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Government of
Jammu & Kashmir



Yoga for Self and Society

10th International Day
of

YOGA

2024

June 21, 2024 | Srinagar

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'Family History Could Affect Development Of Siblings Of Children With Autism'

Press Trust Of India

Younger siblings of children with autism could experience more developmental difficulties, especially if they have relatives with conditions such as delayed speech, anxiety or schizophrenia, a study has found.

children having at least one elder sibling with autism and assessed their social, cognitive, language and adaptive skills. The children had an average age of about two years and were enrolled between March 2006 and May 2022.



of children with autism and inform about factors contributing to (varied observable traits and behaviours among them), said senior author Katarzyna Chawarska, a professor of child psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine, USA.

presence of both kinds of disorders in the immediate and extended family members of the children with autism. "Among neurodevelopmental disorders, the most frequently reported condition was speech delay requiring therapy (64 per cent), followed by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (41 per cent) and intellectual disability (11 per cent), the authors wrote.

Scientists Develop Facial Recognition Tool To Detect Stroke

Press Trust Of India

A new smartphone application could come in handy for paramedics as it detects within seconds if a patient has suffered a stroke. Developers of the tool, which has an accuracy of 82 per cent, said it uses artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse facial symmetry and muscle movements to detect stroke.



Signs suggesting that an individual has suffered a stroke can include confusion, loss of control over muscle movement, impaired speech and diminished facial expressions, they said.

'We've got the (AI) tools and the image processing tools that can detect whether there is any change in the asymmetry of the smile -- that is the key to detection in our case'

The research team shared the trial results of the application in a study, which was published in the journal Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine.

cent for detecting stroke, a success rate that compares favourably to paramedics, according to the researchers. For the study, the team used video recordings of facial expressions of 14 people who had suffered a stroke and 11 healthy persons. Early detection of stroke is critical as timely treatment reduces the risk of long-term disability and saves lives, the researchers said.

'Signs suggesting that an individual has suffered a stroke can include confusion, loss of control over muscle movement, impaired speech and diminished facial expressions'

The Jammu & Kashmir Board Of School Education,

Academic Division, Rehari Colony, Jammu-Tawi / New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar {UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR} e-mail: directoracadr@ikbose.co.in 0191-2952817, 0194-2494522

NOTIFICATION

All the eligible candidates of Secondary School Examination (Class 10)

Session Annual (Regular) 2024 desirous of obtaining the Photostat Copy/ies or their Answer Scripts and or Re-evaluating their Answer Scripts are hereby informed that they shall APPLY ONLINE for the same on the JKBOSE official website i.e. www.ikbose.nic.in as per below mentioned schedule

Table with 2 columns: Date of opening of link for submitting online forms of re-evaluation / Photostat copy of Answer script/s, Last date for filling forms for obtaining photo copy of Answer Script/s, Last date for filling Re-evaluation Forms

Instructions for filling of Forms for Re-evaluation / Photostat copy/ies

> The prescribed fee for Re-evaluation is Rs.520/- per Answer Script and that for Photo copy is Rs.270/- per Answer script. It shall be deposited through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit Cards, UPI, Net Banking etc.

> Notice for collection of Photostat copies of Answer Script/s shall be uploaded on the JKBOSE website in phased manner and the students will collect their Photo Copy/ies strictly as per the uploaded schedule from the concerned Secrecy sections of JKBOSE Head Office at JKBOSE New Campus, Bemina, Srinagar and Rehari Colony, Jammu-Tawi only after producing proof of the Fee deposited.

> No student will visit the JKBOSE office without following the schedule for collection of Answer Scripts.

> The applicants are advised to keep visiting JKBOSE website regularly for updates regarding schedule for obtaining of Photostat copy/ies after they apply for same.

> The candidates having disqualification and Exam/paper cancelled are not eligible to fill the Photostat copy/re-evaluation forms in the respective subject/s

No: F: (Acad-CP)-Rev/X-R/Annual/2024

DIPK-NB-482/24 Dated: 20-06-2024

Director Academics

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Bushra Gulzar to (New name) Bushra Zehra. In future I will be known as (new Name) Bushra Zehra. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Kreeri

Sub: Application of Showket Ahmad Ganale S/o Late Ali Mohammad Ganale R/o Reshipora seeking their in the Income Dependent certificate.

NOTICE Regarding the subject cited above the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of income dependent certificate, in this connection a report from Patwari halqa concerned which reveals that the applicants father has died moreover the report reveals that Showket Ahmad Ganale S/o Ali Mohammad Ganale R/o Reshipora who is labourer by profession is alone earning hand in the said family and the family structure is as under

Table with 5 columns: S. NO, NAME OF LEGAL HIER, RELATION WITH DEPENDENT, AGE, OCCUPATION

The applicant has applied for issuance of Income Dependent certificate As such the instant matter is published through news paper, if any one is having any kind of objection may approach this office within 7 days (Seven Days) of the publication of this notice after passing of stipulated time of 7 days (Seven Days), no objections will be entertained.

Office Of The Principal/Chairman Bangil Educational Institute Utikoo (Tangmarg) Zone Kunzer Kashmir. Recognized Vide Govt Order No. 716-Edu Of 2004 Dated -31-06-2004. Renewed Vide Govt. Order No 174-edu- of 2019.

Office Of The Advocate Mansoor Ahmad Sofi, Mohammad Umar And Associates In The Case Of- 1. Nisar Ahmad Malik 2. Mohammad Shafi Malik Both Sons of Abdul Jabbar Malik

از نیابت پہاں عنوان:- اجرائی لیگل ہیئر سرٹیفکیٹ کنج اورٹان جان ساکنہ موضع تاپہ واری پورہ اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

از نیابت پہاں عنوان:- درخواست منجانب شہینہ بانو دختر محمد رمضان اینگرتھیل پٹن برادر اجرائی OBC یق تحت 294 SRO

SYED MAQSOOD MODEL SCHOOL KURHAMA MANAGING BODY. No.-SMMS/K/207/24 Dated:15-06-2024. A meeting was held on 22nd Of April 2023 and it was decided to frame a new managing body for the functioning of school.

PUBLIC NOTICE I have lost my Discharge Certificate of class 10th issued by Govt High School Wahabpora. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the above mentioned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

از نیابت پہاں عنوان:- درخواست منجانب محمد الطاف گنائی ولد عبدالخالق گنائی ساکنہ موضع ماگرے پورہ پٹن نسبت اجرائی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ کنج تہیل الطاف گنائی ولد محمد الطاف گنائی ساکنہ ماگرے پورہ

از نیابت پہاں عنوان:- اجرائی OBC سرٹیفکیٹ کنج بسہ اکبر دختر محمد اکبر گرام وپشرا اکبر ولد محمد اکبر گرام ساکنہ تاپہ واری پورہ تھیل پٹن

Table with 4 columns: Name, Qualification, Occupation, Designation. List of managing body members including Abdul Rashid Rather, Ghulam Mohammad Mir, Ghulam Mohidin Ganie, Nazir Ahmad Ganie, Fayaz Ahmad Tantray, Muztaq Ahmad Ganie, Amir Bashir Dar, Bashir Ahmad Mir.

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار پٹن Furnishing Of One And The Same Person Certificate. متفقون: اشتہار ہرخاص وعام

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PM MODI'S 2-DAY SRINAGAR VISIT

Assembly Polls, Statehood Not Far Away: PM's Twin Promises

'Those Involved In Recent Terror Attacks Will Be Punished'

Says New Generation In J&K Will Live In 'Permanent Peace'



6 THE WALL OF ARTICLE 370, WHICH WAS SCRAPPED IN AUGUST 2019, collapsed and the fruits of Indian Constitution ensued in Jammu and Kashmir.

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said preparations for the assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir have begun and the day is not far when the people of the Union territory will elect its own government and also get its statehood back. In his first visit to the valley after becoming the prime

minister for the third time, Modi laid the foundation stone and inaugurated 84 developmental projects worth Rs 1,500 crore in Srinagar. Taking note of the recent terror incidents in Jammu region, he gave a stern warning to those who carried out the attacks saying they will be given a befitting reply. He complimented the people of Jammu | [More on P11](#)

- » Laid foundation, inaugurated 84 developmental projects worth Rs 1,500 crore
- » Launched agricultural projects worth Rs 1,800 crore.
- » Stern warning to perpetrators of recent terror attacks
- » Distributed appointment letters to over 2,000 people
- » Commended the record turnout in the Lok Sabha elections
- » Emphasized the full implementation of the Indian Constitution
- » Noted the increase in tourism, its impact on local economy
- » Highlighted G20 meeting, International Yoga Day
- » Stressed the accountability of funds used for development
- » Interacted with young achievers at SKICC event

PM To Lead Around 8K Yoga Participants Today



KO Photo | Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

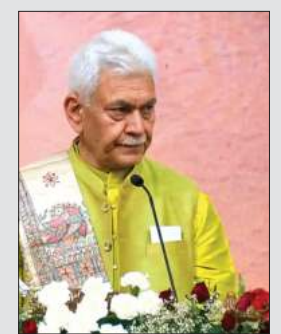
Srinagar: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Srinagar to lead the 10th International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) today. This year's IDY, themed "Yoga for Self and Society," aims to promote global health and wellness through

the practice of yoga. According to officials around 6.30 am today, the Prime Minister will participate in the 10th International Day of Yoga event at SKICC in Srinagar. "The Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion and take part in the CYP Yoga session thereafter." Stringent multi-layer security | [More on P11](#)

J&K Youth Fulfilling Dreams Under PM's Leadership: LG

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday showered praises on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating that it was due to Modi's leadership that J&K youth replaced stones with the innovative tools.



Addressing the gathering of young start-ups and youngsters at SKICC here, LG Sinha said that he was glad to have the world's most loved leader in Srinagar. "I welcome Modiji by heart and congratulate him for becoming the PM of India for the third consecutive time. The mandate he has got is unique. It is after 60 years, that people of India have elected a government for the third straight time," Sinha said and congratulated PM Modi for his feat. Sinha said that only three months ago, PM Modi inaugurated developmental projects worth Rs 39000 Crore in Srinagar. "Due to the efforts of PM Modi, Kashmiri youth have replaced stones

6 DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF PM MODI, Kashmiri youth have replaced stones with the tools of innovations."

with the tools of innovations," he said. The J&K LG said that there is no stone pelting taking place in Kashmir now and hartals are a history. "Schools, Colleges and Universities remain open throughout the year and youth are chasing their dreams with zeal in the fields of sports, business and innovations. Youth are taking part in sports events in large numbers and becoming part of Naya Kashmir," he said. (KNO)

'Committed To Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said that democracy and the Indian constitution is thriving in J&K in real terms and those not still adopting it are the real enemies of Kashmiri people. "In J&K, democracy and the Indian constitution is thriving in real terms. Those still out of it and not | [More on P11](#)

'J&K Key To India's Sports, Tourism Growth'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India is on path to becoming a major power in sports and tourism and Jammu and Kashmir is going to play an important role in it. "India is progressing towards becoming a major power in tourism and sports. In both these sectors, Jammu and Kashmir has abundant | [More on P11](#)

Light Rains In Kashmir Till June 21: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Weatherman here on Thursday forecast the possibility of light rain, thunder and gusty winds at many places of Kashmir Valley and few places of Jammu region till June 21.

A meteorological department official said that from June 22-23 there is a possibility of light rain and thunder at "isolated" places.

He said generally dry weather is expected from June 24-27 but possibility of light rain and thunder at isolated places can't be ruled out.

He said there is a likelihood of a heat wave over the plains of Jammu from June 22.

Regarding the temperature, he said, Srinagar recorded a low of 13.7°C against 18.0°C on the previous night and it was 2.1°C below normal for the | [More on P11](#)

Trial Run On World's Highest Chenab Rail Bridge Conducted

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Indian Railways on Thursday successfully conducted a trial run of an eight-coach MEMU train on the world's highest railway bridge -- Chenab Bridge -- in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the start of rail service on the route from Reasi to Baramulla in Kashmir.

"After an extensive inspection of the newly constructed Chenab Bridge by senior officers from Railway Board, Northern Railway and Konkan Railway, a trial run was conducted on a 46-km-long electrified line section between Sangaldan in Ramban district and Reasi at a speed of 40 kmph," the Railway Ministry said in a statement.



"It was successfully carried out starting at 12:35 pm from Sangaldan and reaching Reasi at 2:05 pm. On the way it passes through nine tunnels with a combined length of 40.787 km and longest tunnel T-44 of 11.13 km," it added. According to the ministry, it was the first ever full train that crossed over the iconic bridge between Dugga | [More on P11](#)

Hajj 2024: Death Toll Due To Extreme Heat Tops 1,000



Agencies

Saudi Arabia: The death toll from this year's hajj has exceeded 1,000, more than half of them unregistered worshippers who performed the pilgrimage in extreme heat in Saudi Arabia.

The new deaths reported Thursday included 58 from Egypt, according to an Arab diplomat who provided a breakdown showing that of 658 Egyptians who passed away, 630 were unregistered pilgrims. All told, around 10 countries

- ✘ Limited access to water
- ✘ Transportation issues
- ✘ Insufficient heat mitigation measures
- ✘ Inadequate medical support
- ✘ Disorganized crowd management
- ✘ Difficulties for vulnerable pilgrims

have reported 1,081 deaths during the annual pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam which all Muslims with the means must complete at least once. The figures have come via official statements or from diplomats working | [More on P11](#)

Kashmiri Pilgrims Report Hajj Ordeal

Syed Mohammad Burhan

With over 1000 pilgrims reportedly dead during this year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, Kashmiri pilgrims have alleged that the fatalities are a result of the inadequate arrangements by the Saudi authorities. At least 68 Indian pilgrims have died, including 10 from Jammu and Kashmir—eight females and two males. Six of these pilgrims are from Srinagar district, two from Kulgam and one from Jammu and Baramulla each. "The temperature has been soaring, and unfortunately, ten pilgrims from Kashmir including a couple from Srinagar have succumbed to heat stroke," a | [More on P11](#)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Mob Lynching

- ♦ **Justice Prevails: A Stand Against Mob Lynching**
 - The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 has introduced a new category of Culpable Homicide that targets the issue of mob lynching with an emphasis on justice, deterrence, and protection of victims. This is a significant step in the Indian criminal justice system, with cases of mob lynching rapidly increasing over the years.
- ♦ **Special Provisions for Mob Lynching Offences**
 - Special provision unveiled in Section 103(2) addresses offence related to mob lynching, stating that when a group of five or more persons acting in concert commits murder on the grounds of race, caste or community, sex, place of birth, language, personal belief or any other similar ground, each member of such group shall be punished with death or with imprisonment for life as stipulated under 'Punishment for Murder', and shall also be liable to a fine as deemed appropriate.
 - Similarly, acts of causing serious injury by mob solely on the grounds mentioned in 'mob lynching' provision has been punished strictly in section 117(4).

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (GOI)

PROMISED LUXURY, LEFT SLEEPING ON GRAVEL
Pilgrims Allege 'Fraud' By Srinagar Based Tour Operator

Syed Mohammad Burhan
A group of 50 pilgrims from India, 23 of whom are from the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir who paid

hefty amounts for a 23-day Hajj package, allege that they have been left stranded in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, without proper accommodation and transportation. | [More on P11](#)

Israeli Army Says " Hamas Can't Be Eliminated", Netanyahu Disagrees

Agencies

Jerusalem: Israel's top army spokesman said Wednesday that Hamas cannot be eliminated, prompting a knee-jerk reaction



His comments were quickly rebuffed by the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose cabinet has stated its Gaza offensive will not end until Hamas is defeated.

"The political and security cabinet headed by Prime Minister Netanyahu defined as one of the goals of the war the destruction of Hamas' military and governmental capabilities," his office said in a statement.

"The IDF is of course committed to this."

In a separate statement on its Telegram channel, the military clarified that Hagari had addressed Hamas "as an ideology... and his statements were clear and explicit."

"Any other claim is taking the statement out of context."

The October 7 attack that triggered the war resulted in the deaths of 1,194 people in Israel, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures.

The terrorists also seized 251 hostages. Of these, 116 remain in Gaza, although the army says 41 are dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive aimed at eliminating Hamas has killed at least 37,396 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

from the government which quickly reiterated it remains committed to the Palestinian terrorist group's destruction.

More than eight months of war, sparked by Hamas's unprecedented October 7 attack on Israel, have failed to oust the Islamist militants from Gaza but have brought widespread devastation.

"To say that we are going to make Hamas disappear is to throw sand in people's eyes. If we don't provide an alternative, in the end, we will have Hamas," Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari told Israel's Channel 13 broadcaster. "Hamas is an ideology, we cannot eliminate an ideology."

Cyprus Plays Down Collaboration With Israel After Hezbollah Warning

Agencies

Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides responded to a speech made by Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on 19 June, in which he warned that the Lebanese resistance would "deal with" Cyprus as a target if it chose to open its bases and

in any way reflect what's being attempted, which is to present a picture that Cyprus is involved in military operations," adding that Nicosia has open contact with Lebanon and Iran "through diplomatic means."

A Cypriot government spokesman, Constantinos Letymptiotis, said on 20 June that



airports to Israel in the event of a wider war against Lebanon.

Christodoulides said his country "is in no way involved" in regional military operations. Despite his claims, the UK Akrotiri base in Cyprus has been used by UK jets to attack Yemen and is reportedly part of British efforts to support Israel's war on Gaza.

Cyprus is "part of the solution, not part of the problem," the president added, noting his country's role in opening a maritime corridor for a US-sponsored initiative to bring aid into the Gaza Strip - which has recently failed.

Nasrallah warned, "Don't

his country's "relations are still excellent with Lebanon."

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz responded to Nasrallah's speech on Thursday, saying via social media: "Nasrallah threatens to attack Cyprus. Iranian missiles and extremist Islamic terrorism threaten European countries and the entire free world. We must stop Iran now before it's too late."

Nasrallah's speech on 19 June came a day after Hezbollah released footage captured by drones, showing the port of Haifa, military sites and infrastructure within it, and several other sensitive sites across the north.



"Deadly Heat" Made 35 Times More Likely Due To Global Warming: Scientists

Agencies

Washington: Deadly heat that blanketed the United States, Mexico and Central America recently was made 35 times more likely due to global warming, an international network of climate scientists said on Thursday.

The World Weather Attribution (WWA) group of scientists also said that extreme highs witnessed over that region in May and June were four times as likely to occur today as a quarter of a century ago.

The record-breaking heat killed at least 125 people in Mexico and caused thousands more to suffer heat strokes, a potentially fatal condition that occurs when the body's internal cooling mechanisms start to fail.

"We likely do not know the full picture of heat-related deaths, since they are usually only confirmed and reported months after the event, if at all," said WWA, which uses peer-reviewed methods to assess links between specific extreme events and global warming.

They said that as the world continues to burn fossil fuels and emit climate-heating greenhouse gases into the at-

mosphere, millions more people are expected to be exposed to dangerous levels of heat in the future.

This year has been the hottest on record and already large swaths of the world have endured blistering temperatures before the onset of the northern hemisphere summer.

Greece has notched its earliest-ever heatwave, India has suffered a month-long stretch of searing highs, while the United States is dealing with wildfires and scorching conditions.

And in Saudi Arabia, at least 900 people died during the annual hajj pilgrimage, mostly from unforgiving heat with temperatures in Mecca hitting 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 degrees Fahrenheit) on Monday.

"Between life and death"

For its study, WWA analysed the hottest five consecutive days and nights during a "heat dome" that lingered over the southwest United States, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras in late May and early June.

The scientists have pioneered ways to use climate models to understand how these types of extreme events have changed in a world that is 1.2 degrees Celsius warmer than in pre-industrial times.

They concluded "that human-induced warming from burning fossil fuels made the five-day maximum temperature event about 1.4 degrees hotter and about 35 times more likely".

WWA warned that if humans continue burning fossil fuels in the near term, these extremes could become more frequent still.

"The additional 1.4C of heat caused by climate change would have been the difference between life and death for many people during May and June," said Karina Izquierdo, urban advisor for the Latin American and Caribbean region at Red Cross Climate Centre.

"As well as reducing emissions, governments and cities need to take steps to become more resilient to heat," she said in a statement.

Heat is the deadliest of all extreme weather but often underestimated, experts say, with children, the elderly and outdoor workers particularly vulnerable.

In Mexico and Central America, the impacts of heat are intensified by poor housing conditions, limited access to cooling services, and for those living in informal settlements.

US reminds Lebanon 'We will back Israeli offensive against Hezbollah'

Agencies

Beirut: Lebanese leaders this week received a "blunt" warning from US special envoy Amos Hochstein that the White House is ready to support an Israeli offensive in southern Lebanon if a "diplomatic solution" is not found to stop cross-border hostilities with Hezbollah.

"The US will stand by Israel and not condemn them publicly if it launches an offensive against Hezbollah," Hochstein told senior officials in Beirut, according to an unnamed senior Arab official who spoke with Middle East Eye (MEE).

During his meetings with caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati and Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri, Hochstein also revealed Israel "anticipates roughly five more weeks of intense fighting in Gaza, after which it will pause its main offensive across the enclave."

After this, "Israeli offi-

cials intend to turn their full focus to the northern border with the aim of pushing Hezbollah back from the area so the roughly 60,000-96,000 displaced Israelis can return to their homes before the start of school in the fall," Hochstein reportedly warned.

The Israeli-born senior US official also said that the anticipated "lull in Gaza fighting" could allow Hezbollah and Israel to start negotiations and reach a detente "without a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas."

Hochstein's visit to Beirut ended just hours before Hezbollah published unprecedented reconnaissance footage of numerous sensitive sites in Israel's north, namely the port of Haifa and its naval base.

The video immediately prompted Tel Aviv to announce the approval of battle plans for a wider-scale attack on Lebanon.

"NEET Papers Sold For Rs 32 Lakh," Arrested Aspirant Tells Bihar Police

Agencies

New Delhi/Patna: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) 2024 paper leak fiasco saw a fresh twist today with the accused admitting to the police that question papers were arranged for certain candidates a day before the exam for nearly 32 lakh.

The shocking confession came from four persons arrested



by the Bihar Police, including a NEET aspirant named Anurag Yadav whose uncle is a junior engineer in the Danapur Municipal Council, and two others - Nitish Kumar and Amit Anand - the purported masterminds behind the paper leak.

They confessed that the question papers were provided a day before the May 5 exam.

Anurag Yadav told the police that his uncle Sikander Yadavendu arranged the NEET papers for him in advance.

"I was preparing for NEET at the Allen Institute in Kota (Rajasthan). My uncle Sikander Yadavendu called me to Patna and took me to Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar, where I was given some questions and the answer keys for the exam. I was told to memorise the answers. When I sat for the test the next day, I saw the questions were the same as those given to me on May 4. However, after the test, the police arrested me," he said.

Sikander Yadavendu claimed that he was told by Amit Anand and Nitish Kumar about the paper leak before the test.

"Amit and Nitish told me that the NEET question papers would be leaked and would cost about 30-32 lakh. I agreed and told them about four students - Ayush Kumar, Anurag Yadav, Shivanand Kumar, and Abhishek Kumar. On May 4, I took the four to a place where aspirants were already cramming up answers to the questions.

"Out of greed, I asked for 40 lakh from each student instead of the original amount. However, I was later caught by the police," he said, revealing the chain of events leading to the paper leak. Nitish Kumar and Amit Anand, in their statements to the police, admitted their role in the leak and revealed how their collusion with Mr Yadavendu led to their arrest.

Hundreds Died During Haj Pilgrimage In Saudi Arabia Due To Intense Heat

Press Trust Of India

Riyadh: Hundreds of people died during this year's Haj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia as the faithful faced intense high temperatures at Islamic holy sites in the desert kingdom, officials said on Wednesday as people tried to claim their loved ones' bodies.

Saudi Arabia has not commented on the death toll amid the heat during the pilgrimage, required of every able Muslim once in their life, nor offered any causes for those who died. However, hundreds of people had lined up at the Emergency Complex in the Al-Muaiseem neighbourhood in Mecca, trying to get information about their missing family members.

One list circulating online suggested at least 550 people died during the five-day Haj.

A medic who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity not released publicly by the government said that the names listed appeared genuine. That medic and another official who also spoke on condition of anonymity said they believed at least 600 bodies were at the facility. The list offered no cause of death.

Each year, the Haj draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from low-income nations, "many of whom have had little, if any, pre-Haj health care", an article in the April edition of the Journal of Infection and Public Health said. Communicable illnesses can spread among the gathered masses, many of whom saved their entire lives for their trips and can be elderly with preexisting health condi-

tions, the paper added.

However, the number of dead this year suggests something caused the number of deaths to swell. Already, several countries have said some of their pilgrims died because of the heat that swept across the holy sites at Mecca, including Jordan and Tunisia.

Temperatures on Tuesday reached 47° Celsius in Mecca and the sacred sites in and around the city, according to the Saudi National Centre for Meteorology.

Others, including many Egyptians, lost track of their loved ones in the heat and the crowds. More than 1.83 million Muslims performed the Haj in 2024, including more than 1.6 million pilgrims from 22 countries, and around 222,000 Saudi citizens and residents, according to the authorities.

Everyone Living In Karnataka Should Learn Kannada: Siddaramaiah

Bengaluru: It is the responsibility of every Kannadiga to protect the Kannada language, land, and water, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said as he gave a call for creating a Kannada atmosphere in the state.

"It is the duty of all to create a Kannada atmosphere. For that, all the people living in Karnataka should learn Kannada. We cannot remain silent like that," he said.

"Kannadigas are not insolent. But love for Kannada should be developed. We should not become like the bigots in other states. But we should develop respect and admiration for our language, land, and country," he said.

"Everyone must decide to speak in Kannada with those who live in Karnataka. A vow must be taken that no language



other than Kannada is spoken. Kannadigas are generous. That is why there is an environment in Karnataka where even those who speak other languages can live without learning Kannada,"

he stated. "The same situation cannot be seen in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala. They speak only in their mother tongue. We also have to speak in our moth-

er tongue. That should make us proud," he said.

He was addressing a gathering after Bhoomi Puja for the construction of a bronze statue of goddess Nada Devi Bhuvanewari near the western entrance of Vidhana Soudha as part of the Karnataka Namakarana Suvarna Mahotsava celebrations organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture.

The work should be completed by November 2024 as there is no shortage of funds, he said, adding that a bronze statue of about 25 feet would be constructed on the premises of Vidhana Soudha.

"We have installed statues of many politicians. I think the statue will add to the charm of the Vidhana Soudha," he stated, adding that the new statue would inspire people.

Govt Issues Draft Guidelines To Curb Unsolicited Biz Messages, Calls

New Delhi: The Consumer Affairs Ministry on Thursday sought public comments until July 21 on draft guidelines to curb unsolicited and unwanted business communications like promotional calls and text messages.

The guidelines - prepared after consultations with stakeholders, including telecom firms and regulators - define "business communication" as any communication related to goods or services like promotional and service messages but excludes personal communication.

They will apply to all individuals and entities that make or engage others for such communications or benefit from them, the ministry said in a statement.

The draft guidelines classify any business communication as unsolicited and unwanted if it does not comply with the recipient's consent or registered preferences.

Other conditions that would make

a communication unauthorised include using unregistered numbers or SMS headers, calling despite recipients opting out, failing to obtain digital consent, not identifying the caller and purpose, and lacking an opt-out option.

The proposals also bar such communications that violate the telecom regulator Telecom Regulations Authority of India (Trai) rules on commercial messages based on customer preferences.

While Trai's 2018 rules have been effective for registered telemarketers, communications from unregistered marketers using private 10-digit numbers remain unabated, the ministry said. "Do Not Disturb (DND) registry has been highly effective for registered telemarketers, but the unwarranted communication from unregistered telemarketers and those using 10-digit private numbers remain unabated," the ministry said.

Apni Party Criticizes Stringent Security Measures In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party on Thursday expressed concerns over stringent security measures put in place by the authorities ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

While acknowledging the significance of a Prime Minister's visit, Apni Party's Chief Spokesperson Muntazir Mohiuddin argued that it adversely affects the people, making them feel besieged and imprisoned.

Muntazir was addressing a Press Conference here at Party office Srinagar.

He said that in the days leading up to the Prime Minister's visit, several persons, including elderly people aged 60 to 70, were detained among them are those who have been part of the mainstream for a considerable

time. The extensive security arrangements, while necessary, were causing undue harassment to the locals.

Saying that in recent Lok Sabha elections, where voter turnout in J&K surpassed the national average, Muntazir questioned whether such security measures were an appropriate reward for the people's democratic participation.

He urged the authorities to cease the mass round-ups and allow the people, especially respectable and senior citizens, to live their lives with dignity.

Muntazir called for a balance between ensuring security and respecting the rights and freedoms of the local population, saying that the dignity of the citizens should not be compromised in the name of security preparations for high-profile visits.

IGP Kashmir Mourns Demise Of Photojournalist Nisar Ahmad

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: IGP Kashmir V K Birdi Thursday conveyed his condolences on the passing away of a renowned Senior Photojournalist Nisar Ahmad.

In his condolence message, the IGP Kashmir said that Nisar Ahmad served as a beacon of integrity and excellence in the field, with his work touching the lives of many.

He said Ahmad's dedication to uncovering the truth and telling stories that mattered set him apart.



"He leaves behind a legacy of journalistic integrity and professionalism that will be remembered and cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing him," said IGP Kashmir in his message.

Aga Hassan Mourns Deaths Of Kashmiri Hajj Pilgrims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anjuman-e-Sharieh Shian President Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi-Al-Safavi expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of lives of more than 550 Pilgrims in-

cluding those from J&K due to extreme heat-related issues in Mecca.

Aga Hassan expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy with the bereaved families and prayed for the peace to the departed souls.

NLCO Launches Mission Ehsaas Phase IV



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Nigeen Lake Conservation Organization (NLCO), headed by its Chairman Manzoor Wangnoo, successfully launched Mission Ehsaas Phase IV, and on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, NLCO launched a special campaign under Mission Ehsaas aimed at sensitizing the public about the importance of not dumping animal remains in water bodies during Eid-ul-Azha.

This initiative has garnered tremendous support and participation, reflecting the community's commitment to preserving our natural resources.

Chairman Manzoor Wangnoo expressed his gratitude to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LC&MA), dedicated volunteers, stakeholders, and the entire NLCO team for their exemplary efforts. "The coordinated efforts of SMC, LC&MA, our dedicated volunteers, stakeholders, and the incredible NLCO team have made a

significant impact in raising awareness about the importance of not dumping animal remains in our precious water bodies," said Wangnoo.

A special acknowledgment was given to Dr. Touseeef for his unwavering support and meticulous monitoring throughout this mission. "His dedication and commitment have been pivotal in ensuring the success of our efforts," added Wangnoo.

The awareness campaign has seen positive participation from the public, with many pledging to dispose of animal remains responsibly. This collective action is crucial for maintaining the health and cleanliness of our water bodies, which are vital for the ecosystem and the community.

"Kudos to all stakeholders and volunteers for your help, cooperation, and dedication. Together, we are creating a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone. Let's continue this momentum and make a lasting difference!" Wangnoo emphasized.



SECURITY PERSONNEL THOROUGHLY searching vehicles on Boulevard Road as part of stringent security protocol, ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two day visit to Srinagar on Wednesday. KO PHOTO, ABID BHAT

Nightlife In Lal Chowk Fills Every Indian's Heart With Joy: PM Modi

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the bustling markets of Kashmir and nightlife in the iconic Lal Chowk area fill every Indian's heart with joy.

Talking about the developments that have taken place in Kashmir in the last 10 years, the prime minister said the world is witness to the recent changes in the valley.

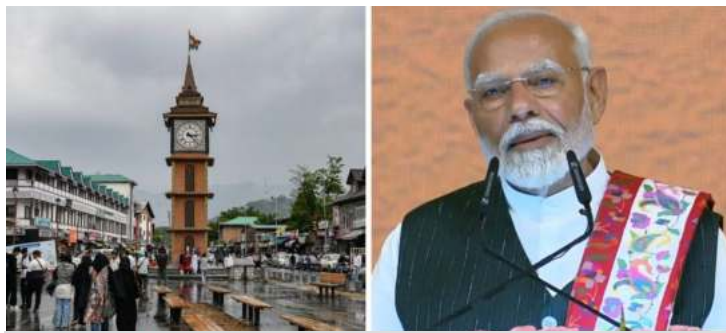
"The world continues to praise the people of the valley for their hospitality during the G20 Summit. Holding a global event like the G20 Summit in the valley has made the people of Kashmir proud," Modi said, while addressing a function here to inaugurate 84 key development projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prime Minister Modi recalled the sports car show held on the banks of Dal Lake in March this year, saying the whole world watched it. "That program stands as a testimony to the progress in the valley," he said.

"Seeing children continue to play at Lal Chowk till late in the evening fills every Indian's heart with joy. Similarly, the bustling markets of the valley light up everyone's face," Modi said.

The prime minister was referring to the changes that Kashmir has undergone since the BJP first came to power at the Centre in 2014.

Modi said tourist arrivals and records that have been broken in this case



CCIK Welcomes PM Modi's Srinagar Visit

SRINAGAR: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) warmly welcomed Prime Minister Modi's visit to Srinagar and his efforts in laying the foundation for transformative development projects. The CCIK believes that these initiatives will pave the way for substantial economic growth and job creation, significantly benefiting the local population.

The CCIK also urges all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in the International Day of Yoga celebrations. Engaging in yoga offers numerous health benefits, such as enhancing physical strength, boosting mental clarity, and fostering a sense of community and harmony. By joining the celebrations, individuals can contribute to promoting a healthier and more peaceful society.


The CCIK expresses its gratitude to PM Modi for his continued support and dedication to the development and well-being of Jammu and Kashmir. We look forward to the successful completion of the planned projects and a memorable International Day of Yoga celebration.

tor have become the talk of the town. "Tomorrow's International Yoga Day program will attract even more tourists here," he added.


Quoting Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the PM said the figure of over two crore tourists vis-

iting the valley is record-breaking and contributes significantly to the local economy.

"I have devoted myself with full dedication and honesty to ensure that a way out of the past generation's miseries may be found," he said.



GOVT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SRINAGAR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICE
 Tel/Fax: 01942455179, email: trafficpolicecitysrinagar@gmail.com



TRAFFIC ADVISORY FOR 20th & 21st June-2024

In view of the VVIP visit to Kashmir Valley on 20th & 21st June-2024 and in order to avoid congestion on various routes during the visit, the following route plan/advisory is issued to avoid any inconvenience to the general public.

- **Traffic movement on Boulevard Road from Gole Chakri R.M.Bagh, Nehru Park upto Kralasangri shall be restricted from 03:00 PM on 20th June till 11:00 AM on 21st June-2024.**
- **All such motorists intending to travel towards Nishat, Shalimar & Harwan are advised to adopt the alternate road from Dalgate, Rainawari, Hazratbal route instead of Boulevard Road axis.**
- **Traffic assistance points for all such vehicles shall be placed at Badyari, Nehru Park, Gupkar, Kralasangri & Nishat for ensuring smooth movement towards Nishat, Shalimar & Harwan.**
- **Likewise, motorists intending to travel from Harwan-Shalimar-Nishat and other adjacent areas towards Lal-Chowk are advised to travel via Foreshore- Hazratbal route instead of Nishat-Boulevard Road axis to reach their respective destinations.**
- **Traffic assistance points for all such vehicles shall be placed at Shalimar, Nishat, Kralasangri, Habbak Crossing, Duck Park & Habbak crossing for ensuring smooth movement towards Lal chowk.**
- **Tourists intending to visit Mughal Gardens & other destinations are advised to follow the traffic advisory.**
- **Locals and Tourists from Nehru Park should use Gagribal, Buchwara road and Exit via Dalgate, likewise one way shall be followed from UNO office, CD Hospital upto Nehru Park.**
- **Motorists intending to travel from Gulab Bagh-Zakoora-Naseembagh-Habbak and adjacent areas should adopt Habak - Dargah- Khanyar route to reach Lal Chowk instead of Foreshore Road.**
- **Motorists are advised to park their vehicles at designated parking places only and avoid parking their vehicles on roadside. Wrongly parked vehicles will be towed.**
- **In case any assistance is required, citizens are requested to contact Traffic Police at the Traffic Police Control Room No 103.**
- **Emergencies shall be allowed to take the shortest route**
Any inconvenience is regretted.

Telephone numbers:
PCR KASHMIR- 0194-2477567, 2477568
TPCR KASHMIR- 0914-2450022, 0194-2485396

Muzaffar Ahmad Shah-JKPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Traffic City Srinagar

DIPK-1531-24
 DT: 20/06/2024

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
 14 Zil-Hajj
 1445

PRAYERS	
FAJR	3:35
ZUHR	12:32
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:48
ISHA	9:30

This Day In History

- 1307 - Külüg Khan is enthroned as Emperor of China and seventh Great Khan after defeating rival factions and succeeding his uncle Temür Khan
- 1529 - Battle of Landriano: Imperial-Spanish forces under Don Antonio de Leyva, Duke of Terranova, beat a French army under Francis de Bourbon, Comte de St. Pol
- 1547 - Great fire in Moscow, 2-3,000 killed
- 1572 - Garrison under Adrian of Swieten conquers Gouda
- 1582 - The Incident at Honn-ji takes place in Kyoto, Japan
- 1607 - 1st Protestant Episcopal parish in America established at Jamestown
- 1661- Treaty of Kardis: Russia & Sweden sign peace treaty
- 1768- 1st US bachelor of medicine degree (Dr John Archer) Agreement Constitution of the United States
- 1824- Greek War of Independence: Egyptian forces capture Psara in the Aegean Sea.
- 1826- Maniots defeat Egyptians under Ibrahim Pasha in the Battle of Vergas.
- 1834- American inventor and businessman Cyrus Hall McCormick patents the reaping machine
- 1849- Battle at Waghause: Prussian troops beat Baden rebels
- 1904-The US Republican Party nominates Theodore Roosevelt for President, but not without opposition from those whom he calls 'malefactors of great wealth'
- 1907-E W Scripps founded United Press
- 1921- The UK, the Dominions, and India, become the British Commonwealth of Nations
- 1940- The first successful west-to-east navigation of Northwest Passage begins at Vancouver, British Columbia.
- 1941- 2nd French troops occupies Damascus Syria
- 1945- US defeat Japanese forces on Okinawa during WW II
- 1948- 1st stored computer program run, on Manchester Mark I
- 1956- Anti-protons detected in the atmosphere
- 1975- Soyuz 19 returns to Earth
- 1985- American, Brazilian & West German forensic pathologists confirm skeletal remains exhumed in Brazil were Nazi Dr Josef Mengele
- 1993- English mathematician Andrew Wiles proves last theorem of Fermat
- 1993-ST5-57 (Endeavour) launches into orbit
- 2000- Section 28 (outlawing the 'promotion' of homosexuality in the United Kingdom) is repealed in Scotland with a 99 to 17 vote.
- 2001- Total solar eclipse in Madagascar-Indian Ocean (4m56s)
- 2001- A federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, indicts 13 Saudis and a Lebanese in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 American servicemen.
- 2004-SpaceShipOne becomes the first privately funded spaceplane to achieve spaceflight.
- 2006 -Pluto's newly discovered moons are officially named Nix & Hydra.
- 2013- 15 people are killed and 20 are injured after a suicide bomber attacks a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan
- 2015-Hackers ground 1400 passengers by attacking IT system at Warsaw Chopin airport in Poland
- 2015- 94 people die & 45 are hospitalized after drinking moonshine in Mumbai, India.
- 2015- Hackers ground 1400 passengers by attacking IT system at Warsaw Chopin airport in Poland
- 2018- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden becomes the second world leader to give birth in office, to a daughter
- 2018- Sara Netanyahu, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is charged with fraud
- 2020- New archaeological discovery announced near Stonehenge of a large circle of shafts surrounding a village 2500 BC, largest prehistoric structure in Britain
- 2020- Saudi Arabia bans international visitors from making the Islamic Hajj pilgrimage in 2020 due to COVID-19
- 2020- WHO records a new record number of new daily cases of COVID-19 - 183,020, with 116,000 coming from North and South America
- 2021- Colombia's COVID-19 recorded death toll passes 100,000, the tenth country in the world to do so
- 2021- New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard is the first openly transgender athlete to be selected for the Olympics
- 2021- Swedish government of Prime Minister Stefan Lovfen toppled after a no confidence vote for the first time in Swedish history

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 21-06-2024

PM's visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir marks a significant moment as he embarks on his third consecutive term. The two day visit, occurring on June 20-21, symbolizes both continuity and a renewed commitment to the region. With a packed agenda, including the inauguration of development projects worth over 1,800 crore and leading the International Yoga Day celebrations, the PM's trip is an effort to reach out to the Valley.

The launching of 84 development projects worth over 1,500 crore reflects the administration's focus on improving road connectivity, water supply schemes, and higher education infrastructure. The launch of the Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP), valued at 1,800 crore, signals a significant investment in enhancing the agricultural sector's productivity and sustainability.

In addition to the tangible infrastructure developments, Modi's presence in Srinagar for the International Day of Yoga holds symbolic value. He will lead the yoga session on the banks of the picturesque Dal Lake, with over 7,000 participants.

However, the expectations from the PM extend beyond development projects and symbolic gestures. As the Prime Minister of India, Modi's role encompasses addressing the broader political aspirations and concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. One of the critical expectations from his visit is an announcement regarding the long-pending assembly elections. The state's politics since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 has been in a state of flux, and the restoration of democratic processes through timely elections is crucial for the region's stability and growth.

The announcement of assembly elections would demonstrate a commitment to democratic principles and provide the people of Jammu and Kashmir with a sense of political agency. It is essential for Modi to reassure people that their voices will be heard and their elected representatives will have a say in the region's governance. Such a move would not only bolster local governance but also enhance the credibility of the central government's intentions in the region.

Moreover, empowering the youth is a central theme of Modi's visit, as highlighted by the "Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K" event at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC). The distribution of appointment letters to over 2,000 individuals selected for government positions is a step towards addressing unemployment and providing economic opportunities. However, the youth in the region also yearn for a stable political environment that offers them a future within a democratic framework.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jammu and Kashmir can be a good effort, balancing developmental aspirations with political expectations. While the launch of various projects signifies progress, assuring people of a return to democracy would resonate deeply in the region.



What's Worse Than Not Earning? Not Investing

Did You Know?

Irshad Mushtaq

Financial success comes not from making money but from knowing how to wisely spend and invest it.

Millions of educated individuals had dedicated years of their lives to mastering their professions and building successful careers. However, despite their hard work and expertise, they found themselves trapped in a cycle of financial struggle. They worked tirelessly, taking on extra projects and working overtime, but still, they couldn't seem to get ahead.

What was missing from their education was not how to make money, but rather how to manage and spend it effectively. They had never been taught the importance of budgeting, investing, and saving for the future. As a result, they found themselves living paycheck to paycheck, unable to break free from the cycle of financial insecurity.

Robert Kiyosaki, a renowned financial expert, emphasized the importance of financial education beyond simply earning a paycheck. He believed that true financial success comes not from making money, but from knowing how to wisely spend and invest it. Without this crucial knowledge, even the most educated individuals can find themselves struggling to make ends meet.

It was a harsh reality for these individuals, but they knew that they had to take control of their financial future. They began educating themselves on personal finance, learning how to create a budget, invest in the stock market, and save for retirement. Slowly but surely, they started to see improvements in their financial situation, no longer feeling trapped by their lack of financial literacy.

In the end, they realized that true financial freedom came not just from earning a high salary, but from knowing how to effectively manage and grow their wealth. With their newfound knowledge and determination, they were able to break free from the cycle of financial struggle and pave the way for a secure and prosperous future.

Learn from the insights of writer and investor, founder of MI Securities and Business Partner at Sharekhan! Reach out to him at Irshad@bp.sharekhan.com for valuable knowledge on financial matters

Need for a Shift in Examinations Landscape

A fresh approach towards the assessment of learning competencies

Dr. Mushtaq Rather

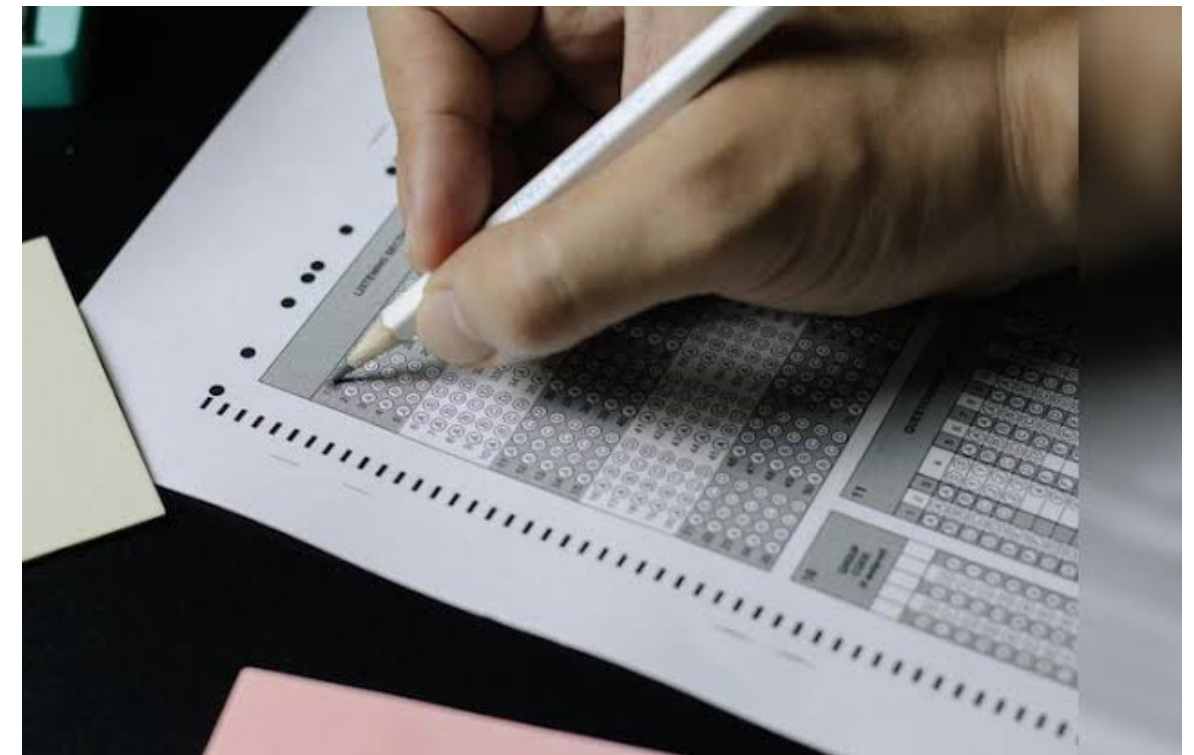
The relentless pressure to excel in exams drives students to the brink. The fundamental flaw in the existing examination system is that it creates students with mugging minds instead of questioning minds. Most students limit their potential by studying with the aim of securing good marks. The primary purposes of school education are to teach values to students, augment their thinking skills and learning abilities, equip them with knowledge and necessary skills in order to help them move to next stage education, and prepare them to face challenges in life. What it implies is that subjecting students to unhealthy competitions, celebrating the successful few and making other students feel dejected are not the purpose of school education.

Analysis of recently declared results

In the month of June 2024, three major results were declared, be it the NEET, JKBOSE 12th result followed by JKBOSE 10th result. There has been much ado and chest thumping on the part of coaching institutes, schools and educators across the spectrum and literally social media platforms were flooded with congratulatory messages. Is our current examination system in sync with the holistic assessment of the core competencies? What actually is assessed? Is still greater emphasis being given to rote learning which caters the lowest levels of competencies: be it remembering or understanding. What about the higher competencies of the learning pyramid? Are the higher learning competencies such as applying, analyzing, elaborating, evaluating and creating assessed in the existing examination system? In the existing scheme of things, these highest order learning competencies are not assessed to the level they should have been by the existing examination system. If the examination system still demands a student to be pure rote-learner, where he is supposed to do cramming or mug up the content, how we can expect our 21st century modern day learners to be future innovators: to mitigate the daunting challenges of 21st century, to be co-creators of knowledge, effective communicators, inclination towards inculcation of scientific arousal etc. Our examination system still heavily relies on pen-paper tests and a student is expected to vomit out the content in the stipulated time, which determines the fate of his career progression.

Survivorship bias Model

As the saying goes, success is never ending, failure is never final but this saying goes for a toss when the mentors, coaching institutes and schools glorify the students who vomit out maximum content in the three hour pen-paper test and emerge out as meritorious. The glorification is not confined to within the four walls of the institution and even the life sized hoardings and banners are installed in public spaces to further add to the miseries of the lot who have not made the cut or have got comparatively less marks. The mentors, coaching institutes and schools never highlight the plight of underperformers or those who have not made it to the selection list and therefore left to God's mercy without any handholding and counseling either from the parents or from faculty members of coaching centres and schools. Lack empathy on part of the parents, tuition centres and schools alleviate stress levels among students already in distress, which at times compels them to commit suicide and it is there in the public domain that innumerable student commit suicide in case they fail to qualify or obtain lower grades. The students even leave their studies in the mid way leading to high dropout rate. The psychological distress children even



resort to drugs, thus ruining their life and career. A coaching institute, an academy or for sake of the matter a school, where thousands of students are toiling hard to excel in the cut throat competition facilitate survivorship bias to remain relevant in the eyes of the public. These institutions instead of backing and rendering support to each and every student irrespective of success or failure, unfortunately relay behind the successful ones and promote and glorify them through posters, banners, advertisement in print and electronic media and on all social media platforms which has penetrated deep into the strata of the society. This glorification of selected few and disowning of larger lot is referred to as survivorship bias model.

Current examination pattern prioritizes competition over comprehension

The modus operandi of existing examination system is such that it prioritizes competition over comprehension fostering a culture of rote learning rather than comprehension. Although NEP 2020 strongly envisages holistic development of the child, be it the physical development, cognitive development, linguistic development, psycho-social wellbeing but right from inception of the academic career of the child, the child is subjected to intense cramming as a means to secure high marks thereby by creating a situation which is intensely competitive and stressful, which seriously compromises his overall wellbeing.

National Curriculum Framework for School education 2023 (NCFSE 2023) has to greater extent streamlined and rationalized the curriculum to accommodate diverse learning needs and interests. The existing examination system therefore must provide space to assess the domain of critical thinking, problem solving skills and real world application of knowledge over rote memorization. Infact there is need to introduce modular examination formats that allows students to demonstrate proficiency in individual subjects over an extended period. There needs to be a shift from high stakes, one-size-fits all examinations to a more nuanced assessment framework that values continuous learning and growth and provides opportunities for formative assessment and feedback throughout the learning process to facilitate personalized learning trajectories.

The principal determinant of effective pedagogy is the nature of assessment

The central provision of NEP 2020 is transition from rote memorization to attainment of age-appropriate competencies. The NEP 2020 strongly advocates in shifting from a behavioristic model of teaching-learning to a more engaging model of constructivist approach, where students are supposed to



There is a need to invest in comprehensive training programs for educators to deepen their understanding of pedagogical principles and assessment practices. Educators need to be equipped with the tools and the resources to implement learner-centered approaches and cater to diverse student needs effectively

construct new knowledge based on prior experiences. Students can meaningfully co-construct knowledge when the teacher will create a conducive learning environment. I am of firm conviction that the type of pedagogy to be employed by the teacher is strongly governed by the nature of the assessment. The transition from chalk and talk pedagogy to a more meaningful and engaging constructivist approach can only be replicated provided the examination system evaluates and assesses the student in 360 approach: the holistic assessment, wherein the scholastic and non-scholastic domains are equally assessed, which in the longer run can play a pivotal role in meaningful transformation of the individual and thereby contribute positively in society. In contrast, when the examination system is designed and executed in such a way that it largely revolves around assessing the rote learning or mug up of information, the teacher obviously has to align his pedagogy accordingly and thereby becomes a dominant stakeholder in the teaching-learning process, leaving minimal scope for the child to imbibe the skills of creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication.

To expect turnaround in the pedagogical domain on part of the teacher, the assessment pattern has take into account the evaluation of all the requisite learning competencies: be it understanding, applying, analyzing, elaborating, evaluating and creating, which will certainly go a long way in stimulating teachers to update their pedagogical skills and shun the traditional approach.

Conclusion

There is a need to invest in comprehensive training programs for educators to deepen their understanding of pedagogical principles and assessment practices. Educators need to be equipped with the tools and the resources to implement learner-centered approaches and cater to diverse student needs effectively. The holistic evaluation criteria need to encompass a broader range of competencies including creativity, collaboration and emotional intelligence. Implementation of diverse and alternative assessment methods, such as portfolios, projects, and presentations to capture the multifaceted nature of student achievement. There must be a transition towards authentic, contextually relevant assessments that reflect real-world challenges and opportunities.

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

Mindful Fridays

The Social Media Trap

Youth's addiction to likes and comments and its remedies

Wasim Kakroo

In today's digital age, the allure of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat has become a formidable force in the lives of young people. These platforms exploit the vulnerability of youth, who often grapple with a lack of healthy self-esteem sources, by offering immediate gratification through likes, comments, and streaks. This digital validation becomes a substitute for genuine self-worth, leading to a cycle of dependency and superficial interactions that can deeply affect mental health and self-esteem.

The Mechanics of Digital Validation

Social media platforms are designed to be addictive, exploiting psychological triggers to keep users engaged. When a person receives a like, comment, or streak notification, it triggers the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. This immediate gratification can create a dependency, as individuals, particularly young people, repeatedly return to these platforms seeking the same validation.

This cycle is problematic as it can lead to digital validation becoming the primary source of self-worth. Instead of fostering a robust, intrinsic sense of self, their self-esteem becomes increasingly reliant on the number of likes, comments, or shares they receive. This shift can be detrimental to mental health, leading to anxiety, depression, and a distorted sense of reality.

come more frequent, the absence of real-world affirmations and supportive relationships exacerbates this addiction. Young people may begin to measure their value based on their online presence rather than their real-life achievements and relationships. This reliance on virtual validation can lead to feelings of inadequacy and anxiety, especially when the expected level of online engagement is not met. The superficial nature of social media interactions often leaves young people craving more, perpetuating their reliance on virtual validation to feel valued and accepted.

The Cycle of Dependency

This cycle of dependency on social media validation can be deeply damaging. When young people rely on external sources for their self-esteem, they become more susceptible to negative comments and cyberbullying. The constant comparison with peers who often showcase idealized versions of their lives can lead to feelings of envy and depression. This comparison trap is particularly dangerous as it distorts reality, making it difficult for youth to appreciate their unique qualities and achievements.

Building Healthy Sources of Self-Esteem

To combat this growing issue, it is essential to provide young people with healthier sources of self-esteem. This involves fostering environments and opportunities that allow them to develop a strong sense of self independent of digital validation. Here are sev-

Further promoting self-esteem. Therefore, integrating regular physical activity into one's routine is a powerful way to enhance overall self-esteem and mental health.

Religion and Spirituality

For many, religion and spirituality offer a profound sense of purpose and belonging. These practices provide a robust foundation for self-esteem by instilling core values, offering a supportive community, and fostering a connection to something greater than oneself. Through shared rituals, teachings, and moral guidelines, individuals gain clarity and direction in life, promoting a sense of inner worth. Communities built around religious and spiritual practices offer social support, reducing feelings of isolation and enhancing self-confidence. Moreover, the belief in a higher power or a greater plan can offer comfort and motivation, helping individuals navigate life's challenges with resilience and hope. Together, these elements create a holistic support system that nurtures and

These activities not only provide avenues for creative expression but also teach valuable lessons in perseverance and self-discipline. Ultimately, hobbies and personal development help shape young individuals into well-rounded adults by allowing them to explore diverse interests, discover hidden talents, and cultivate a strong sense of self-worth and accomplishment.

Emotional and Social Intelligence

Developing emotional and social intelligence is pivotal for nurturing robust self-esteem. By educating young individuals on comprehending and regulating their emotions, fostering empathy towards others, and adeptly navigating social dynamics, we empower them to cultivate healthier relationships. This not only reduces their dependence on social media for affirma-

in the community fosters a deep sense of self-worth and connection with others. Unlike the fleeting validation often sought on social media, the satisfaction derived from volunteer activities is enduring and meaningful. By dedicating time and effort to causes larger than oneself, individuals can experience personal growth, gain perspective on their own challenges, and develop empathy and compassion. Moreover, volunteering allows individuals to build a supportive network, reinforcing their sense of belonging and contributing positively to mental well-being. Ultimately, these experiences cultivate a robust self-esteem rooted in genuine achievement and altruism,

in equipping young people with the skills and insights necessary to cultivate a stable and positive self-concept, fostering long-term mental well-being.

Mindfulness and Stress Management

Teaching mindfulness and stress management techniques can significantly benefit young people navigating the challenges of social media. By introducing practices like meditation and deep breathing, educators and parents can equip them with tools to cultivate self-awareness and emotional regulation. These skills empower youths to recognize their thoughts and feelings without immediate reaction, fostering resilience against the pressures of online validation. Mindfulness encourages individuals to focus on the present moment rather than getting caught up in the constant stimuli of social media, promoting a healthier relationship with technology and oneself. Moreover, these techniques offer practical strategies to cope with anxiety, promoting mental well-being amidst digital interactions. Ultimately, integrating mindfulness into education not only supports psychological health but also prepares young individuals to navigate the complexities of social media with greater confidence and resilience.

Educational Workshops and Programs

Mental health professionals play a crucial role in addressing the impact of social media on youth self-esteem through workshops and community programs. These initiatives aim to educate young individuals on digital literacy, cultivating healthy online habits, and nurturing intrinsic self-worth. By fostering awareness about the potential pitfalls of social media, such as comparison and validation-seeking behaviors, professionals empower youth to navigate digital spaces more confidently and responsibly. Practical strategies offered in these workshops can include mindful social media use, distinguishing between curated online personas and real-life experiences, and fostering offline activities that enhance self-esteem independently of online feedback. Through proactive education and support, mental health professionals not only mitigate the negative effects of social media on self-esteem but also equip young people with essential skills for maintaining balanced mental well-being in a digitally saturated world.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and works as a Child, Adolescent and Family therapist at Centre for Mental Health Services (CMHS) at Rambagh Srinagar. He can be reached at 8825067196

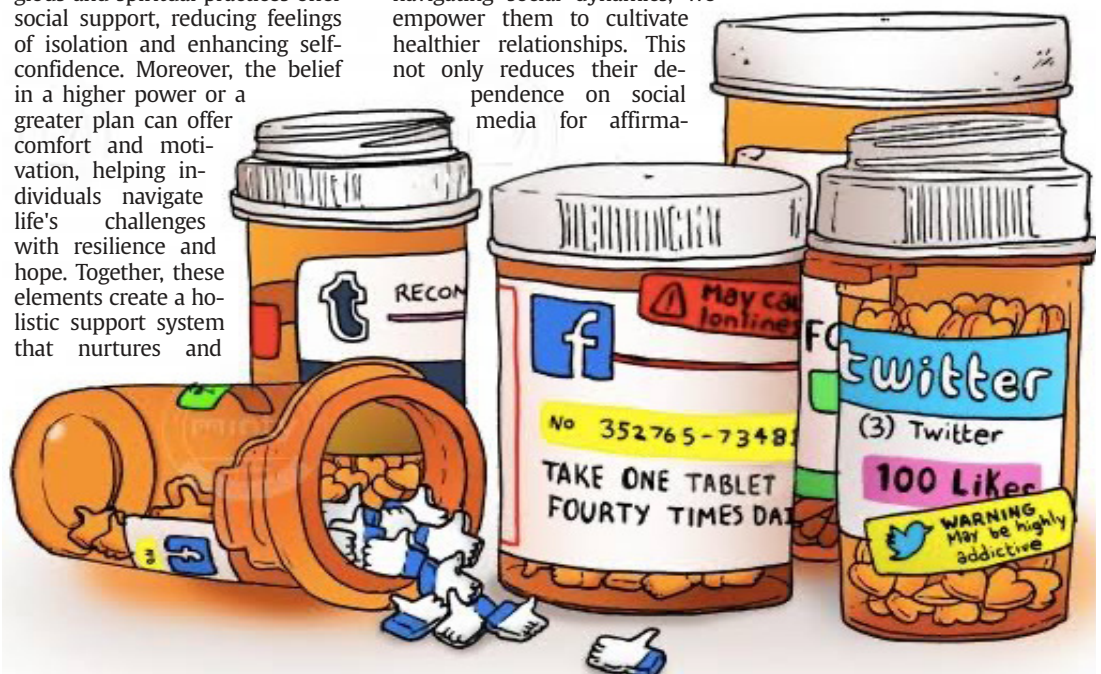


Image from Minty

Social media platforms are designed to be addictive, exploiting psychological triggers to keep users engaged. When a person receives a like, comment, or streak notification, it triggers the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. This immediate gratification can create a dependency, as individuals, particularly young people, repeatedly return to these platforms seeking the same validation

Moreover, the curated nature of social media, where users often present an idealized version of their lives, can exacerbate feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem among viewers. Young people, who are particularly vulnerable as they are still developing their identities, might find themselves constantly comparing their lives to the seemingly perfect lives of others. This can create a harmful feedback loop, where the pursuit of digital validation further erodes their sense of self-worth, driving them to seek even more validation from the same platforms.

The Impact on Self-Esteem

As social media interactions be-

come more frequent, the absence of real-world affirmations and supportive relationships exacerbates this addiction.

Physical Wellbeing

Regular physical activity significantly boosts self-esteem by enhancing both physical health and mental well-being. Engaging in sports, exercise, or other physical activities helps individuals achieve fitness goals, providing a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. The physical improvements from regular exercise, such as increased strength and endurance, contribute to a more positive self-image. Additionally, physical activity releases endorphins, which improve mood and reduce stress. Mastering new skills in sports or fitness fosters confidence and resilience,

sustains one's sense of self-worth and belonging.

Hobbies and Personal Development

Engaging in hobbies and pursuing personal development are crucial for young people to explore their passions and talents. Activities like playing musical instruments, painting, writing, or coding offer opportunities for self-discovery and skill enhancement. Each accomplishment in these areas boosts confidence and fosters a sense of pride in one's abilities. Moreover, personal development initiatives, such as acquiring new skills or setting and achieving goals, contribute significantly to building a positive self-image.

tion but also enriches their ability to find fulfillment in authentic human connections. Emotional intelligence enables individuals to recognize and manage their own feelings, leading to greater self-awareness and confidence. Meanwhile, social intelligence equips them with the skills to interact harmoniously with diverse groups, fostering mutual understanding and respect. Together, these competencies lay a foundation for resilient self-esteem, grounded in genuine relationships rather than virtual validation. Thus, investing in the emotional and social growth of young people not only enhances their personal well-being but also strengthens the fabric of communities by promoting empathy and meaningful human connection.

Volunteerism and Social Causes

Participating in volunteer work and engaging with social causes can profoundly enhance self-esteem by offering a sense of purpose and accomplishment. Contributing to the welfare of others and making a tangible difference

offering a fulfilling alternative to the superficialities of virtual validation.

The Role of Mental Health Professionals

Mental health professionals employ psychotherapy as a pivotal tool in addressing youth self-esteem issues exacerbated by social media validation. Through psychotherapy, young individuals can explore and challenge negative thought patterns that underpin their low self-esteem. By guiding them to reframe their thoughts and cultivate more positive self-perceptions, therapists facilitate the development of a robust sense of self-worth. This process involves identifying root causes of dependency on social media validation and promoting healthier sources of self-esteem. Through a supportive therapeutic environment, professionals empower youth to navigate their emotions, enhance resilience, and foster a deeper understanding of their intrinsic value beyond external validation. Ultimately, psychotherapy serves as a crucial intervention

Narcissism And The "As-If" Personality

Susan E. Schwartz

Although the narcissistic persona is appealing, the façade of illusion and superficiality indicates being prone to alienation from oneself. Reality is fraught with anguish, panic, absence, and void.

Narcissism is the love of an image, but one unrecognizable as oneself. The mirror is distorted both inwards and outwards. A man in analytical treatment commented, "What do I like? What do I want? I want to be desired, but I don't believe I'm desirable. I want excitement, but I can't excite myself with anything that is not taboo. I want to die, I think. I'm selfish and don't really care about anything more than my own comfort, stability, peace, and legacy. And all of this is starting to ring hollow. I am scared and what can I do?" The unanswered questions posed are: "Who am I really?" and "Can I be interested to know you when I

do not see myself?"

Much pain is expressed within these words and draws us to the person covered in sparkling appeal but suffering in this ontological insecurity, living half-dead, feeling flawed. How can this paradox exist? This is a perspective about why love is difficult for a narcissist, finding it hard to give and easy to take. The person circles around but does not get into the intimacy, feelings, and emotions of love. Often appearing as a shiny object, adored, and idealized, they need glamorous projections onto them to prevent collapsing into what feels like the void of interiority.

Narcissism has been described as a grandiose sense of self with exhibitionism, needing reassurance of uniqueness while suffering in disturbed relationships. The capacity to kid oneself is huge and arises from the fraudulence the person vaguely fears bursting forth. Living on illusions, the continual re-estab-

lishing of these illusions requires much effort and is based on the avoidance of being closely seen and known. This person struggles to establish an integrated sense of "I." Yet, the overriding question within this personality includes, if I am not seen as exceptional, who am I?

From the perspective of Jungian analytical psychology, expanding the symbolism within narcissism moves us further into the depths of the psyche. This approach is oriented to transformation. It is not the pathology to focus upon but rather the search for meaning and increase in consciousness with connection to the unconscious, bringing relationality with others out of the narcissistic singularity and aloneness.

Narcissism brings us to a sensitive and deep reflection on the nature of these wounds and the analytical repair. Hope emerges from the conundrum of those caught in the throes of narciss-

ism, whether it is about themselves, a partner, or the effects of a narcissistic parent. This includes attending to the culture of narcissism while the primary focus is understanding the individual psychological situation. The magnitude of uncertainties and transitions humanity is now undergoing indicates we are in a particularly challenging time to relate and understand others and accept their differences.

The narcissistic approach to life encompasses the "as-if" personality, an impostor type, a person feeling unable, unworthy, hiding in a grandiose tower. The concept of the "as-if" personality reflects a partial engagement while remaining emotionally hidden, mostly to themselves, unable to commit, to find their internal roots or fulfillment. Although often feeling alone and lonely, the narcissist has a creative edge and energy, compensating for the underlying morass of sorrow and disillusionment.

The idealized and illusions are to avoid the real, as it is assumed to be disappointing. Not uncommonly, many remark on negative inner thoughts interfering and critical self-evaluation. This is why they must always be on, persona in place, no sign of any disorder.

The narcissistic tendency towards self-absorption, narrowness, and individual subjectivity can prevent growth and become ossified with the aging process. Isolated within, the narcissist is the prisoner of their own ego. Preserved, suspended in time, can they realize what is happening to them? How can they find a ground of being when this is the very thing they assiduously avoid?

The narcissist feels anxiety and apprehension about life. This is covered over by developing an idealized persona to hide what is considered the fissures underneath, lying like a silent fault in the earth. This is all per-

plexing when a person appears verbal and pleasant, enchanting, and highly functioning, basking in the limelight. What is unnerving is the yet-to-be-discovered layers behind the veils, mirrors, and empty cheer. Like today's diagnosed narcissist, in the myth, Narcissus sees an idealized likeness, one without warts and blemishes. Narcissus' self-identity is inflated, unrealistic, incomplete, and in denial of the shadow. It also refuses the appeal of others for love or attention. Unable to respond to intimacy, the narcissist seems to want to keep it this way.

However, given so much popular hype around the impossibility of narcissism, we run the risk of obscuring the urge for transformation embedded in this personality type. The process of Jungian analytical psychology opens a gateway through the agony and loss to find aliveness and love for self and others. We are made of many not one

and this can be interpreted as listening and responding to the voice of Echo reaching out rather than remaining in the singularity of Narcissus. In the original Ancient Greek myth of Narcissus and Echo, Narcissus was absorbed in his reflection, which was most beautiful and desirable, and would see none else. Echo desired him and he refused repeatedly. This is like the modern-day narcissist who only sees himself and regards no other as equal or worthy of attention.

The "as-if" personality is an aspect of narcissism in its self-focus, defenses, and avoidance of the effects of others, ultimately leading to defensive isolation from the world. This leads us to understand more about where each of us fits in denying our own discomfort and how to conquer it and manifest our growth.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Indians' Funds In Swiss Banks Plunge 70% To Hit Four-Year Low Of Rs 9,771 Cr

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi/Zurich- Funds parked by Indian individuals and firms in Swiss banks, including through local branches and other financial institutions, fell sharply by 70 per cent in 2023 to a four-year low of 1.04 billion Swiss Francs (Rs 9,771 crore), annual data from Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday.

The decline in aggregate funds of Indian clients with Swiss banks for the second consecutive year, after hitting a 14-year-high of CHF 3.83 billion in 2021, was largely driven by a sharp plunge in funds held through bonds, securities and various other financial instruments.

Besides, the amount in customer deposit accounts and funds held through other bank branches in India also declined significantly, the data showed.

These are official figures reported by banks to the Swiss National Bank (SNB)

and do not indicate the quantum of the much-debated alleged black money held by Indians in Switzerland. These figures also do not include the money that Indians, NRIs or others might have in Swiss banks in the names of third-



country entities.

The total amount of CHF 1,039.8 million, described by the SNB as 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks or 'amounts due to' their Indian clients at the end of 2023, included CHF 310 million in customer deposits (down from CHF 394 million at 2022-end), CHF 427 million held via other banks (down from CHF 1,110 million), CHF 10 million (down from CHF 24 million) through fiduciaries

or trusts, and CHF 302 million as 'other amounts due to customers in form of bonds, securities and various other financial instruments (down from CHF 1,896 million).

The total amount stood at a record high of nearly 6.5 billion Swiss francs in 2006, after which it has been mostly on a downward path, except for a few years including in 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020 and 2021, as per SNB data.

While all four components had declined during 2019, the year 2020 saw a significant plunge in customer deposits, while there was a surge across all categories in 2021. During 2022, only the fiduciaries segment saw an increase.

According to the SNB, its data for 'total liabilities' of Swiss banks towards Indian clients takes into account all types of funds of Indian customers at Swiss banks, including deposits from individuals, banks and enterprises. This includes data for branches of Swiss banks in India, as also non-deposit liabilities.

Government Of Union Territory Of Jammu And Kashmir DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Lassipora Executive Magistrate 1st class

In the case of: MOHMAD AKRAM PAUL S/o GHULAM HASSAN PAUL R/OPATIPORA, Tehsil Shahoora Litter, District Pulwama.

V/s

Registrar Births & Deaths, BDO Lassipora/Litter (Non-Applicant).

(Applicant).

(Notice To Public At Large)

Whereas, the above titled petition is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant for late registration of Date of Birth particulars of the applicant's SON namely MISBAH UL HAQ S/O MOHMAD AKRAM PAUL R/O PATIPORA as 15-05-2013 at Home.

Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection with respect the registration of birth particulars of the applicant as 15-05-2013, he shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the registration of issuance of this publication. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Given under my hand and seal of this office on

Executive Magistrate, 1st Class, Lassipora.

phw

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

Office Of The Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority Gulmarg,

email: gulmarggda@gmail.com TEL-01954294416

E- Bid Document (Auction ID) Out-sourcing of "Cycle parking area near Children park through GeM Portal for a period of 03-Years,

No: GDA/F-159/2023/1569-73 dated 30/12/2023 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory; E- Auction are invited online through GeM Portal for Outsourcing the "Space for Cycle parking area near Children

S.No	Particulars	Date/Amount	Remarks
1.	PQ (Pre- Qualification) Submission Start Date	13.06.2024= 10:00 AM	NIL
2.	PQ (Pre- Qualification) Submission End Date	29.06.2024 =10:00 PM	NIL
3.	PQ (Pre- Qualification) Assessment Date & Time	01.07.2024 =04:00 PM	NIL
4.	EMD Start Date	02.07.2024 = 10:00AM	NIL
5.	EMD End Date	08.07.2024= 04:00 PM	NIL
6.	EMD (Bid Security) Amount	Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only)	To be pledged in favour of Accounts Officer Gulmarg Development Authority
7.	Bid Submission/Auction Start Date	09.07.2024= 12:00 PM	NIL
8.	Bid Submission/Auction End Date & Time	10.07.2024 =02:00 PM	NIL
9.	Reserve Bid Amount	Rs. 1,00,000/- (One lac Only)	with 10% escalation for each successive year per year

The e-auction shall be finalized by the Outsourcing Committee under the Chairmanship of Director Tourism, Kashmir. Reliable/resourceful and experienced agencies/persons, who fulfill the ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (PRE QUALIFICATION) detailed as under shall only be eligible to participate in the E- Auction process.

PRE-QUALIFICATION (PQ) CRITERIA (TO BE UPLOADED ON GeM-PORTAL)

- The bidder shall have to upload Certificate of Registration of Adventure Tour Operators registered with J&K Tourism Department.
- The bidder shall have to upload a Character Certificate from the concerned Additional Dy. Commissioner (ADC) or Police Station. The validity of character certificates shall have to be Six Months from the date of issuance.
- The bidder shall have to upload self-attested PAN Card & Aadhar Card.
- Specific Condition:**
 - The bidder participating in the e- bid process must apply in his name or the firm duly registered in his name. There is no scope whatsoever of executing any partnership deed in the source deed.
 - The minimum reserve bid has been fixed at Rs.1.00 lacs Per Year with 10% escalation for each successive year thereafter to be deposited before the start of every year.
 - The interested parties should compulsorily visit & inspect the asset before participating in the e- bidding process and the physical position of the asset As such, no claim of any deficiency, addition, alteration, rectification in the asset would be entertained during/after bidding process.
 - Eligible persons shall be allowed to participate in the e- bidding process only after uploading of relevant documents mentioned in the Eligibility Criteria and EMD in the shape of CDR, amounting to Rs.10,000/- pledged in favour of Accounts Officer Gulmarg Development Authority.
 - The successful bidder shall have to deposit 100% of the approved bid amount for the 1st year within a period of seven days after the culmination of bidding process otherwise the claim shall get forfeited.
 - Cycling helmets by respectable brands, stocked for all sizes from extra small (XS) to extra large (XL).
 - It is mandatory to use helmets on all rides and at all times
 - Maintaining the bicycles is critical to ensure every group of customers has a good experience. To do so, here are components of the trip that need care:
 - Ensure the bicycles are given care after every trip. This would include:
 - Cleaning the bicycle.
 - Lubricating the chain.
 - Drive train service.
 - Check chain health.
 - Check brake and gear cable tension.
 - Get a complete strip down service done with a trusted bicycle shop, for each bicycle every 1000 kms. You should get from them, a list of jobs carried out per cycle, parts replaced and have a sense of how long each of the parts are likely to last.
 - If the bicycles have been through a tough rocky terrain or a muddy region, inspection for damage and/ or sending them for inspection to a bicycle shop is recommended.
 - In case the successful bidder fails to make payments, the 2nd highest bidder shall be offered to deposit the highest bid amount on the same conditions of payment. However, the outsourcing committee shall have sole discretion for any final decision.
 - The contract shall be awarded for one year in the first instance and renewal of the same shall be subject to depositing of rentals for the each successive year in advance including 10% compound escalation, within 07-days from the date of completion of each year satisfactorily. The department is in its right to cancel the contract.
 - In case the successful bidder fails to complete the term of contract, or leaves the contract half way or the contract is cancelled due to any disqualifications/nonpayment of advance rent, the CDR shall be forfeited.
 - The safety, security and upkeep of the asset shall be sole responsibility of outsourcing during the period of contract
 - The out-sourcing committee reserves the right to reject any or all the e- bids without assigning any reason thereof.
 - The successful bidder shall have to charge rates for various allotted services as per approval of the Department from time to time.
 - The electric/water consumption charges shall be payable by the outsourcee.
 - The bidder shall not be employee of any Govt. Deptt. or a Public Sector undertaking.
 - The successful bidder shall have to execute an agreement with the department on non- Judicial Stamp Paper regarding adherence to the instruction/terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Department during the course of the contract period.
 - The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for exacting this agreement/ license deed.
 - The bidder shall have to bear all the costs and expenses for exacting this agreement/ license deed.
 - The successful bidder shall have to provide the catering facilities for the full period of license and not on seasonal basis only.
 - The successful bidder shall be under an obligation to make arrangement for safe disposal of solid/liquid waste etc. And meet other requirements of pollution control/protection of environment.
 - The licensee has to insure the property through any Nationalized insurance Company in the name of the Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority shall be issued by this office. The premium on this account shall be borne by the licensee.

No:GDA/F-92/2024-25/ 439-43
DIPK-NB-501/24
Dated: 20-06-2024

Chief Executive Officer
Development Authority Gulmarg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Baramulla

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

e-NIT No: 10/1872-81/2024-25/RnB/Bla Dated 12.06.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on JKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW (R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) incl. 18% GST	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1.	Upgradation of inner links Bilal Mohalla & Usman Mohalla Johama by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver)	29.15	Rs 58300/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
2.	Upgradation of Link Road Opp. Masjid Abubakar & Poshbagh at Gutiyar by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	14.56	Rs 29120/-	Rs 600/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B, C & D
3.	Macadamisation of Vizer inner links by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	38.83	Rs 77660/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
4.	Macadamisation of Baldaji to Takiya yousuf Shah Road by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	43.72	Rs 87440/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
5.	Macadamisation of Bangdara inner links by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	24.29	Rs 48580/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
6.	Upgradation of chinar bagh Cherdari inner links by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver)	33.98	Rs 67960/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
7.	Macadamisation of Kalayban Mugh Mohalla Road by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	34.45	Rs 68900/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
8.	Upgradation of Drangbal, Kirman Colony & Chinar-Colony Roads by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	34.45	Rs 68900/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
9.	Upgradation of road from junction to Govt. Boys Middle School Pethseer by way of Widening/Placing/Laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	24.29	Rs 48580/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
10.	Macadamisation of Sharnan Colony at Khowjabagh by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	24.30	Rs 48600/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
11.	Macadamisation of Sangrama forest lane inner links by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	4.61	Rs 29220/-	Rs 600/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B, C & D
12.	Macadamisation of Khespora inner links by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	24.29	Rs 48580/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
13.	Macadamisation of Putnar colony Kreeeri road including Gauge Link from Masjid Sharief onwards by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	24.29	Rs 48580/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
14.	Macadamisation of Gulberg Colony Mongam from Panchayat Ghar by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	19.43	Rs 38860/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
15.	Macadamisation of Bulgam inner links by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	17.50	Rs 35000/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
16.	Macadamisation of Link Road from Masjid Baitul Huda to Masjid Zakreen, links at Kaslab Mohalla, link at HS Fatehpora High School and balance link at Gurwan road at Fatehpora by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	19.43	Rs 38860/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C
17.	Macadamisation of Road at Pathani Bagh Kanilbagh and Sangri Colony, Gulbergh Colony, Chinar Bagh, Friends Colony, Ushkara by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat.	48.53	Rs 97060/-	Rs 1100/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	A & B
18.	Macadamisation of Road at Al-Mustafa colony by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	9.77	Rs 19540/-	Rs 600/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	C & D
19.	Upgradation of Balance portion of Road at Gulnar Park Azad Gung by way of Providing and laying of WBM GII, 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	9.79	Rs 19580/-	Rs 600/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	C & D
20.	Upgradation /Improvement of Delina Singhpora Road by way of Providing and laying of 75mm thick WMM, 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	9.72	Rs 19440/-	Rs 600/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	C & D
21.	Macadamisation of Link Road from the H/O Sani Singh to the H/O Mohd Abdulla Sheikh at Pathania Bagh Kanilbagh Baramulla by way of Providing and laying of 50 mm thick Bituminous Macadam, 25 mm thick semi-dense and 6 mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix laid with Paver).	19.42	Rs 38840/-	Rs 800/-	10 Days	MH-5054-C&T	B & C

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12.06.2024
1.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15.06.2024 to 24.06.2024 (4:00PM)
2.	Bid submission Start Date	15.06.2024
3.	Bid Submission End Date	24.06.2024 (4:00PM)
4.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	25.06.2024 (11:00AM)

- Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.
- The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender receiving authority).
- Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
- In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
- Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.
- Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.
- Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
- The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.
- The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).
- Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
- Price escalation and Taxes:-
 - The allotted cost shall be calculated after adding 18% GST on the quoted amount by the lowest bidder.
 - The allotted cost shall be deemed to include price escalation and all other taxes up to the completion of the work. Other Taxes and levies shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
- All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
 - All bidders must upload copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.
 - A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act.
 - Treasury Challan/Earnest money
 - Valid GSTIN Registration & PAN Card
 - Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter or month, whichever is applicable, ending quarter December-March-2024 or month April-2024.
 - A Civil Contractor who does not own HMP and is bidding for Bitumen Macadam Works is required to upload MoU with HMPQ, from whom the material/machinery for the subject work will be procured. The Memorandum of Understanding must be registered and duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate, specifying clearly that failure on the part of the HMPQ shall be deemed failure on the part of the bidder, and vice versa
 - Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2023-24.
- Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.
- The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

No: 1872-81

DIPK-1449/24 Dated: 20.06.2024

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

New Varieties From Italy Fetch Good Price, Say Kashmir's Cherry Growers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The newly imported cherry varieties from various countries, mainly Italy, are proving to be highly profitable for growers in Kashmir, even as the main traditional varieties await harvesting.

Growers across the valley said that these new varieties are fetching good rates. While some traditional varieties ready at this time are also performing well, the main traditional harvest is yet to commence.

Despite the new varieties not matching the traditional ones in terms of crunch, colour and nutritional value, they are less susceptible to rain damage and therefore fetch better prices, they said, adding that traditional varieties are often damaged by even low-intensity rain, resulting in lower market rates.

Rashid Ahmad, a cherry grower from south Kashmir's Shopian district, said that traditional varieties are frequently damaged by rain, even at low to moderate intensities. In contrast, the new varieties only suffer damage from very heavy rains, he said.

"Traditional varieties tend to ripen simultaneously, disrupting the supply and demand chain and forcing growers to sell at lower rates due to their short shelf life. However, the new varieties ripen at staggered intervals, maintaining a steady supply and demand chain, thus yielding higher profits," he said.

Another grower Asif Ahmad said that among the traditional varieties currently ready for har-



vest is the Siyah variety, along with the new Italian varieties. All are fetching good returns similar to last year, he said, adding, "Cherries are being sold at around Rs 150 per kg, which, though not exceedingly high, is considered a good return."

Growers said that while traditional varieties are typically harvested from mid-June to the first week of July, the new varieties extend the season to around two months. This prolonged season provides more job opportunities for both local and non-local manual workers.

Peer Muhammad Amin, President of Fruit Mandi Shopian, told KNO that cherry rates are currently favourable. He expressed hope that the trend will continue with the traditional varieties. "This is just the initial stage, and with the peak season of traditional varieties approaching, there is optimism for sustained demand and good prices," Amin said.

A member of the Fruit Growers Association Kashmir said that approximately 85 percent of cherries are traditional, with most still awaiting harvest. The varieties being grown include Makhmal, Siyah, Awal Number, Italy, Jodi, Holland, Double, Mishry, Splendor and Steela.—(KNO)

PM Modi's Remarks On Statehood, Early Assembly Polls In J&K Evoke Mixed Reactions

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement here on Thursday that assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held soon and plans are underway to restore its statehood in the near future evoked mixed reactions.

While former Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad-led Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) welcomed Modi's announcement, the main regional forces -- the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) -- reacted cautiously.

"We welcome PM Modi Ji's statement on conducting elections and restoring statehood in J&K," DPAP chief spokesperson Salman Nizami said in a statement.

He said the recent participation of the people in the Lok Sabha elections indicates that people are "eager for change and are desperately waiting for the elected government".

"This has been a long-standing desire and demand of the people. The government must also ensure peace and the smooth conduct of elections to fulfill the aspirations of the citizens," Nizami added.

NC chief spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq said the Election Commission of India (ECI) must follow the Supreme Court's timeline for the conduct of the assembly polls.

"Just so you know, the ECI must follow the Supreme Court's timeline for elections,



while the government's sole responsibility is to ensure a peaceful election atmosphere," Sadiq said in a post on X.

In December last year, while giving its verdict on a batch of pleas challenging the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision of abrogation of Article 370, the Supreme Court had directed the ECI to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30 this year.

On the assurance of Prime Minister Modi on the restoration of the statehood to J-K, the NC chief spokesperson said the people of the Union Territory (UT) have been hearing it would be restored soon for four years now.

"Regarding statehood, we've heard it will be restored 'soon' over 20 times in four years. Spoiler: 'soon' is still nowhere near," Sadiq said.

PDP chief spokesperson Suhail Bukhari also said the people of J-K have been hearing about the conduct of assembly polls and restoration of statehood for the past few years, but will believe it only when it happens.

"We have been hearing this for the past five years. We

will believe it when it happens. They talk about elections and statehood in a way as if they are doing a favour to us by granting our democratic rights," Bukhari said.

Prime Minister Modi said on Thursday that assembly elections will be held soon in Jammu and Kashmir and plans are underway to restore statehood to the UT in the near future.

In his first visit to the valley after becoming the prime minister for the third consecutive term, Modi emphasised the importance of enabling the people of Jammu and Kashmir to elect their representatives for the assembly.

In his address at a gathering at SKICC 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K', he commended the people for their active participation in the Lok Sabha elections and expressed the need for them to choose their local leaders through upcoming assembly elections.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir participated in Lok Sabha elections in large numbers and broke the record of the past 35 years. You deserve to be felicitated for it..."

"Now time has come that the people of Jammu and Kashmir chose their own local representatives. For that, preparations are being made for holding assembly elections," he said.

Furthermore, Modi assured the people that the day was approaching when Jammu and Kashmir would regain its statehood status.

Trip To Kashmir Gets Costlier As Airfare Hikes By Nearly 50 Percent



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid record breaking tourist arrivals, the airlines companies have hiked the airfare from various destinations to Kashmir by more than 40 per cent.

As such, the stakeholders fear it could impact the flow of tourists in the coming months when Kashmir usually remains abuzz with visitors.

A cursory look at the airfare chart by various airline companies suggest that a one way trip from New Delhi to Srinagar costs between Rs 8000-11000 per person.

Normally the same ticket would sell at Rs 4500-Rs 5000 per person.

Similarly, an air ticket from West Bengal, where Kashmir receives maximum tourists during the ongoing season, sells between Rs 13000 to Rs 20000 per person. A return ticket costs between Rs 15000 to Rs 20000 per person.

The airfare has also hiked for other destinations including Maharashtra and Bangalore, which contribute a major proportion of tourist arrivals during the summer season.

A round trip to Kashmir from Maharashtra costs more than Rs 20000 per person. Same is

the case with Bangalore, where a round trip to Kashmir has hiked by more than 50 percent.

Tourism players fear it could impact the ongoing summer and autumn seasons during which Kashmir receives a major chunk of tourists.

It has left them worried as their Kashmir tour packages are getting costlier, hence unaffordable to many aspiring visitors.

"Airfare hikes have always been an issue with Kashmir tourism. It becomes one of the major deterrents to our promotion activities. We have been always requesting the government to curb the menace as we lose a huge chunk of tourists due to the unaffordable air tickets," said President Travel Agents Association of Kashmir Rauf Trambo.

He said the Kashmir packages have become costlier due to the airfare hike by the airline companies. "Such is the situation that a trip to Dubai or Thailand becomes cheaper than a Kashmir trip. Tourists prefer international trips over Kashmir due to the airfare hike," Trambo said.

The stakeholders appealed to the government to regulate the airfare for a smooth summer and autumn tourism season in Kashmir.—(KNO)

Killing Of 2 Foreign Terrorists 'Major Success' For Security Forces: Army

Observer News Service

RAFIABAD: Security Forces claimed to have achieved a major success by killing two foreign terrorists in Hadipora, Rafiabad encounter on June 19.

Addressing a press conference at Pohrupet, Commander 7 sector Rashtriya Rifles (RR) Depak said that since the last few days, there were continuous inputs about the presence of terrorists in Sopore's Rafiabad. "On June 19, a specific information was generated by the J&K police about the presence of terrorists in a house at Hadipora, Rafiabad, after which the army, police and CRPF launched a joint operation. After zeroing in the house, two terrorists were eliminated in an encounter," he said. The army officer was flanked by Deputy Inspector General of Police north Kashmir, Vivek Gupta and other officers of police and army.

The two slain terrorists were affiliated with the Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit and have been identified as Usman and Umar. "Usman has been active in Kashmir since 2020," the army officer said.

He said that arms and ammunition in a large quantity was

recovered from the site of the encounter.

"The killing of two terrorists is a big success for the security forces. Since the past few weeks, there is a high operational momentum which is bearing good results in the form of elimination of terrorists," he said. "We are enjoying the continuous support of people."

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the army said that over the past few weeks there has been constant information of a terrorist group in the Sopore-Rafiabad area of Baramulla District. "A specific intelligence was received through JKP that two terrorists were holed up in a house in Hadipura village of Rafiabad area. Consequently, Indian Army, JKP and CRPF launched a joint operation, swiftly cordoning off the area. Following standard procedures, civilians were safely evacuated from adjacent houses and the area was secured. The target house was thoroughly cordoned off and on the search being commenced, terrorists opened fire on the security forces. In the ensuing firefight, two terrorists were neutralized," the statement said.

Yoga Day: Mufti Alleges J&K Employees Being Forced To Take Part, Govt Denies

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration for allegedly forcing employees, including pregnant women, to report for the International Yoga Day event at odd hours, saying an occasion for celebration has filled people with dread.

However, the government denied the charges and said all the participants volunteered to take part in the event and no employee was compelled to join it against their will.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the main International Yoga Day (IYD) celebrations this year at an event at SKICC here on Friday.

"An occasion for celebration has become one that fills people with dread. A day before International Yoga Day, all govt employees along with school children have been ordered to show up at different venues at ungodly hours.

"Even pregnant employees have not been spared. A pregnant employee was threatened



to choose between her job or being present at the event," Mufti said in a post on X.

She was reacting to a post by one Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat, who said on X, "In connection with International Yoga Day celebrations Female Govt Employees were asked to reach SP College Srinagar at 4 am yesterday. They left their homes at 3 am & were asked to change their dress in College & then go to SKICC. Not a Fair practice".

Bhat said it was a very odd time and should not be repeated.

"Instead Male staff members could have been called,"

he added.

Rebutting the charge, J&K Director Colleges termed the charge as "misinformation".

"The Director Colleges J&K has rebutted this misinformation stating that all participants in the Yoga Day celebrations have volunteered to take part in the event and no employee was compelled to join the event against their will," a statement from the administration said.

The Director Colleges asserted that employees were not required to change their clothing.

"They were provided with long tunics to wear over their existing attire, ensuring their comfort and convenience. The Director also stated that the employees' well-being was prioritized. Pregnant employees and those with medical conditions were not asked to participate in the Yoga Day celebrations," the statement said.

The Director Colleges urged everyone to verify facts before spreading "false narratives" that can cause unnecessary concern and confusion.

Traffic Violation On Kashmir Highway: Rs 3.8 Crore Fine Imposed, 553 Vehicles Seized

KO News Service

SRINAGAR: While addressing media persons at Traffic NHW Headquarter Ramban, DIG Traffic Jammu Zone, Dr Mohd Haseeb Mughal IPS shared that Continuing its drive against Motor Vehicle Act violations, Traffic Police National Highway under the supervision of IGP Traffic J&K have booked 38350 Traffic violators and imposed heavy fine amount of Rs 38523950/- for breaching traffic rules since 1st January 2024 to 31 May 2024.

Besides this, during the period, 553 vehicles were seized. To cause deterrence among Traffic rule violators and to reduce road accidents, 29 FIRs lodged for overloading in PSVs out of which 21 FIRs lodged in District Doda & Kishtwar, 05 FIRs lodged in District Udhampur, 03 FIRs lodged in District Ramban.

Strict action against overloading in goods as well as in PSVs taken, Traffic Police NHW booked 1418 vehicles for overloading in goods vehicles

and 10468 traffic violators for causing overload in PSVs.

To maintain lane discipline on National Highway, Traffic Police NHW Ramban booked 800 Traffic violators for overtaking/wrong lane driving during the current year and also booked 326 number of traffic rule violators for dangerous driving/red light jumping.

The officer further informed that to make the general public aware regarding Traffic rules, Traffic Police NHW Ramban conducted 145 Traffic awareness programs at different locations of 05 Districts i.e. Ramban, Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, and on 03 NHs falling in Traffic NHW Ramban and created awareness among drivers, students, commuters, transport unions/agents regarding their roles, duties and rights.

As a corrective measure officer stated that Traffic Police NHW Ramban recommended 44 cases for suspension/cancellation of DL/RC/RP (10 DL cases, 33 RCs and 01 R/P),

whereas 153 vehicles recommended for blacklist.

DIG Traffic Jammu Zone stressed that Traffic Police NHW Ramban also ensured the Traffic regulation of vehicles plying on 03 NHs (NH-44, NH-144, NH-244) particularly on the NH-44 from Nashiri to Banihal (a difficult stretch) where it is the major challenge for Traffic Police as the stretch is under construction and landslide/shooting stone zones are present which pose a great Traffic related challenge i.e. frequent Breakdowns/Road Blockades.

Due to Traffic Police NHW best 24x7 efforts, about 1376297 vehicles (HMVs-468179, LMVs-908118) crossed Chenani-Nashiri tunnel till May 2024. Traffic Police NHW requests commuters to follow Traffic Police advisory so that minimum inconvenience is caused to commuters.

While sharing the details, the officer conveyed that stringent action against M.V. Act Violators is being undertaken, and Traffic Police will

continue its drive against Traffic rule violators. The endeavor of Traffic Police is to reduce road accidents, save precious human life, instill traffic discipline, and respect for law accompanied by respect for each other among the road users.

The officer appealed to the general public that as a part of our rich cultural heritage, all stakeholders have to exhibit good road etiquettes.

DIG Traffic Jammu enjoined upon all parents not to send their wards to school in private vehicles being used for commercial purpose as it in contravention to law, which jeopardize the safety of the students He also requested tourist/commuters to strictly follow lane discipline on NH-44, NH-144, NH-244, and park their vehicles at designated parking places and strictly refrain from drunk and rash driving, using Mobile phone while driving, and use of any type of material on vehicle door glasses, rear windshield etc which reduces visibility.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK MEDICAL OFFICER KUPWARA

Email: - dnbkupwara@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the Honorable Lt. Governor UT J&K quotations are invited from registered/authorized pharmaceuticals retailers and Diagnostic Centers of Kupwara (Surroundings of SDH Kupwara with a radius of 200 mtrs) affixed with revenue stamp of Rs 5 self-enveloped along with CDR worth Rs. 50,000 pledged of Block Medical Officer Kupwara for supply of drugs and other items and investigations to be done to the patients of PMJAY (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana/Ayushman Bharat Yojana) admitted in SDH Kupwara, for a period of one year subject to the unavailability of the same items / Drugs in the man store and Laboratory of SDH Kupwara subject to the following conditions.

- Tender Should be delivered in person
- The following documents should be attached with the tender.
 - Form 20
 - Form 21
 - Retention/Renewal Letter
 - GST Registration Certificate
 - ITR 2022-2023
 - Annual Turnover certificate for 2022-2023 duly signed by chartered Accountant
 - GST clearance Certificate up to 2024
 - Shop and Establishment Certificate
- Only that successful bidder will be approved for drugs, consumables and other items and investigations who will offer highest discount on drugs consumables & other items and investigations respectively
- The successful bidders will have to provide the medicine of reputed company
- No substitute will be accepted for any medicine.
- Successful bidders will have to provide his service 24x7 for the admitted patients of PMJAY.
- The tender should reach to the office of undersigned with in 6 days, after the publication of this tender notice daily news papers Urdu/ English up to 4.00 pm.
- The tender will be opened on any working day as may be convenient to the purchasing committee of the hospital which will be communicated to the tenders accordingly.
- The purchasing committee reserved the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.
- The bid to be made in terms of the maximum amount of discount percentage on MRP.

No. BMOK/PMAY/164-07
Dated: 15-06-2024

DIPK-1539-24
DT: 20/06/2024

Block Medical Officer
Kupwara

T20 WC: England Batters Look To Tame Strong South African Bowling

Press Trust of India

GROS ISLET: If their authoritative win against the West Indies is a sign, England batters seemed to have found their cloak of invincibility at the right time and they will eye an encore against a formidable South African bowling unit in a Group-2 match of the T20 World Cup Super 8s here on Friday.

England were at their menacing best against the Windies, while handing them a crushing eight-wicket defeat here that has also fired them to the top of the group through a better Net Run Rate — +1.34 against SA's +0.90.

That the winner here will have their one foot in the semifinals of this ICC showpiece will come as an additional motivation.

South Africa, on the other hand, suffered a scare from the USA before they squeezed out an 18-run win in their Super Eight opener.



English opener Phil Salt showed why he is the No. 2 T20I batter in the world when he steered a tricky 181-run chase, mixing caution and aggression en route an unbeaten 87.

Salt would once again look to give England an explosive start along with his skipper Jos Buttler, who will be eyeing some runs under his belt.

Buttler, who scored a 42 in

their loss to Australia in the group stage, has not been able to convert his starts with just 91 runs from four innings.

The return to form of Jonny

Bairstow, who struck a crucial 48 not out against the West Indies, will also be a big boost for England.

Bairstow had scored just 46 runs with two single digit dismissals in this tournament.

The challenge for the likes of Kagiso Rabada and Keshav Maharaj will be to prevent the England batters from running away with the match.

The South African duo showed exceptional control and discipline in the middle and death overs to seal a fine win against the USA, who failed to chase 28 runs from the last two overs.

The biggest positive for South Africa is Quinton de Kock rediscovering his form. Following his poor outings with the bat — 20, 0, 18 and 10 — so far, De Kock smashed a 40-ball 74 against the USA.

England will also have a better idea of the conditions having already played against the West Indies here.

Match starts: 8pm IST.

Short TAKES

Suryakumar-Hardik Guide India To 181/8 Against Afghanistan



A fine half-century by Suryakumar Yadav and his 60-run partnership with Hardik Pandya helped India reach 181/8 in their 20 overs against Afghanistan in the ICC T20 World Cup Super Eights Game at Barbados on Thursday. India needs to defend 182 runs to start off Super 8s with a win.

After electing to bat first, India was off to a poor start as skipper Rohit Sharma struggled his way towards eight runs before being caught by Rashid Khan at mid-on after 13 deliveries. India was 11/1 in 2.5 overs.

Laxman To Be With Indian Team In Zimbabwe; Gambhir's Coaching Era Begins Soon

VVS Laxman and his support staff at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) are likely to accompany the Indian team to Zimbabwe for a five-match T20I series starting July 6. Gautam Gambhir is anticipated to begin his coaching tenure from the Sri Lanka tour.

The squad for the Zimbabwe series will be announced later this week, with young IPL performers currently undergoing a camp under Laxman's guidance. Gambhir, favorite to become the head coach of the senior men's team, will likely start mid-July when India travels to Sri Lanka.

India To Play Bangladesh, New Zealand, England In 2024/25

Team India will play against Bangladesh, New Zealand, and England as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced fixtures for the upcoming international home season of the Men in Blue for 2024-25 on Thursday. BCCI stated that Rohit Sharma's side will play against Bangladesh in a two-match Test series, followed by a three-match T20I series.

The first Test match between India and Bangladesh will be played in Chennai. While Kanpur will host the second long-format match.

Chennai In Race To Host Prestigious World Chess Championship

A two-member team from the International Chess Federation (FIDE) is set to arrive on Friday to inspect potential venues for the World Chess Championship. Chennai, along with Delhi and Singapore, is in the race to host the championship. Delhi's bid comes from the All India Chess Federation (AICF), whereas Chennai's bid is backed by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT).

Serbia Threatens To Quit Euros If UEFA Does Not Punish Croats, Albanians

Serbia soccer officials threatened to quit the European Championship after they were offended by fan chants reportedly heard during the Albania-Croatia match.

The game on Wednesday ended 2-2 in Hamburg. Serbia started its second group match against Slovenia on Thursday afternoon in Munich.

"What happened is scandalous and we will ask UEFA for sanctions, even at the cost of not continuing the competition," Serbia Football Association general secretary Jovan Surbatovic said.

JKSC Trainee Maroof Selected For FIFA-AIFF Academy Trials

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Sports Council Football Academy trainee Maroof Shafi has been selected for the FIFA-AIFF Academy selection trials based on his outstanding performance.

This was informed through a communication by the All India Football Federation to various State/UTs.

Meanwhile, it was also informed that the trials for the FIFA-AIFF Academy will take place at Odisha Football Academy, 7th Battalion, Gajapati Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751013, from 22nd June to 25th June. Selected players are directed to report on June 21 at the venue, the letter reads.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary JKSC, congratulated Maroof, who hails from Budgam District, on his selection for the FIFA-AIFF Academy Trials. This is a testament to his talent, hard work, and dedication to the game of football, she added.



After graduating from SCFA, Maroof has been associated with various other teams as well.

"In keeping with the JKSC's objective, we aim more and more of our local footballers in the National Teams as well as in the top football clubs of the world," Nuzhat Gul said.

It is worth mentioning that over the years JKSC Football Academy has produced around 13 players for Indian National Teams and professional clubs of the country.

Former India Pacer David Johnson Dies After Falling From 4th Floor

Press Trust of India

BENGALURU: Former India pacer David Johnson has died after falling from the balcony of his fourth-floor apartment here and an investigation is being conducted to figure out if it is a case of suicide, a police official said on Thursday.

He was 52 and is survived by his wife and two children. As per currently available details, Johnson, who was running a cricket academy near his home, had not been keeping well in recent times.

"We were informed that he had fallen from the fourth floor of his apartment build-



ing. He was taken to a hospital but the doctors declared him brought dead," a Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) official told PTI.

A police official said the death is being investigated.

"It is believed that 52-year-old David Jude Johnson fell from his Apartment in Kanaka

Sri Layout in Kothanur giving rise to the suspicion of suicide," a police official said.

In his prime, Johnson, who played two Tests and 39 First-Class matches, was the member of a formidable Karnataka bowling unit that also featured Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad and Dadda Ganesh.

Legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble condoned his one-time teammate's death.

"Saddened to hear the passing of my cricketing colleague David Johnson. Heartfelt condolences to his family. Gone too soon 'Benny'," Kumble wrote on X.

T20 WC: Australia Need All-Round Effort Against Tricky Bangladesh

Press Trust of India

NORTH SOUND: It's a mismatch on paper but title-favourites Australia would be wary of slipping on the proverbial banana peel that Bangladesh can be when the two teams clash in their Super Eight, Group 1, match of the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

Australia, champions of the 2021 edition of the tournament, will be mindful of the dangers of taking Bangladesh lightly.

The supremely confident team from Down Under was humbled 1-4 by the South Asians in a T20 International series in 2021, and any laxity can be severely punished in conditions here that have close resemblance to the sub-continent.



From an Australian perspective, it might bring increased onus on leg-spinner Adam Zampa and part-timers such as Glenn Maxwell and Travis Head.

Keeping in mind the inherent slowness of the pitch here, the Aussies might also mull retaining left-arm spinner Ashton Agar, who is a handy bat too, from their last

group match against Scotland.

But irrespective of the conditions or nature of the pitch, Australia's real strength lies in its pacers—Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood—who are persistently nagging.

Cummins and Hazlewood are set to return for this match after sitting out of the Scotland game.

Euro 2024: Plan B For France After Mbappe's Injury

Agencies

France boasts fearsome strength in depth but remains hugely reliant on Kylian Mbappe for inspiration and is now facing the prospect of being without their injured superstar for at least their next Euro 2024 game against the Netherlands on Friday.

Captain Mbappe is recovering from a broken nose suffered in Monday's 1-0 win over Austria in Düsseldorf in their opening match of the tournament.

The new Real Madrid signing, who forced the own goal by Maximilian Wöber which decided the game, was badly hurt in a collision with Austrian defender Kevin Danso and had to be replaced by Olivier Giroud.

The French Football Federation later said Mbappe would not need an operation but did admit he would need to be fitted with a mask before he could return to action.

In any case, the lack of time between matches means the clash with the Dutch in Leipzig is set to come too soon for the 25-year-old.

France coach Didier Deschamps will hope his team can get a positive result, which could seal their last-16 place, meaning Mbappe might also be able to sit out the last Group D game against Poland without it being a problem.

But can Les Bleus beat a strong Netherlands side without arguably the world's most lethal striker?

Mbappe is his country's third-top scorer of all time with 47 goals from 80 caps, behind only Giroud and Thierry Henry.

He has only scored once in France's last six matches, and that was in a pre-tournament friendly against Luxembourg.

However, he had an outsized impact on their performances at the last World Cup, scoring eight goals — half the team's total — including an astonishing hat-trick



in the final against Argentina. France met the Netherlands twice in Euro 2024 qualifying, and

Mbappe scored a brace on each occasion, in a 4-0 win in Paris and a 2-1 victory in Amsterdam.

Above all, it is worth considering how France has done in recent games without the player who

has just ended a prolific seven-year spell at Paris Saint-Germain.

Deschamps' team lost 2-1 in a friendly in Germany last September when Mbappe was left on the bench. They also laboured to a 0-0 draw against Canada in their final pre-tournament friendly when he only appeared as a late substitute.

GIROUD'S CHANCE?

Their goal threat is obviously not the same without Mbappe, even if he has still never scored at the European Championship.

At the last Euros three years ago, Mbappe failed to find the net and missed the crucial spot-kick in a last-16 loss on penalties to Switzerland.

Against Austria, he squandered one golden chance when clean through with just the goalkeeper to beat.

The obvious option for Deschamps when it comes to replacing Mbappe would be to start Giroud, even if the big centre-forward is a very different player.

Giroud, who will move to MLS after the tournament, is 37 now and has also been nursing a minor groin injury.

He ended up playing a key role in Qatar, and in similar circumstances — Karim Benzema would have been ahead of him only to pull out injured at the last minute. Another option for Deschamps is to move Marcus Thuram from the left wing to a central role.

Thuram, though, has only scored twice for his country in 20 caps, and one of them came against Gibraltar.

Then there is Randal Kolo Muani, but he appears low on confidence after a difficult season in Mbappe's shadow at PSG.

One thing is for sure, France's performance against Austria — with the returning N'Golo Kante outstanding, shielding an impressive defence — indicated they do at least look solid enough to shut most opponents out as they wait for Mbappe to return.

Pleas For Cancelling NEET 2024; SC Issues Notice To Govt, NTA

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Thursday sought responses from the Centre, the National Testing Agency (NTA) and others on petitions seeking the cancellation of NEET-UG 2024, and a court-monitored probe into the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam.

A vacation bench of Justices Vikram Nath and SVN Bhatti also sought responses from the parties on separate pleas filed by the NTA seeking the transfer of some pending petitions from the high courts to the apex court.

The bench posted these pleas for hearing on July 8.

One of the petitions, filed by 20 students who appeared in the medical entrance exam, also sought a direction to the NTA and others to conduct the

test afresh.

While hearing separate pleas concerning the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate)-2024 examination, the apex court had on June 18 said even if there was "0.001 percent negligence" on the part of anyone in the conduct of the examination, it should be thoroughly dealt with.

The NTA conducts the all India pre-medical entrance test.

While hearing separate petitions raising grievances over the NEET-UG 2024, the apex court had last week sought responses from the Centre and the NTA on a plea for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into allegations of question paper leak and other irregularities in the exam.

The examination was held on May 5 across 4,750 centres and around 24

lakh candidates took it.

Notably, the outcry against alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET grew louder on Thursday with several student groups staging protests and opposition attacking the government saying the paper leaks are expansion of the Vyapam scam and future of candidates who appeared in these exams is being destroyed.

The cancellation of UGC-NET, amid the raging row over NEET, led to questions being raised over National Testing Agency's (NTA) capability to conduct exams of larger magnitude.

The ministry on Wednesday cancelled UGC-NET conducted by the NTA following inputs that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a press conference and launched a

scathing attack on the government over the alleged irregularities in NEET and cancellation of UGC-NET and said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "psychologically collapsed" post-elections and will struggle to run a government like this.

He said the main reason for paper leaks is that educational institutions have been captured by the BJP and its parent organisation RSS and paper leaks will not stop unless that is reversed.

"It was being said Prime Minister Modi stopped the Ukraine-Russia War and Israel-Gaza war, but he is either not able to stop exam paper leaks or doesn't want to," Gandhi said.

He claimed that during his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, thousands complained about paper leaks.

"There has been an expansion of idea

of Vyapam to rest of country," he said of the recent controversy while referring to the Vyapam examination and recruitment scam in Madhya Pradesh.

"Nothing should be done in arbitrary manner, rules that apply to one paper should apply to another," Gandhi said.

More than two dozen students from different universities and members of various students' groups were detained on Thursday while they were protesting against the cancellation of the UGC-NET examination and irregularities in the NEET.

The students were detained from outside the Ministry of Education as well as the Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's residence here in central Delhi. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha claimed the arrested prime accused in the NEET

"paper leak" is linked to officials associated with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, and demanded an investigation into it.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan urged the Centre to take immediate steps to resolve the crisis in the NTA, saying its "repeated incompetence" in conducting exams such as NEET and the UGC-NET cannot be accepted.

Trinamool Congress MP Saket Gokhale said the examination process in the country has crashed and the lives of students are being destroyed. He accused the NTA of being complicit.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP Manoj Jha said the NEET exam should also be cancelled.

"You had to scrap NET and you must scrap NEET now as there is ample proof that this examination was compromised. And it is time to acknowledge that the NTA is a fraud," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Assembly Polls,

and Kashmir for the record turnout in the just-concluded Lok Sabha elections and breaking the record of 35 years and said the day is not far when "you will elect your own representative through your vote".

"You deserve to be felicitated for it ... now time has come that people of Jammu and Kashmir elect its own government through your votes. For that, preparations are being made for holding assembly elections," he said.

Modi said the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir will also be restored.

He also praised the youths of Jammu and Kashmir for the high turnout in the Lok Sabha polls and said they have ensured victory of democracy.

Modi said the wall of the Article 370, which was scrapped in August 2019, collapsed and the fruits of the Indian Constitution ensured in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today the Indian Constitution has truly been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The prime minister said today the forces inimical to peace and development are making last ditch efforts to stop the progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Centre has taken the recent terror attacks very seriously. The home minister held a meeting and reviewed the entire mechanism. I want to assure that we will leave no stone unturned to punish the enemies of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He said the new generation in Jammu and Kashmir will live in permanent peace.

"We will strengthen the path chosen by the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Modi assured the people that permanent peace will be established in Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the change for betterment in Jammu and Kashmir has been the hardwork of the NDA government in last 10 years.

"I am making efforts to bridge the distances between Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring connection of hearts," he said.

"Today we are finding new ways to change the lives of people in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, the Constitution of India has been implemented in true sense," he said.

Modi lashed out at earlier governments saying those "who did not do it (implementation of Constitution of India), were guilty before the youth and

daughters of Jammu and Kashmir who were being discriminated against."

He said the discourse around Kashmir has changed due to the efforts of his government over the past 10 years.

"For the first time, our daughters in Jammu and Kashmir have got their due rights, the West Pakistan refugees and Valmiki samaj have been able to vote in local body polls," he said.

Referring to the G20 meeting held here last year, Modi said now people talk about record tourist arrivals which have provided livelihood opportunities to locals and improved the local economy.

"The international Yoga Day which will be held here tomorrow will be another tourist attraction," he said.

Modi said while money was being granted to Jammu and Kashmir by earlier governments as well, his government has ensured accountability. "Today, every penny is being used for your development," he said.

Referring to the results of the Lok Sabha elections, Modi said by electing a government for the third consecutive term after a gap of 60 years, India has given a big message to the whole world.

"Our government shows its performance by following expectations of people and which brought results," he said.

The prime minister said India saw several unstable governments in last century and there were five general elections in 10 years.

"The mandate received in this Lok Sabha elections has a huge message of stability," he said.

Modi also launched agricultural and allied sectors projects worth Rs 1,800 crore to be implemented in 90 blocks across 20 districts in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also distributed appointment letters to more than 2000 people for government jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event, 'Empowering Youth, Transforming J&K', held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here, is a pivotal moment for the region, showcasing progress and providing inspiration to young achievers, an official statement said.

On the occasion, Modi inspected stalls and interacted with the young achievers of Jammu and Kashmir.

Those projects which were inaugurated include several projects related to road infrastructure, water supply schemes, and infrastructure in higher education etc.

Additionally, the prime minister laid the foundation stone for projects like improvement of Chenani-Patnitop-Nashri section, development of industrial estates and construction of six government degree colleges.

PM To Lead Around

arrangements have been put in place for the Prime Minister's two-day visit to Kashmir.

Official sources said that around eight thousand participants will join him in performing yoga on Friday on the banks of the picturesque Dal Lake.

The participants have been trained over the past three days in the yoga 'Asanas' to be performed by the Prime Minister, they added.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha highlighted the significance of the Prime Minister's visit, noting its importance for unity, wellness, and celebration.

"This event marks a significant moment for the region, promoting unity, wellness, and celebration. We look forward to welcoming PM Modi and participants from across the country," said Sinha. He emphasized that it is an honor for the entire Kashmir valley to host the Prime Minister on this special day.

Over the past decade, yoga has gained substantial recognition both nationally and internationally. The International Day of Yoga, initiated by PM Modi in 2015, has seen participation from more than 235 million people globally.

In Jammu and Kashmir alone, 2.3 million people participated in last year's Yoga Day, with the number of daily practitioners steadily increasing.

"Yoga is becoming an integral part of life for many people in the region. For a stress-free life, people are increasingly turning to yoga," Sinha noted.

As preparations reach their final stages, security measures have been tightened across Srinagar.

The SKICC, situated on the picturesque Dal Lake, is being decked out to welcome the Prime Minister and thousands of yoga enthusiasts. The event will feature a series of yoga demonstrations and workshops led by renowned yoga instructors, emphasizing the theme of "Yoga for Self and Society."

Local residents have expressed their excitement and pride in hosting such a significant event. "It's a moment of great pride for us. The Prime Minister's presence here on International Yoga Day is a testament to the importance of our region," said a local resident.

The International Day of Yoga has become a global phenomenon, celebrated in over 190 countries. The event aims to raise awareness about the numerous benefits of yoga, including improved mental and physical health, and to encourage people to incorporate yoga into their daily routines.

The government said that the 10th International Day of Yoga promises to be a memorable event, fostering a spirit of wellness and harmony across the globe.

'Committed To Kashmiriyat

abiding by it, are the real enemies

of Kashmiri people," PM Modi said addressing a young gathering at SKICC here.

He said that the NDA government at the Centre was committed to take forward the mission of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee-Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat and Jhamooriyat. "Article 370 was a wall that has been broken forever to make the journey of people of J&K towards peace," he said.

The Prime Minister said that he was in Italy recently and there is a great impression of the government that has come to power for the third straight time in India. "People reposing great faith and trust in a government for the third time creates a global impression and strengthens global relations," the PM said.

"Today, the mood and the aspirations of Indian youth and people are all time high. When aspirations are high, people's expectations from the government also become high. There is an aspirational society whose single parameter is performance."

PM Modi said that the performance doesn't come through social media of bhashans (speeches). "Nation saw our performance and today, the same government is at the Centre for the third time," PM Modi said. "People's aspirations can be fulfilled by the NDA government. People trust our policies and vision. Aspirational society wants results on a fast track basis. Will see, will do, wait some time are old words now. People want the day's results by evening."

The PM said that after 60 years, people of India choose a government for the third time to serve them. "This election has sent a message to the world about stability. There was a time when five elections were held in ten years," he said. "Today, democracy has been strengthened and the people of J&K have played a great role in this."

He said that today the world has acknowledged the change in J&K. "Efforts are on to remove remaining Dili ki Dooriyan, Dili ki Dooriyan," he said.

'J&K Key To

talent," Modi said addressing an event at SKICC here.

The Prime Minister said Jammu and Kashmir has great sports infrastructure in every district.

"Around 100 Khelo India Centres are being established in Jammu and Kashmir while 4,500 athletes are being trained for national and international events. Jammu and Kashmir has become the winter sports capital of India."

"Recently, more than 800 players from across the country participated in the 4th Khelo India Winter Games. This will open the possibility of holding international sporting events here," he said.

Modi said Jammu and Kashmir has unique talent in sports. "I can see them making India proud."

Light Rains

summer capital of JK for this time of the year.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of 13.6°C against 14.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.8°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir, he said.

Pahalgam recorded a low of 10.7°C against 10.2°C on the previous night and it was 1.1°C below normal for the famous resort in south Kashmir, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a minimum of 13.7°C against 12.9°C and it was 0.5°C below normal, the official said.

Kupwara town recorded a low of 11.6°C against 13.6°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 2.8°C for the place, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded a minimum of 5.0°C against 11.2°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 5.1°C for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Jammu, he said, recorded a low of 23.5°C against 28.0°C on the previous night and it was below normal by 0.3°C for the winter capital of J&K. Banihal recorded a low of 15.3°C, Batote 15.0°C and Baderwah 14.9°C, he said.

Trial Run On

and Bakal stations across the Chenab river, which is the world's highest arch railway bridge.

The stations -- Reasi, Bakkal, Dugga and Sawlakote -- are situated in Reasi district of J&K.

"The electrification work on this section has been executed with state-of-the-art technology, ROCS (Rigid Overhead Conductor System) at 25 kV, for the first time on railways," the ministry said.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, including the 48.1-km-long Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20, 2024.

Phase I of the project, covering the 118 km long Qazigund-Baramulla section, was inaugurated in October 2009 under the Congress-led UPA gov.

Subsequent phases saw the inauguration of the 18 km long Banihal-Qazigund section in June 2013 and the 25 km Udhampur-Katra section in July 2014.

In February 2024, the first electric train trial run from Banihal to Khari to Sangaldan section on the Banihal-Katra section of the USBRL project in Ramban was successfully conducted on around 40 km of track and tunnels between Banihal and Sangaldan railway stations in Ramban district.

"After conduction of a series of such tests, this bridge would be open to run all train services which will be a monumental stride towards the seamless integration of the Kashmir valley with Jammu and the broader Indian landscape," the ministry said.

It added, "This would foster social integration by facilitating easier movement of people and goods, thereby promoting cultural exchanges and regional development and boost to economic activities such as tourism and trade."

With the aim to provide an alternative and a reliable transportation system to Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Railways has successfully laid a 272-km-long railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla joining the Kashmir valley with the rail network under the USBRL project.

In view of the importance of the USBRL project in providing seamless and hassle-free connectivity, the Project was declared as a "National Project" in 2002.

The USBRL Project involves 38 Tunnels (combined length of 119Km), the longest Tunnel (T-49) is having a length of 12.75 Km and is the country's longest transportation tunnel.

There are 927 bridges (combined length of 13 Km). These bridges include the iconic Chenab Bridge (Overall length 1315 m, Arch span of 467 m and height of 359 m above river bed) which is around 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower and is pegged to be the World's highest arch railway bridge.

Haji 2024: Death

on their countries' responses.

The haji, whose timing is determined by the lunar Islamic calendar, fell again this year during the oven-like Saudi summer.

The national meteorological centre reported a high of 51.8 degrees Celsius (125 Fahrenheit) this week at the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

According to a Saudi study published last month, temperatures in the area are rising 0.4 degrees Celsius each decade.

Each year tens of thousands of pilgrims attempt to perform the haji through irregular channels as they cannot afford the often costly official permits.

Saudi authorities reported clearing hundreds of thousands of unregistered pilgrims from Mecca this month, but it appears many still participated in the main rites which began last Friday.

This group was more vulnerable to the heat because, without official permits, they could not access air-conditioned spaces provided by Saudi authorities for the 1.8 million authorised pilgrims to cool down after hours of walking and praying outside.

"People were tired after being chased by security forces before Arafat day. They were exhausted," one Arab

diplomat told AFP on Thursday, referring to Saturday's day-long outdoor prayers that marked the haji's climax.

The diplomat said the main cause of death among Egyptian pilgrims was the heat, which triggered complications related to high blood pressure and other issues.

Burials begin

In addition to Egypt, new fatalities were confirmed on Thursday by Pakistan and Indonesia.

Out of around 150,000 pilgrims, Pakistan has so far recorded 58 deaths, a diplomat briefed on the tally told AFP.

"I think given the number of people, given the weather, this is just natural," the diplomat said.

Indonesia, which had around 240,000 pilgrims, raised its death toll to 183, according to the ministry of religious affairs, compared with 313 deaths recorded last year.

Deaths have also been confirmed by Malaysia, India, Jordan, Iran, Senegal, Tunisia, Sudan and Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region. In many cases authorities have not specified the cause.

Meanwhile friends and family members have been searching for pilgrims who are still missing.

On Wednesday they scoured hospitals and pleaded online for news, fearing the worst during the scorching temperatures.

Two diplomats told AFP on Thursday that Saudi authorities had begun the burial process for dead pilgrims, which involves cleaning up the bodies, putting them in white burial cloth and taking them to be interred in individual graves.

"The burial is done by the Saudi authorities. They have their own system so we just follow that," said one diplomat, who pointed out that his country was working to notify loved ones of the dead as best it could.

The other diplomat said that given the number of fatalities it would be impossible to notify many families ahead of time, especially in Egypt which accounts for so many of the dead.

"Extreme danger" Saudi Arabia has not provided information on fatalities, though it reported more than 2,700 cases of "heat exhaustion" on Sunday alone.

Last year various countries reported more than 300 deaths during the haji, mostly Indonesians.

The timing of the haji moves back about 11 days each year in the Gregorian calendar, meaning that next year it will take place earlier in June, potentially in cooler conditions.

A 2019 study by the journal Geophysical Research Letters said because of climate change, heat stress for haji pilgrims will exceed the "extreme danger threshold" from 2047 to 2052 and 2079 to 2086, "with increasing frequency and intensity as the century progresses".

Hosting the haji is a source of prestige for the Saudi royal family, and King Salman's official title includes the words "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques", in Mecca and Medina.

The haji has been the scene of a number of stampedes and fires over the years, most recently in 2015 when a stampede during the "stoning the devil" ritual in Mina, near Mecca, killed up to 2,300 people in the event's mostly deadly disaster.

Kashmiri Pilgrims

senior Jammu and Kashmir Hajj officer said.

The official said that among the ten deceased includes a Srinagar based couple too.

The situation has sparked outrage and concern among Kashmiri pilgrims who have called the Saudi government incapable of carrying out the pilgrimage.

Speaking to the Kashmir Observer from Saudi Arabia, Dr. Adeel Hussain, a pilgrim from Kashmir highlighted some issues faced by the pilgrims.

"There was non-availability of drinking water at crucial points like the Jamarat Building, even packed water was not available which exacerbated the suffering of the pilgrims," he said.

He alleged the closure of the metro

train at essential times, particularly when pilgrims needed to travel from Muzdalifah to Jamarat, added to the chaos. "The absence of cooling points at Muzdalifah and Jamarat further worsened the situation, leaving many vulnerable to heatstroke," he added.

"The lack of medical staff and ambulances at necessary points like Muzdalifah and Jamarat is another major issue. There is a severe shortage of medical personnel and ambulances, which hindered timely medical assistance to those in need," Dr Hussain said.

He also criticized the non-availability of guiding staff for pilgrims who got separated from their groups and the closure of emergency exit points at Jamarat.

Another point was the mismanagement and the inability to properly manage the crowds were significant concerns. "The security personnel failed to manage the crowds efficiently, leading to chaos. The arrogant behavior of police personnel, especially when pilgrims attempted to take shortcuts to avoid the intense heat, was unacceptable," he stated.

"We saw an elderly woman dying on the roadside but we could not do anything. The security personnel deployed did nothing to save her life. I can't get over what I have seen. Saudi authorities are incapable of managing the situation," Shafiq Mir, a pilgrim said.

Shafiq further pointed out the lack of special facilities for vulnerable pilgrims, including the elderly and physically challenged individuals, particularly females.

"There were no special provisions for the most vulnerable pilgrims and the non-availability of translators added to the difficulties of pilgrims, leaving many pilgrims unable to communicate their needs and seek help effectively."

While Saudi authorities claim to have implemented measures to address the extreme heat, including shaded areas, water points, and improved healthcare capacity, pilgrims believe these efforts were insufficient in the face of the severe conditions.

Pilgrims Allege

The pilgrims, alleged that they have paid up to 10 lakh rupees each, were promised a hassle-free Hajj experience by Srinagar-based Makka Madina Tour and Travels, in collaboration with Delhi-based Quick Travels.

However, upon arrival in Makkah, the pilgrims were not provided with the promised hotel accommodations.

Dr Sheikh Sajjad, a pilgrim said that the situation worsened during the Hajj days in Mina, where no transportation or accommodation arrangements were made available, leaving the pilgrims to sleep on the gravel.

"We are around 23 pilgrims from J&K and 5p0 across India who booked a 23-day Hajj package with Makka Madina Tour and Travels, Srinagar, and Quick Travels, Delhi and the package cost ranged from Rs 500,000 to 1 million per person. We were promised hotel accommodations in Makkah, but were not provided with the same upon arrival," Sajjad told Kashmir Observer.

Another pilgrim Parvaiz Ahmed voiced similar views saying during the Hajj days in Mina, no transportation or accommodation arrangements were made available, leaving the pilgrims stranded and they were forced to sleep on the gravel, without proper food and water facilities.

"There was no availability of tents in Mina in the scorching heat, we literally have seen death before our eyes," Parvaiz alleged.

"We request the authorities to take strict action against Makka Madina Tour and Travels, and Quick Travels, for their negligence and fraud. We paid hefty amounts for a hassle-free Hajj experience, but were left stranded in Makkah. We don't want others to suffer the same fate."

The pilgrims have demanded cancellation of the license of the tour operator, refund of the package cost and compensation for the inconvenience and hardship caused.



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