Awantipora.

The meeting was attended by DIG CKR, DIG SKR, all sector commanders of Victor Force, DIGs of CRPF Anantnag/SKOR and all SSSP of South Kashmir, SSP Budgam and all COs of RR & CRPF units deployed in South Kashmir & Budgam district, a statement issued to the news agency.

At the outset of the meeting, the participating officers briefed IGP Kashmir about the overall security scenario to provide insights into the existing security challenges so as to devise effective mitigation strategies.

The discussions encompassed various facets, including intelligence gathering, threat assessments, and emergency response protocols in addition to election preparedness efforts.

The meeting focused on devising strategies ensuring public safety and upholding the integrity of the electoral process. IGP Kashmir urged SSPs and their counterparts in CAPF and RR to critically evaluate and enhance existing strategies to thwart any potential terror activities.

Emphasis was placed on the necessity of revisiting and fortifying area domination tactics to cover any vulnerable areas effectively. IGP Kashmir further directed the officers to work without any prejudice, take stern action against those



violating the law, and ensure that law enforcement agencies are well prepared to respond quickly and effectively to any emergent situations.

During the meeting, the IGP Kashmir also directed the DIGs to strengthen the security grid of their respective areas and facilitate the safe passage of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) across districts.

He emphasized strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) & stressed upon the officers to increase focus on human intelligence gathering along with technical inputs so as to intensify anti-terrorist operations to flush out the inimical elements—(KNO)

GMC Saw 2 Lakh Admissions, 70,000 Surgeries In Two Years

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College Srinagar's seven associated hospitals witnessed approximately 25 lakh patients during the year 2023-24.

According to details obtained by the news agency, in this period, over two lakh patients were admitted, with more than 70 thousand surgeries conducted across the hospitals. The breakdown of patient visits and surgeries across the associated hospitals is as follows:

SMHS Hospital: With a bed capacity of 890, the hospital saw 1,063,028 patients in the OPD, admitted 107,589 in the IPD, and performed 23,269

surgeries, including 10,726 major surgeries and 12,543 minor surgeries.

Lal Ded Hospital: With a bed capacity of 710, the hospital treated 208,192 patients in the OPD, admitted 36,721 in the IPD, and conducted 20,891 surgeries, comprising 17,352 major surgeries and 3,540 minor surgeries.

B&J Hospital: With a bed capacity of 150, the hospital attended to 254,691 patients in the OPD, admitted 14,416 in the IPD, and conducted 14,861 surgeries, including 5,192 major surgeries and 9,672 minor surgeries.

Chest Disease Hospital: With a bed capacity of 200, the hospital saw 152,186 patients in the OPD, admitted 7,480 in

the IPD, and conducted 2,707 surgeries, comprising 980 major surgeries and 1,809 minor surgeries.

Super Specialty Hospital: With a bed capacity of 220, the hospital treated 177,119 patients in the OPD, admitted 31,531 in the IPD, and performed 8,540 surgeries, including 4,482 major surgeries and 4,052 minor surgeries.

Children's Hospital: With a bed capacity of 700, the hospital saw 457,552 patients in the OPD and treated 28,723 in the IPD.

Psychiatry Disease Hospital: With a bed capacity of 100, the hospital attended to 169,514 patients in the OPD and admitted 1,779 in the IPD during the year 2023-24—(KNO)

CAIT Kashmir Unit Proposes Streamlining Retail Sector Licensing Process

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a proactive move to address the burdensome licensing process for businesses in the retail sector, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Kashmir unit, under the leadership of Farhan Kitab, engaged in a productive discussion during the Viksit Bharat Ambassador Program with Minister Hardeep Puri.

As per a statement issued to the news agency, the session highlighted the pressing issue of multiple licenses required to operate businesses, which hinder the growth and efficiency of the retail sector.

During the interactive session, CAIT Kashmir proposed the implementation of a single license system linked to Aadhar, simplifying the process for businesses to operate and ensuring compliance with regulations.

Puri responded positively to

the suggestion, acknowledging the need for reform in the licensing framework to promote ease of doing business.

In his assurance to the organization, Minister Puri expressed commitment to addressing the issue promptly, emphasizing the government's dedication to fostering a conducive environment for business growth and development in Kashmir.

Farhan Kitab, representing CAIT Kashmir, expressed gratitude for the Minister's receptiveness to their proposal and reiterated the organization's commitment to collaborating with the government towards sustainable solutions for the retail sector.

The initiative marks a significant step towards streamlining bureaucratic processes and facilitating the expansion of the retail sector in Kashmir, ultimately contributing to economic prosperity and job creation in the region—(KNO)

Ganderbal Village Complain About Lack Of Drinking Water

Agencies

GANDERBAL: Residents of several areas of Sehporia Wail and adjoining areas in Ganderbal have complained of scarcity of drinking water from the last couple of days.

According to the locals, several areas in Wail including Sehporia are facing acute scarcity of drinking water.

"We are facing water shortage from the last 3-4 days, and the

JE and concerned employees of the Jal Shakti department posted in the area are paying no heed to their problems," a local said.

The inhabitants said from the last 3-4 days they are not receiving drinking water through the "Gurez colony" pipeline laid by the Jal Shakti department.

AEE Jal Shakti department Ganderbal Faizan Ahmad told KNO that he will look into the issue—(KNO)



Hideout Busted, Arms & Ammo Recovered In Reasi: Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Arms and ammunition was recovered from a hideout busted in Arnas area of Reasi district, said a police spokesperson on Saturday.

"Acting on the reliable information regarding presence of a hideout in the general area of Dalas Barneli, sub division Arnas, an operation was launched to sanitise the area which was led by Party of SPP Thilloo in the Dalas Barneli area of Arnas," the spokesperson said.

"During the search and cordon operation the Police team recov-

ered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from the hideout in Dalas Barneli area of Arnas."

The recoveries, as per the spokesperson, include: two detonators, 12 cartridges of Assault Rifle, one pull-through, one hand held Tape recorder IED-enabled, one calculator IED-enabled, one battery and few connecting wires.

"SSP Reasi Mohita Sharma further shared that search operation is still going on in the area of Arnas and Reasi Police is committed to neutralise any nefarious designs of anti-national elements," said the spokesperson further.



Man Missing Found Dead In Jhelum, Sopore

Agencies

SOPORE: Body of man, who was missing since March 28, was recovered from river Jhelum in Sopore area of Baramulla district on Saturday morning, officials said.

An official told the news agency that the man was missing from his home in the Ma-

panpora area. He said that his body was seen floating in Jhelum, following which locals informed the police.

"The body was later recovered by a police team and was shifted to a nearby hospital for medico-legal formalities," he said. He has been identified as Mohammad Maqbool Mir (70) of Mapanpora Sopore—(KNO)

Punjab's Baldev Kumar Is First Outsider To Contest LS Polls

Press Trus of India

SRINAGAR: Punjab resident Baldev Kumar has become the first person from outside Jammu and Kashmir to contest Lok Sabha polls in the Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Kumar (67), a resident of the Naya Gaon area of Mohali in Punjab, filed his nomination papers from the Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency as an independent candidate on Friday.

He is among 25 candidates who are in the fray from the constituency, which will go to polls on May 7.

Kumar claimed that he decided to contest the polls on the

insistence of a "large" number of local people whom he has "served for the last 20 years".

"I worked for the people during the 2014 floods, I have sponsored the education of a number of students, I have facilitated patients from Punjab when they go to Kashmir for medical check-ups and kept a kothi (house) for them where they can stay when they go there for treatment," Kumar told PTL.

The contestant said he has been requesting the administration to build a 'Kashmir Bhawan' in Punjab, especially for the patients, but to no avail.

"(Activist) Medha Patkar got 20 acres of land for her NGO from the Gujarat government



but I have not been allotted even two acres for a Kashmir Bhawan for the patients from J&K.

"The people have told me that I have to be in power and only then can I build a Kashmir Bhawan. So, I decided to contest the polls," he said. Asked if he has Jammu and

Kashmir's domicile certificate, he said, "I have no domicile as I have not stayed in one place".

Kumar is the first non-resident person to contest polls in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 and downgrading and bifurcation of the erstwhile state on August 5, 2019.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, NCR resident Shams Khwaja contested, and lost the polls from the erstwhile Anantnag Parliamentary constituency.

He was the first-ever non-resident to contest the polls in Jammu and Kashmir. Objections were raised against his candidature, but those were overruled by election authorities in 2019.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is presently run by the Lt Governor-led administration after the PDP-BJP government collapsed in June 2018 with the national party pulling out of the alliance. The last assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in 2014.

The Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir are being conducted in five phases with voting in each of the five parliamentary constituencies of the Union Territory to be held in each phase.

An estimated 65 per cent of the total 16.23 lakh registered voters cast their ballot by 5 pm on Friday in the first phase of the elections in Udhampur.

Real Kashmir's Muhammad Hammad Looks Forward To ISL Challenge

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After becoming the first J&K footballer to win I-League's Best Defender award, Real Kashmir FC central defender Muhammad Hammad is looking forward to his next challenge.

Hammad is set to play his trade with Indian Super League team FC Goa in the 2024-25 season and his journey to the highest tier of Indian football hasn't been easy. The Srinagar born defender suffered a major setback after an ACL tear left him on the sidelines and threatened to derail his promising career.

On his comeback to Real Kashmir this season, Hammad was named captain as

the Snow Leopards impressed everyone in the I-League. His stellar performances, which saw the Srinagar-based club let in only 19 goals in 24 games, earned him the opportunity to play for India's top club.

"I am thankful to the coaches, the staff, and my teammates for all the help. I never thought I'd win the best defender award, but it certainly feels great to be recognised for my efforts," Hammad told AIFF.

"Not conceding goals is something that we as a club have always been good at. I think it also comes down to the atmosphere at our home matches. The fans here in Kashmir support us so passionately whenever we have a game at the TRC Turf, it just gives us all



that hunger to go out and perform, to not concede, and to score goals." Hammad began his youth career with LoneStar Kashmir FC and also represented J&K in Santosh Trophy for the 2015-16 season. The 6-foot-1 center back joined Real Kashmir in 2017 and won the I-League second division. After his injury, Hammad took to playing in lower leagues to get back to full fitness. He suited up for Jaipur Elite FC in Rajasthan and returned home to wear FC1 colors in the Srinagar Premier League. "I realised while recovering from my injury that I could not play at a high level right away. It was either train and sit on the bench, or go play in a couple of state leagues to get my match fitness, and then play the I-League," Hammad said. "Once you adjust to playing at a lower intensity, then you can move up the ranks to higher levels." The sudden death Real Kash-

mir owner Sandeep Chattoo on the eve of 2024 left the team in shock.

"It was a shock for all of Kashmir when he passed away. But we are all thankful to the coach, staff, and co-owners for taking the initiative to keep the club running. So far, we have not faced any issues, and hats off to them for continuing the work in the same fashion," he said.

Hammad will now look to earn a call up to Indian football team.

"Of course, like everyone, I want to play at higher levels. I want to play in the ISL and represent India one day," he said. "But right now, I need to keep improving my game, and rectifying my mistakes. I need to raise my level with every game."

SRH Break IPL Power Play Record On Way To 266/7 v DC



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Australian Travis Head shone with the bat yet again as Sunrisers Hyderabad came up with the highest power play score in the IPL to notch up an imposing 266 for seven against Delhi Capitals here on Saturday.

SRH, who have been smashing IPL records with impunity this season, scored 125 runs without loss in power play and ended up scoring a massive total at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The previous highest power play score in IPL was 105 for no loss by

Kolkata Knight Riders against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2017.

Opener Head smashed a 32-ball 89 (11x4, 6x6) while Abhishek Sharma clobbered 46 off 12 balls as the duo shared a 131-run partnership at the top of the order in just 6.2 overs. Shahbaz Ahmed then scored an unbeaten 59 (29 balls) to give SRH another massive total to defend.

Delhi Capitals spinner Kuldeep Yadav took four wickets for 55 runs, while Axar Patel (1/29) and Mukesh Kumar (1/57) were the other wicket-takers.

David, Pollard Fined For 'Illegal Assistance' Against PBKS



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Mumbai Indians batter Tim David and batting coach Kieron Pollard have been fined 20 percent of their respective match fees for breaching the IPL's Code of Conduct during the game against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur on April 18.

The fine was imposed after a viral video of the match sparked controversy where members in the squad and support staff in the dugout of five-time champions were seen allegedly providing illegal assistance to batter Suryakumar Yadav in asking for a review.

"David and Pollard committed a Level 1 offence under Article 2.20 of the IPL's Code of Conduct. David and Pollard were each fined 20 per-

cent of their respective match fees," an IPL release said on Saturday.

"Both admitted to the offence and accepted the match referee's sanction. For Level 1 breaches of the Code of Conduct, the match referee's decision is final and binding."

In the 15th over of MI's innings, an Arshdeep Singh delivery was full and way outside off-stump, very close to the line.

Suryakumar, who was batting on 67 off 47 deliveries, tried chasing it but the onfield umpire deemed it a legal delivery. But TV cameras showed MI head coach Mark Boucher was gesturing to Suryakumar that it was a wide, following which David and Pollard was seen urging the right-hander to take a review, which is illegal as per rules.

Encourage Girls In Sports, They Will Bring A Smile On Parents' Faces: Sachin



Press Trust of India

RANCHI: Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Saturday urged people to encourage and support girls in the field of sports, and said the children will shine and bring a smile on parents' faces.

Tendulkar and his wife Anjali were in Ranchi to motivate girl football players of the 'Yuwa Foundation' at Ormanjhi block of the district. Yuwa and the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation work together here to train and promote girl footballers.

The cricket legend interacted with the players at their school located near Rukka Dam, and termed the day as remarkable.

"Children's energy is infectious. I saw them working hard and enjoying themselves. I recalled my childhood," Tendulkar said,

speaking to media persons.

"I got inspiration from many children because this journey is not easy for them. There are several difficulties in their lives. They go to play football, which sometimes is not liked by parents. I would like to tell them to encourage children and support them. These children will bring a smile on their faces," he said.

Speaking about the Sachin Tendulkar Foundation, he said it is engaged in three verticals - education, sports and health. "Education is because my father was a professor, health because my wife is a doctor and sports because I am into it. If these three are put together, it can shape the future of the country," the batting great said.

Lauding the Yuwa Foundation, Tendulkar said he found sincerity, honesty and com-

mitment in it. "Their team is honing the skills of girls, changing their lives, giving direction to their lives... The girls will go on to shine," he said.

Tendulkar said spending time with the players made him extremely happy. "The reason behind me coming here is the children. If we get a chance to smile because of them, there can't be anything bigger than that. I will come here again soon," he said. The former India captain, who is also the national icon for voter awareness and education, appealed to people to exercise their franchise in the Lok Sabha polls.

"There is always this thought; what my one vote will do. But, it does matter. If you want to take the future of the country forward, cast your vote for whosoever you want. Every vote will matter," Tendulkar said.

JKSC Distributes Khelo India Sports Kits In Kupwara, Baramulla & Bandipora

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The J&K Sports Council distributed sports kits to trainees of various Khelo India Centers in Kashmir Valley. The kits were distributed to eight Khelo India Centres in Boxing, Football and Hockey in Bandipora; Badminton and Hockey in Baramulla; and Football, Kabaddi and Kho Kho in

Kupwara.

The trainees received brand-new sports training kits during an event held at Showkat Ali Sports Stadium Baramulla. Around 300 trainees from these eight Khelo India Centers were in attendance. The kits were distributed by Divisional Sports Officer Kashmir JKSC Nusrat Gazala and Divisional Sports Officer Central JKSC Javid Ur Rehman

(JKAS), in the presence of Nodal Officer Khelo India JKSC Majid Yousuf, Incharge Manager SKISC Srinagar Hilal Ahmad and Incharge Showkat Ali Stadium Baramulla Showkat Ahmad Shah.

The administrative staff of JKSC at Baramulla along with Coaches and concerned District Managers of these eight centres were also present on the occasion.

Short TAKES

Struggling RCB Must Be Flawless Against Dominant KKR

Aware that they cannot afford any more slip-ups, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will have their task cut out when they face dominant hosts Kolkata Knight Riders in a tricky Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

RCB's pursuit of a maiden IPL title has once again hit a roadblock following six losses in seven matches. With five consecutive defeats, the bottom-ranked RCB now confront the daunting task of winning their remaining seven games to keep their playoff prospects alive.

PBKS Play GT As Both Teams Look To Resurrect Campaign

Their campaigns wobbling after a string of defeats, bottom-rung teams Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans will be desperate to arrest the slide and get back to winning ways in their Indian Premier League match here on Sunday.

Former champions GT have slipped to eighth position in the pecking order after an embarrassing loss to Delhi Capitals at home. PBKS are struggling in the ninth place following a nine-run loss to Mumbai Indians.

Vinesh, Reetika, Anshu Secure Paris Olympics Quotas For India

Making a strong comeback to international arena after leading a prolonged protest against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, celebrated Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat locked Paris Olympics quota in women's 50kg category with a strong show at the Asian Olympic Qualifier, here Saturday.

Also punching their tickets to Paris Olympics were Anshu Malik (57kg) and U23 world champion Reetika (76kg), who also reached the final of the tournament with solid performances.

Dominant Max Verstappen Takes Red Bull's 100th F1 Pole

Triple world champion Max Verstappen won Formula One's first sprint of the season and then secured Red Bull's landmark 100th pole position after dominating qualifying for Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix.

Mexican team mate Sergio Perez qualified second fastest in a front row lockout for Red Bull. Verstappen, who beat old rival Lewis Hamilton by 13 seconds in the morning sprint, was the first driver since double world champion Mika Hakkinen in 1999 to start a season with five successive poles.

Juventus Rescues Late Point In Draw With Cagliari In Serie A

Cagliari scored two first-half penalties but gave up a late own goal for Juventus to draw 2-2 in a thrilling Serie A game. Gianluca Gaetano opened the scoring for the home side after half an hour and Yerry Mina got a second with an almost identical spot-kick six minutes later.

Juventus forward Duan Vlahovic got one back in the 61st minute with a swerving free kick before Cagliari's Alberto Dossena put the ball into his own net with three minutes left.

Nigerian Champion Plays Chess For 58 Hours — A New Global Chess Record

Associated Press

NEW YORK: A Nigerian chess champion and child education advocate has played chess non-stop for 58 hours in New York City's Times Square to break the Guinness World Record for the longest chess marathon.

Tunde Onakoya, 29, hopes to raise \$1 million for children's education across Africa through the record attempt that began on Wednesday. He crossed the 58-hour mark at about 02:30 a.m. GMT Saturday, surpassing the current chess marathon record of 56 hours, 9 minutes and 37 seconds, achieved in 2018 by Hallvard Haug Flatbø and Sjur Ferkingstad, both

from Norway.

The Guinness World Record organization has yet to publicly comment about Onakoya's attempt. It sometimes takes weeks for the organization to confirm any new record.

Onakoya played against Shawn Martinez, an American chess champion, in line with Guinness World Record guidelines that any attempt to break the record must be made by two players who would play continuously for the entire duration.

Support had been growing online and at the scene, where a blend of African music kept onlookers and supporters entertained amid cheers and applause.



The record attempt is "for the dreams of millions of children across Africa without access to education," said Onakoya, who founded Chess in Slums Africa in 2018. The organization wants to support the education of at least 1 million children in slums across the continent.

"My energy is at 100% right now because my people are here supporting me with music," Onakoya said Thursday evening after the players crossed the 24-hour mark.

On Onakoya's menu: Lots of water and jollof rice, one of West Africa's best-known dishes.

For every hour of game played, Onakoya and his op-

ponent got only five minutes' break. The breaks were sometimes grouped together, and Onakoya used them to catch up with Nigerians and New Yorkers cheering him on. He even joined in with their dancing sometimes.

A total of \$22,000 was raised within the first 20 hours of the attempt, said Taiwo Adeyemi, Onakoya's manager.

"The support has been overwhelming from Nigerians in the U.S., global leaders, celebrities and hundreds of passers-by," he said.

Onakoya's attempt was closely followed in Nigeria, where he regularly organizes chess competitions for young people living on the streets.