

Is Your Aadhaar More Than 10-yrs-old?

UIDAI Advises Revalidating Address

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The UIDAI has advised all the residents who have got their Aadhaar 10 years before to revalidate their address.

In this connection, all the Deputy Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir have been asked to make the residents of J&K aware about the updation of addresses with the help of any supporting documents. They have also been asked to aware residents about updation of mobile numbers in Aadhaar to avail benefits of various online services.

Pertinently, UIDAI has already distributed pamphlets and posters for awareness regarding document update in all blocks of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Notably, the regulatory body of Aadhaar, has made it mandatory to update Aadhaar card details every 10 years. This is to ensure that the data is accurate and up-to-date. The government also encourages users to update their Aadhaar card to combat Aadhaar fraud.

'Blue Screen Of Death'

Global Tech Glitch Grounds Flights, Disrupts Banks & Media Worldwide

Associated Press

Wellington: A widespread technology outage grounded flights, knocked banks offline and media outlets off air on Friday in a massive disruption that affected companies and services around the world and highlighted dependence on software from a handful of providers.

The trouble with the update issued by cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike affected customers running Microsoft Windows. It was not the result of hacking or a cyberattack,



according to CrowdStrike, which apologized and said a fix was on the way. Businesses and governments experienced hours-long disruptions and | More on P10

Centre Issues Advisory

The Centre today issued an advisory on the outage of Microsoft Windows owing to CrowdStrike agent 'Falcon Sensor' update.

Union Minister for Railways, I&B, Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnav informed about the advisory on

X social media platform, saying "CERT-In advisory on the outage of Microsoft". The CERT-In said it has been reported that Windows hosts related to Crowd strike agent "Falcon Sensor" are facing outages and getting crashed | More on P10

Chaos At Indian Airports

Financial Systems Remained Largely Unaffected

KO WEB DESK

New Delhi: Airport and airline operations across the country were almost crippled on Friday due to a Microsoft outage globally, leading to a complete chaos with IndiGo alone cancelling around 200 flights.

In addition to this, hundreds of flights were delayed by a considerable time across airlines' networks due to the outage, which started from 1040 am, according to sources.

As services like bookings, check-in and boarding moved to manual mode, taking longer than expected time and leading to long queues at airports, passengers, including those who were travelling due to some emergency reasons, were seen complaining about the lack of information about their flights and venting out ire on airline staff.

The web check-in feature, which remained temporarily | More on P10

Mischievous Plea Against LG

Former IAS Officer Fined Rs 1 Lakh

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Central Administrative Tribunal's Jammu Bench has imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on a former IAS officer for filing a "mischievous and frivolous" plea against the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and other senior bureaucrats.

The tribunal's judicial member Rajinder Dogra, in the July 16 order, said the application filed by a former IAS officer Kumar Ranchhodhbhai Parmar about his service was just to "harass" the Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and other bureaucrats.

The tribunal said this was a service-related matter and instead of impleading the Union and the state governments, Parmar has impleaded Sinha and other authorities by their names.

"It is quite astonishing to note that the applicant, a senior IAS officer with extensive knowledge of the Constitution and its laws, proceeded to file the application seeking relief against the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor," the tribunal said. The tribunal | More on P10

Bangladesh Turmoil

Calls For Evacuation Of Kashmiri Students Grow

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The violent protests in Bangladesh where 39 protesters have been killed in the ongoing quota row has sent parents in Kashmir into tizzy even as former chief ministers and a students' association have urged the Government of India for safety of Kashmiri students.

Protests in Bangladesh have erupted over the Bangladesh High Court's decision to reinstate a 30% government job reservation for the descendants of those who had fought the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan. Hundreds of students from Jammu and Kashmir go to Bangladesh every year for studying medical courses, particularly MBBS. These students spend lakhs of rupees on their studies in the country where medical degrees are comparatively economical than in India and other countries.

The National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic

Party (PDP) on Friday appealed to the external affairs ministry to ensure safe passage and return of Kashmiri students from Bangladesh amid violent protests in the neighbouring country over demands for an end to a quota system in jobs.

"Dear @MEAIndia, please ensure the safe passage and return of Kashmiri students from Bangladesh amidst the ongoing unrest. Parents of these students are extremely worried as there is no or little communication." NC leader and Srinagar Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi said in a post on X.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, said immediate steps must be taken to bring Kashmiri students back.

"As protests & turmoil grip Bangladesh I urge @DrJaishankar to urgently intervene & ensure safety of thousands of Kashmiri students in Bangladesh. Internet services being | More on P10

A Bridge Too Far!

Unfinished Gandbal Bridge Misses Yet Another Deadline

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Despite witnessing tragedy a few months back, the pivotal Gandbal Bridge in Batwara of Srinagar has missed yet another deadline.

Pertinently, the officials had stated the bridge would be ready for public use by the first week of July.

As per the details, the deadline for Gandbal Bridge was set as June 30, 2024, but authorities were unable to meet it.

On April 16, a pall of gloom descended throughout Kashmir after a boat ferrying 15 people capsized in the River Jhelum at Gandbal, leaving 8 persons dead, including a father-son duo.

On June 22, the Chief Engineer of the R&B department, Sajad Naqeeb had also said that Gandbal Bridge was expected to be ready for public use by the first week of July.

In this regard, an official heading the Gandbal Bridge



File Photo construction said that the work is ongoing and that from the Batwara side, the work is completed.

"We are continuously working on the bridge, and the work is almost complete on the Barwara side. The delay occurred because there were some problems on the Gandbal side, as people were not allowing us to work properly," he

added. The locals say that construction on the Gandbal-Batwara footbridge began in 2016, but the challenge of completing such a small project appears to be beyond the capabilities of the government.

"The major tragedy that claimed the lives of eight people, including minor school-children | More on P10

Achan Landfill Site

NGT Team Slams SMC For 'Mishandling' Solid Waste

Agencies

Srinagar: The expert team formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has expressed serious concern over the "mishandling" of solid waste management in Srinagar soon after visiting the Achan landfill site.

The team, led by the Regional Director of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Dr. Nerender Sharma, inspected the landfill site on Monday and held meetings with different departments and locals about "hazardous" and "unscientific" waste management in Achan. The matter was taken up by Raja Muzaffar Bhat in the NGT.

The tribunal, in its May order, had directed this team to suggest remedial measures, including setting up waste processing facilities at zero landfills and submitting the report within eight weeks. The team has only two weeks to submit its report.

Bhat, the petitioner, briefed the team officials about the



problems related to the Achan waste dumping site, like the absence of a waste segregation machine, and untreated leachate flowing into the nearby wetlands and lakes.

"Achan area is not just a dumping site but a mountain of death emanating deadly gases and pumping poisonous leachate in liquid form. This has made the lives of locals living in the radius of 5 kilometers a living hell," he said.

Bhat further said that the Srinagar administration, especially the Srinagar | More on P10

Settle Bills Or Face Blackout!

KPDCL Disconnects Thousands Of Non-Paying Consumers

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) has intensified its drive against non-payment of electricity bills and remotely disconnected thousands of smart-metered consumers.

Similarly, in flat-rated areas, those consumers who haven't paid their pending dues for months together are being physically disconnected, till they clear their bills with KPDCL.

In a press statement issued on Friday, a KPDCL spokesperson stated that fervent appeals have been

made urging consumers to pay their bills on time. He further stated that KPDCL is a Service Provider that needs timely clearance of bills by all categories of consumers for electricity supplied to remain economically viable.

While 1,134 smart-metered consumers were disconnected in Electric Division Chanapora on Thursday, electricity supply of 440 consumers in ESD Baramulla I, 240 in ESD Baramulla II and 228 in ESD Qazigund were also snapped.

Large number of consumers are being remotely disconnected across other Subdivisions of Habba Kadal, Watalakadal, | More on P10

Synergy Among Agencies Will Help Smash Terror Networks: Shah

Says Multi-Agency Centre Poised To Undergo Revamp To Increase Its Reach

Agencies

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday stressed on greater synergy among security and law enforcement agencies to dismantle terror networks and their supporting ecosystem to address the evolving security threat scenario of the country.

Charing a high-level meeting, he directed heads of security agencies and other intelligence and law enforcement organisations to adopt the "whole-of-the-government" approach towards national security.



The home minister also reviewed the functioning of the Intelligence Bureau's Multi Agency Centre (MAC) that is responsible for tackling the country's security challenges.

Shah stressed upon greater synergy between all agencies to dismantle terror networks and their supporting ecosystem to address the evolving security threat scenario of the country, an official statement said.

He emphasised that MAC has earned the trust of its constituents and it must continue to work 24x7 as a platform for proactive and real-time sharing of actionable intelligence, amongst various stakeholders, including last-mile responders.

While reviewing the overall internal security situation of the country | More on P10

PM Regularly Reviewing Security Situation: J Singh

Amid a rise in terror incidents in the Jammu region over the past few weeks, Union Minister Nitendra Singh Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is regularly reviewing the security situation and a new strategy has been adopted to neutralise terrorists. Singh said village defence guards (VDGs), which have played a crucial role in

counter-terrorism efforts, will be revived in the region. The heightened militancy in the region over the past one-and-a-half months has left 24 people, including 10 security personnel, dead and 56 injured. The Doda district reported three terror incidents in the past as many days in which four army personnel, including a Captain, were killed. | More on P10

Austrian Rifle Recovered From Keran

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a Steyr AUG - an Austrian-made bullpup assault rifle - was recovered from the Keran sector of north Kashmir's frontier Kupwara district.

An army official said that they recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a Steyr AUG (an Austrian-made bullpup assault rifle), an AK series rifle, five grenades, and other materials from the two killed hardcore terrorists, who attempted to infiltrate across the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector.

Sharing the operation details, the official said, "On July 17, credible input was received from the Jammu & Kashmir Police, which was further corroborated | More on P10



BOOK APPOINTMENT



MELASMA TREATMENT

MESOTHERAPY FOR FACE

MOLE REMOVAL

SCAR TREATMENT

SKIN CARE

EMAX-ZIROCONIA-CROWNS

PICO LASER AT ELITE PLUS

Call +91 97977 03533
www.elitepluscentre.com

Vintage Mall, 2nd floor
Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar

DC Srinagar Conducts Extensive City Tour; Inspects Dev. Projects



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today conducted an extensive tour of City' areas to take onsite appraisal of pace and progress of ongoing works.

The DC visited Noor Jehan Bridge Qamarwari, proposed site of Mini Secretariat Srinagar at Batamalloo, Court Complex at Raki Gund Aksha Bemina and Safa Kadal.

During his visit to Noor Jehan Bridge being constructed over river Jhelum at Qamarwari, the DC issued strict directions to the concerned executing agency to complete the remaining work on the said bridge by end of August this year, and make it functional for the convenience of the general public.

Similarly, the DC also took stock of the pace of the progress made in respect of the Court Complex at Raki Gund Aksha Bemina and extension of Darish Kadal Bridge.

While, he also took appraisal of proposed Mini Secretariat Srinagar at being constructed at Batamalloo.

With regard to rising suicide attempts at bridge sites, the DC also gave on spot directions for fencing of Noor Jehan Bridge, Safa Kadal Bridge and Gaw Kadal Bridge, to avoid such incidents.

He asked the concerned to take up fencing works on priority and submit the estimates at the earliest for early approval of the works.

Further, the DC assured the general public that all the bridges will be fenced in a phased manner to avoid any further mishap.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Superintending Engineer (R&B) Srinagar, Narinder Kumar and Executive Engineer (R&B), Abdul Qayoom besides other Officers and officials.

Chairs Meeting On Swachata Green Leaf Rating

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting on Swachata Green Leaf Rating here at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, SDM East Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Block Development Officers of Harwan, Srinagar and Khonmoh. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the Swachata Green Leaf Rating in the District.

The meeting discussed various issues related to solid waste management, liquid waste management, and sanitation infrastructure in the Panchayats.

On the occasion, the DC directed all the stakeholders to collect the list of registered hotels from the Tourism Department in all the Panchayat Blocks and submit the same with the Sub Division level Committees for further verifications to improve sanitation and hygiene in rural areas of the District.

The DC directed the Block Development Officers to intensify efforts to achieve the Swachata Green Leaf Rating in all panchayats of the District.

The meeting resolved to work collectively to improve sanitation and hygiene in rural areas and achieve the Swachata Green Leaf Rating in the District.

nagar, Narinder Kumar and Executive Engineer (R&B), Abdul Qayoom besides other Officers and officials.

Chairs Annual Zila Sainik Welfare Board Meeting



SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the President Sainik Welfare Board today chaired Annual General Body Meeting of Zila Sainik Welfare Board here at Meeting Hall of DC Complex Srinagar.

At the outset DC / President Sainik Welfare Board took a detailed review of the functioning of Zila Sainik Welfare Board.

The DC held a detailed discussion regarding issues related to the Ex-Servicemen and Widows / War Widows. The DC said that the District Administration is providing all required support to Zila Sainik Welfare Board-cum-Sainik Bhawan Srinagar in order to further strengthen its functioning and infrastructure development.

The DC stressed on early commencement of the balance work for the Hostel for Wards of Ex-Servicemen / Martyrs at Peer Bagh (Airport Road Srinagar).

The DC stressed on taking up all the issues of the Veteran's and serving soldiers on priority for resolution and also directed Zila Sainik Welfare Board to take

up the upgradation work of infrastructure of Sainik Bhawan specially for the guest rooms of the Bhawan.

The DC and the Board members were given a brief power point presentation regarding the overall functioning of Zila Sainik Welfare Board having jurisdiction over 07 Districts of the Kashmir Valley (District - Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama).

Before culminating the meeting The President Sainik Board impressed upon all the officials to ensure proper welfare to the Ex-Servicemen / War Widows / Widows and their NOKs (Next of Kin's).

The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, DSP HQs of South and Central Kashmir which includes District Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Ganderbal, Budgam and Srinagar.

Besides Senior Officers, Colonel Veteran's DPDO, Defence Veteran's and representative of concerned constituency MP also attended the meeting.



A VEGETABLE VENDOR paddling a Shikara boat on the scenic Dal Lake amid sweltering heat on Friday. KO PHOT, ABID BHAT.

6 years On, Multi Crore Smart Vending Zone Remains Grounded

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Almost six years since the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) announced the smart hawkler vendor zone near Khalsa School Srinagar to relocate at least 450 street vendors, the civic body is yet to make it functional.

The designated zones for street vendors are a part of the Smart City project to decongest city streets and provide legitimate means of livelihood to hawkers.

However, the SMC, according to news agency-KNO, has not been able to make the main vendor zone functional despite building smart carts with basic facilities including solar power panels.

The ambitious project was announced in 2018 and a tender worth Rs. 4.84 was issued in March 2020 to set up a smart vending zone near Exhibition Ground.

An official told KNO that the initial work on the smart carts was taken up and completed within a year only. However, the facility was abandoned soon after.

He said the corporation couldn't reach any agreement with the street vendors located at Hari Singh High Street and Jahangir Chowk, thereby



delaying the implementation and wasting the state exchequer.

Another official cited some dispute over the land on which the smart stalls had been built.

President of Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF), Yasin Khan expressed concern over the delay in the vendor zone project and appealed to the government to make it functional at the earliest.

"We will raise the issue with the SMC Commissioner soon. The hawkler zone would further decongest the Srinagar streets. Otherwise, the initiatives under the Smart City project are appreciable," he said.

Notably, there are more than 6,000 street vendors in Srinagar city, which were to be relocated to the smart vending zones.

Under the Smart City project, some vendors were relocated to the Batamalloo area, and the historic Mecca market as part of their ongoing urban development project.

Meanwhile, Commissioner SMC Owais Ahmad didn't respond to repeated calls from KNO correspondent, while Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) refused to comment saying she was busy in a meeting.

Batamalloo Residents Protest Acute Water Shortage

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Residents of Batamalloo area of the city hit streets on Friday as a mark of protest against acute shortage of water in the locality.

The protest, predominantly led by women from the Dyarwani area, saw them blocking the road and staging a sit-in protest, raising slogans against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department for nearly an hour.

Braving the scorching heat, the protesting ladies sat in a line across the road, forcing commuters to halt their vehicles. The demonstration disrupted



ed the traffic flow in the area as the residents expressed their frustration over the prolonged water crisis.

One of the protesters, speaking to Kashmir News Trust, lamented that the Dyarwani locality has been grappling with an acute shortage of

drinking water, and despite repeated appeals, the authorities have turned a blind eye to their plight.

"We have been frequently protesting against the water shortage but our appeals go to deaf ears," said a local.

The protesters accused the PHE department of failing to address the issue, leaving them with no choice but to take to the streets. "The PHE department has taken us for a ride, leaving us with no option but to stage this protest," said one of the aggrieved residents, adding that they will continue to appear on the roads, till their problem is not addressed. [KNT]

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN KHAG.

SUBJECT:- Publication of Ward wise tentative merit list of female candidates for selection as Anganwadi Worker/Sanginis, objections if any thereby. (Phase 2nd).

- Whereas in light of the HR Policy issued vide Government order No:- 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated 30.11.2022 One (01) No of vacancy of AWW were identified in Poshan Project Khag in Phase-2nd Adda Mohalla Khag.
- Whereas an advertisement notice bearing no 03 of 2024 dated 01.03.2024 was published in local dailies to invite application from desirous female candidates residing in respective ward as per the eligibility for Ward No 07 Adda Mohalla.
- Whereas in response to said advertisement notice 01 application have been received by this office for one (01) vacancy till lock date.
- Whereas a tentative merit list have been formulated ward wise on the basis of the marks/percentage secured by candidate in 12th class examination and the said tentative merit list was placed before selection committee on 03.07.2024 for approval and publication.

Now therefore in view of the above the ward wise tentative merit list forming annexure to this letter of female candidate who have applied for the post of AWW for 01 post is hereby published in local dailies to invite objections regarding the merit of the candidate and ward location from the general public within a period of 10 days.

No objection shall be entertained after the expiry the stipulated time period and said merit list shall be considered final for the selection of the AWWs and engagement orders shall be issued as per the order of the merit with fulfillment of other requirements as per HR Policy.

No:- Cdp/Poshan/Khg/2024/161-70
Dated:- 18.07.2024

Sd/
Child Development Project Officer Khag
(Member Secretary) DLC

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN KHAG.

Tentative Selection List of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) as per the ward of Poshan Project Khag vide this office advertised Notice:- 03 of 2024 Dated 01/03/2024 phase 2nd Ward No 07/Adda Mohalla.

S.No	Index No	Name of the Candidate	S/O, D/O	Residence	Anganwadi Center Name	D.O.B	Qual	10+2		Weather Any relation with retired AWW/WH	Add (2) points as per HR Policy	Total % age	Remarks
								Max Marks	Marks Obtained				
1	3	Tahira Parveen	Arif Hussain	Khag	Adda Mohalla	01.12.2024	12th	750	564	NO	NO	75.2%	Selected Candidate

Deputy Director Employment Budgam (Member)

District Social Welfare Officer Budgam (Member)

Child Development Project Officer Khag (Member Secretary)

District Programme Officer ICDS Budgam (Chairperson)

DIPK-3204-24
DT: 19/07/2024

General Manager DIC Budgam (Member)

- 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

SHIEK 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)



PRAYERS

FAJR	3:54
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:34
Magrib	7:43
ISHA	9:19

This Day In History

- 1933 - In London, 500,000 march against anti-Semitism
- 1943 - US Joint Chiefs of Staff question Admiral Chester Nimitz over the landing on Gilbert Island
- 1944 - US invades Japanese-occupied Guam
- 1944 - Adolf Hitler survives an assassination attempt led by German army officer Claus Von Stauffenberg
- 1947 - 1st political action of Netherlands Army on Java and Sumatra
- 1949 - Israel's 19 month war of independence ends
- 1953 - USSR/Israel recover diplomatic relations
- 1953 - The United Nations Economic and Social Council votes to make UNICEF a permanent agency
- 1954 - Armistice for Indo-China signed, Vietnam separates into North and South
- 1956 - France recognizes Tunisian independence
- 1956 - Great Britain refuses to lend Egypt money to build Aswan Dam
- 1958 - King Hussein of Jordan breaks off diplomatic relations with UAR
- 1960 - Sirima Bandaranaike becomes 1st female premier of Ceylon
- 1960 - USSR recovered 2 dogs; 1st living organisms to return from space
- 1962 - France & Tunisia recover diplomatic relations
- 1969 - 1st Moon Landing: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin from Apollo 11, 530 million watch live global broadcast
- 1975 - India expels three reporters from The Times, The Daily Telegraph, and Newsweek because they refused to sign a pledge to abide by government censorship.
- 1976 - US Viking 1 lands on Mars at Chryse Planitia, 1st Martian landing
- 1976 - Vietnam War: The US military completes its troop withdrawal from Thailand.
- 1977 - The Central Intelligence Agency releases documents under the Freedom of Information Act revealing it had engaged in mind control experiments.
- 1982 - Hyde Park and Regent's Park bombings: 11 British soldiers and 7 military horses killed in Provisional Irish Republican Army bomb attacks during military ceremonies in London
- 1989 - Burma government puts author Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest
- 1992 - Václav Havel resigns as President of Czechoslovakia after Slovakia declares independence
- 1994 - Supreme Leader of North-Korea, Kim Il-sung is placed in a public Mausoleum at the Kumusan Palace of the Sun
- 1996 - In Spain an ETA bomb at an airport kills 35
- 1998 - Two hundred aid workers from CARE International, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and other aid groups leave Afghanistan on orders of the Taliban.
- 1999 - Falun Gong is banned in the People's Republic of China, and a large scale crackdown of the practice is launched.
- 2005 - Canada becomes the fourth country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage, after the bill C-38 receives its Royal Assent.
- 2012 - 12 people are killed and 59 injured after a gunman opens fire at a Dark Knight movie premier in Aurora, Colorado,
- 2012 - 21 people are killed and 29 injured in a bus accident in Nayarit, Mexico
- 2014 - The Israeli Defence Force enter Shuja'iyya, a populous neighbourhood of Gaza City, as part of their ground offensive focused on destroying tunnels crossing the Israel border
- 2015 - Suicide bomber kills 30 in Turkish town of Suruc near Syrian border
- 2020 - Cristiano Ronaldo becomes first man to score 50 goals in Serie A, La Liga and the Premier League with a double in Juventus' 2-1 win over Lazio
- 2020 - Scientists find evidence of volcanoes on Venus, showing the planet is not as dormant as previously thought (Nature Geoscience)
- 2020 - United Kingdom suspends extradition treaty with Hong Kong in wake of new Chinese security laws for the territory
- 2022- An intense heatwave across Europe results in over 1000 deaths in Portugal and 500 in starting wildfires across Spain, France, Italy and Greece Spain; while

Protesters Set Jail On Fire In Bangladesh, Free "Hundreds" Of Inmates

Agencies

Dhaka, Bangladesh: Bangladeshi student protesters stormed a prison and freed hundreds of inmates Friday as police struggled to quell unrest, with huge rallies in the capital Dhaka despite a police ban on public gatherings.

This week's unrest has killed at least 64 people, according to an AFP count of victims reported by hospitals, and emerged as an unprecedented threat to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's autocratic government after 15 years in office.

Student protesters stormed a jail in the central Bangladesh district of Narsingdi and freed the facility's inmates before setting the facility on fire, a police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"I don't know the number

sure "public safety".

That did not stop another round of confrontations between police and protesters around the sprawling megacity of 20 million people, despite an internet shutdown aimed at frustrating the organisation of rallies.

"Our protest will continue," Sarwar Tushar, who joined a march in the capital and sustained minor injuries when it was violently dispersed by police, told AFP.

"We want the immediate resignation of Sheikh Hasina. The government is responsible for the killings."

At least 19 people were killed in the city on Friday, according to a list drawn up by the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and seen by AFP.

Police fire was the cause of more than half of the deaths reported so far this week, based on descriptions given to



of inmates, but it would be in the hundreds," he added.

Dhaka's police force took the drastic step of banning all public gatherings for the day -- a first since protests began -- in an effort to forestall another day of violence.

"We've banned all rallies, processions and public gatherings in Dhaka today," police chief Habibur Rahman told AFP, adding the move was necessary to en-

AFP by hospital staff.

The capital's police force earlier said protesters had on Thursday torched, vandalised and carried out "destructive activities" on numerous police and government offices.

Among them was the Dhaka headquarters of state broadcaster Bangladesh Television, which remains offline after hundreds of incensed students stormed the premises and set fire to a building.

US-bound Air India Plane Makes Emergency Landing In Russia

Agencies

NEW DELHI: An Air India airplane flying from Delhi to San Francisco made an emergency landing in Russia after the crew detected a potential issue in the cargo hold area, the airline said on Friday, its second such incident on the route in just over a year.

Many carriers, including US and European Union airlines, avoid Russian airspace following the war in Ukraine, but Air India uses that route, giving it a flying time and cost advantage on US-bound flights.

The Boeing 777 aircraft, carrying 225 passengers and 19 flight crew, made a precautionary landing safely in the Russian region of Siberia at the Krasnoyarsk International Airport, the airline said in a statement.

It added Air India was "concerned about the passengers and staff and are making every

effort possible to operate the ferry flight as soon as possible."

The airport said the flight's crew had been moved to hotels, and passengers were in the international departure area, which angered some of those stranded, according to social media posts.

Mayank Gupta, whose mother was on the flight, wrote on X he was "sad and angry" that her medicines and luggage remained on the airplane.

A passenger said on X that people were struggling to get food and water, posting a photo showing some passengers sleeping on the floor inside the airport area.

In another statement on Friday, Air India said representatives from the Indian consulate in Moscow traveled to Krasnoyarsk overnight and "are working with Russian authorities to allow passengers to move to hotels, which have been on standby throughout the night."



SC Seeks Centers Response On Not Holding NEET-SS In 2024

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea challenging a decision of the National Medical Commission (NMC) to not conduct NEET-Super Speciality examination in 2024.

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Super Speciality (NEET-SS) can be taken by doctors having post-graduate degrees like MD, MS, and DNB, or an equivalent qualification for admission to super-speciality courses.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra was told by a lawyer, appearing for 13 aspirants, that the NMC has decided to

6

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Super Speciality (NEET-SS) can be taken by doctors having post-graduate degrees like MD, MS, and DNB, or an equivalent qualification for admission to super-speciality courses.

not hold the exam this year.

As per news reports, NEET-SS is likely to be conducted in January 2025.

While issuing notices to the Centre, Medical Counciling Committee and the NMC, the bench also gave liberty to petitioners Rahul Balwan and 12 others to make NBE (National Board of Examinations) a party to the petition and listed it for hearing on July 26.

Referring to an earlier judgement, the petitioners said NEET-SS has to be held every year and, moreover, the time schedule has already been fixed by the top court for admission to super-speciality courses.

The lawyer said the decision to postpone the exam this year apparently stemmed from the fact that there were delayed admissions to medical courses earlier due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

'Israel's Settlement Policy In Occupied Territories Violates International Law'

Agencies

THE HAGUE: The top United Nations court said Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank and east Jerusalem violates international law, as it delivered a non-binding advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state, a ruling that could have more effect on international opinion than it will on Israeli policies.

International Court of Justice President Nawaf Salam was expected to take about an hour to read out the full opinion of the panel, which is made up of 15 judges from around the world.

In part of the opinion, he said the panel had found that "the transfer by Israel of settlers to the West Bank and Jerusalem as well as Israel's maintenance of their presence, is contrary to article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention." The court also noted with "grave concern" that Israel's settlement policy has been expanding. The court also found that Israel's use of natural resources was "inconsistent" with its obligations under international law as an occupying power.

Friday's hearing comes against the backdrop of Israel's devastating 10-month military



assault on Gaza, which was triggered by the Hamas-led attacks in southern Israel. In a separate case, the International Court of Justice is considering a South African claim that Israel's campaign in Gaza amounts to genocide, a claim that Israel vehemently denies.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state.

Israel considers the West Bank to be disputed territory, whose future should be decided in negotiations, while it has moved population there in settlements to solidify its hold. It has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that is not internationally recognized, while it withdrew from Gaza in 2005 but maintained a blockade of the territory after Hamas took power in 2007. The international community generally considers all three areas

to be occupied territory.

At hearings in February, then-Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki accused Israel of apartheid and urged the United Nations' top court to declare that Israel's occupation of lands sought by the Palestinians is illegal and must end immediately and unconditionally for any hope for a two-state future to survive.

Israel, which normally considers the United Nations and international tribunals as unfair and biased, did not send a legal team to the hearings. But it submitted written comments, saying that the questions put to the court are prejudiced and "fail to recognize Israel's right and duty to protect its citizens," address Israeli security concerns or acknowledge Israel-Palestinian agreements to negotiate issues, including "the permanent status of the territory, security arrangements, settlements, and borders."

Blast Near US Consulate Rocks Tel Aviv

Yemen Claims Drone Operation

Agencies

Dubai: Yemeni armed forces announced an operation against Tel Aviv as a powerful explosion hit an area near a US consular facility amid the failure of Israeli air defenses to intercept the drone.

The blast occurred in the city's Ben Yehuda Street on Friday, Israeli media outlets reported.

Meanwhile, Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced that the country had launched an operation against

quoted as saying that an "attack drone" had entered the occupied territories' airspace from the direction of the Mediterranean Sea.

The aircraft exploded in a building lying less than 100 meters away from a US consular facility in the city, they added.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly delayed his trip to Washington following the explosion.

The explosion, however, comes amid the Israeli regime's ongoing genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, which has prompted resistance



Tel Aviv on Friday morning.

He said that further details of the operation would be announced soon.

The Israeli military has said it is opening an investigation to find out why the country's air defense systems were not activated to intercept the drone.

Other Israeli officials were

groups from across the region to stage hundreds of retaliatory strikes against targets across the occupied territories.

Palestine's Mujahideen Brigades hailed the Yemeni operation as a "qualitative shift" in the resistance against the Israeli regime.

Priyanka Slams UP Order Asking Eateries to Display Owner Names

Press Trust Of India

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday slammed the UP government directive asking eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route to display owners' names as an "attack on the Constitution" and demanded the order be withdrawn.

She also sought strict action against the officials who issued the order.

Days after the Muzaffarnagar Police asked all eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display their owners' names, the Uttar Pradesh government on Friday extended the controversial order across the state.

A government spokesperson said that a formal order is likely to be issued soon.

In a post in Hindi on X, Priyanka Gandhi said, "Our Constitution guarantees every citizen that he will not be discriminated against on the basis of caste, religion, language or any other basis."

"The divisive order to put up name boards of the owners of carts, kiosks and shops in Uttar Pradesh is an attack on our Constitution, our democracy and our shared heritage." The Congress general secretary added, "Creating division in society on the basis of caste and religion is a crime against the Constitution. This order should be withdrawn immediately and strict action should be taken against the officials



who issued it." Senior Superintendent of Police of Muzaffarnagar Abhishek Singh had on Monday said, "Preparations of Sawan month have started in the district. About 240 kilometres of Kanwar Yatra route falls in the district. All eateries, including hotels, dhabas and carts, on the route have been asked to display the names of their proprietors or those working on these shops." "This has been done to ensure that there should be no confusion among kanwariyas and no law and order situation arises. All are following this voluntarily," he had told reporters.

The Congress had slammed the directive, which police have said is voluntary, as "an assault on India's culture," alleging that it intended to normalise the economic boycott of Muslims. The BJP, which is in power at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh, has defended the measure, claiming the order is for the fasting Hindus who may want to eat at a pure vegetarian restaurant.

NEWS MAKERS

UPSC Cracks Down On Probationary IAS Officer Puja Khedkar, Files FIR For Forgery

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Friday took a series of action, including registration of a police case, against probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar for fraudulently availing attempts in the civil services examination by faking her identity.

The commission has also issued a show cause notice for cancellation of her candidature of the civil services examination-2022 and debarment from future examinations and selections.

Khedkar, a 2023 batch probationary Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, is accused of misusing power and privileges, by demanding perks and facilities she was not entitled for,

during her training in Pune District Collectorate in Maharashtra recently.

She is accused of bullying everyone around and of placing a red-blue beacon (indicating high-ranking official) atop a private Audi (a luxury sedan) car used by her that also had Maharashtra government written on it during her stint.

After the Pune district collector flagged the matter, Khedkar was transferred to Washim District Collectorate in the Vidarbha region.

She was declared qualified in the civil services examination 2022. Based on the results declared last year by the UPSC, Khedkar was allocated the IAS and her home state Maharashtra as a cadre.



"The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has conducted a detailed and thorough investigation in the misdemeanour of Ms. Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar, a provisionally recommended candidate of the Civil Services Examination-2022," an official statement issued on Friday said.

From this investigation

it has been revealed that she fraudulently availed attempts beyond the permissible limit under the examination rules by faking her identity by way of changing her name, her father's and mother's name, her photograph/ signature, her email ID, mobile number and address, the commission said.

The UPSC has, therefore, initiated a series of actions against her, including criminal prosecution by filing a First Information Report (FIR) with the police authorities and has issued "a show cause notice for cancellation of her candidature of the Civil Services Examination-2022/debarment from future examinations/ selections, in accordance with the Rules of the Civil Services Examination-2022", it said.

MBBS Student Who 'Solved' NEET-UG Papers Held

The CBI Friday arrested a first-year MBBS student of Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) for allegedly being part of a 'solver module' working with an engineer who had stolen the NEET-UG question papers, officials said.

Surabhi Kumari was taken into custody after two days of detailed questioning by the CBI, the officials said.

It is alleged that Kumari was the fifth member of the 'solver module' which was present in Hazaribagh in the morning of May 5, the NEET-UG examination day, to solve the paper stolen by Pankaj Kumar, they said.

Pankaj Kumar alias Aditya, a 2017-batch civil

engineer from the National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), who allegedly stole the NEET-UG paper from the NTA trunk in Hazaribagh.

The CBI has so far arrested 16 persons in connection with the NEET-UG cases taken over by it.

The RIMS, an autonomous institute under the Jharkhand government, was approached by the CBI earlier this week for questioning.

"The CBI team contacted the hospital management on Wednesday saying they wanted to question her in connection with the NEET paper leak. The management extended full cooperation to the team. On Thursday too, they grilled

her and said she will be questioned further," RIMS PRO Rajiv Ranjan told PTI earlier in the day.

The official said the parents of the student had contacted the management and were briefed about the situation.

On Thursday, the CBI had arrested four MBBS students of AIIMS Patna, all members of the solver module, in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case, they said. They have been sent to CBI custody for four days.

According to sources, these five members were tasked to solve the paper so that answer key could be provided to NEET aspirants who had taken services of the gang, they said.

J&K Bank Signs General Loan Agreement With NMDFC



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As part of the initiatives aimed at empowering minority communities across the country, J&K Bank has entered into an agreement with National Minority Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Government of India undertaking.

The signing ceremony was held on Thursday at Delhi Haat during the inaugural function of 'Lok Samvardhan Parv' chaired by the Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju. The Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (RoI) Rajesh Gupta signed the general loan agreement along with the representative of NMDFC at the high profile event that was organized to showcase the schemes, programs and achievements of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

While expressing his pleasure on the development, MD & CEO Baldev Prakash said, "We are very pleased to have signed

the agreement with NMDFC, which has been working proactively for the economic well-being of the minority sections across the country. The execution of this loan agreement marks a significant step towards enhancing the economic empowerment of minority sections in our society."

"Through this partnership with NMDFC, we have further strengthened our commitment to provide accessible and affordable financial services to support the educational and entrepreneurial aspirations of minority communities. We believe this initiative will help in achieving the national goal of inclusive growth while contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the country", he added.

Notably, the agreement will enable the Bank to extend concessional loans and other financial services to minority beneficiaries, supporting their self-employment projects, small businesses besides educational pursuits.

Farmer Makes History By Growing Mushk Budji Rice In Vertical Farming

Agencies

KULGAM: After successfully cultivating the premium local rice variety, Mushk Budji, on his rooftop using hydroponic methods last year, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Reshie, an agriculture specialist from south Kashmir's Kulgam district, has now ventured into vertical farming, without using traditional soil.



learn and grow," he said. "It's a common myth that paddy requires waterlogged conditions to thrive, but through this technique, we can cultivate the delicate Mushk Budji variety in any corner of Kashmir."

This innovative approach has the potential to revolutionise agriculture in Kashmir, where land is scarce and the population is growing.

Dr Reshie, known for his pioneering agricultural experiments, is currently conducting trials to grow Mushk Budji using vertical farming methods, aiming to achieve two crops per year.

Dr Zahoor expressed his motivation to expand beyond traditional farming practices and help others cultivate this high-demand rice variety.

His ongoing trial, which began with the March planting of paddy - typically planted in June - aims to establish the feasibility of growing two crops annually. "If successful, this initiative will significantly boost farmers' yields, allowing them to double their production within the same land area," he said.

"Last year's successful rooftop experiment encouraged me to scale up my efforts vertically," he said, adding that he has transformed one kanal of land into four kanals by erecting vertical structures.

Dr Zahoor urged his fellow farmers to adopt innovative methods, especially given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recognition received by the Mushk Budji rice variety. "We must introduce new methods in every field," he said. "I conducted a trial last year with the realization that our land is diminishing, and it proved to be successful."

"I have also converted an unused wall nearby into seven marlas of cultivable land," he said.

Dr Reshie's experiment involves using 3.5-metre sacks upright and an overhead irrigation system with drip lines to conserve water. He also utilises paddy husk as a natural fertiliser that doesn't break down easily. This innovative approach has shown promising results, with the crop growing steadily.

He advocated for a shift towards "rejuvenative agriculture," saying that pesticides and fertilisers have detrimental effects on human health and the environment. "Organic farming is the need of the hour," he said.

The farmer highlighted the importance of experimentation and embracing new approaches to farming. "We need to explore new horizons in agriculture to

The success of Dr Reshie's experiment has paved the way for a more sustainable and innovative approach to agriculture in Kashmir, one that can help meet the growing demands of the population while protecting the environment—(KNO)

CS Dulloo Reviews Progress On JK Samadhan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Friday reviewed progress on JK Samadhan initiative, a key good governance project launched by the UT administration in partnership with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N).



The review meeting focused on assessing the current status and future steps of the initiative. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary for Forest Ecology and Environment, Commissioner Secretary IT, Secretary Public Grievances and members of BISAG-N team, among other concerned officials.

Dulloo suggested incorporating multimedia elements such as video and audio in the attachment section and ensuring that users receive messages in the language of their choice when filing grievances or complaints. He also recommended that final resolutions be approved by a gazetted officer and proposed the integration of advanced technologies to further improve government accessibility and responsiveness.

During the review, the Chief Secretary received update on the progress achieved, so far, under the JK Samadhan initiative, including a detailed account of the functionalities completed by BISAG-N.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of expediting the remaining works to ensure the initiative is promptly dedicated to the public. He issued certain directions including preparation of a comprehensive user manual for the app to enhance its accessibility and user-friendliness.

During the meeting, the BISAG-N team presented a detailed update on the reforma-

tive measures and advanced technologies integrated into the JK Samadhan app. They highlighted that JK Samadhan represents a significant enhancement over the previous systems, JKIGRAMS and CPGRAMS, featuring a multilingual AI-based platform. The new system will enable automatic forwarding of grievances to relevant departments, real-time updates, prompt acknowledgements, and a multilingual voice. The app will also offer grievance prioritization, various dashboard types and comprehensive reporting. JK Samadhan is expected to be fully operational soon.

Pattan Protest Over Water Scarcity Turns Violent

Several Injured, BJP Officials Attacked

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Local residents from Chaenbal area of Pattan in Baramulla district staged a protest on Friday morning, blocking the Srinagar-Baramulla highway to demand a solution to the ongoing water scarcity in their village. The peaceful demonstration escalated into violence, leading to several injuries and significant damage to vehicles.



Quoting eyewitnesses, a local news agency reported that from early morning, villagers obstructed the highway, calling for an immediate water supply. Despite initial efforts by the police to mediate, tensions rose, and protesters began pelting stones. In response, law enforcement resorted to lathi charges and tear gas shelling to disperse the crowd.

In this incident, BJP Media Incharge Kashmir, Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah, and Social Media Incharge, Er. Sahil Bashir Bhat, was attacked by an unidentified mob in the area. Their PSOs were also injured in the assault. Police have launched an investigation into the attack. The injured have been rushed to the nearby hospital where they are being treated.

"They blocked the Srinagar-Baramulla highway for several hours, demanding water supply to the village, they said adding that, after some consultation, the police tried to resolve the issue, but the protest turned violent, with demonstrators resorting to stone pelting."

A police officer confirmed the incident and said that a case is being registered regarding the incident and further investigation is going on. Meanwhile, SSP Baramulla Amod Nagpure urged citizens to register their protests peacefully, emphasizing that there is no space for violence in the district.

The clash left numerous individuals, including drivers, injured, and caused damage to

many vehicles. news agency Kashmir Scroll highlighted the importance of maintaining law and order and the role of the public in achieving this.

He said that there is space for peaceful protest in democracy but no space for violence and such things should be avoided. He called on community leaders and residents to engage in dialogue and use democratic means to express their grievances.

Nagpure assured that the police are committed to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens and will take strict action against any individuals or groups attempting to incite violence.

The SSP's statements come in response to recent tension and protests in the area where people resorted to stone pelting to register their protests over water scarcity.

6 Passengers Injured In Kulgam Accident

Agencies

SRINAGAR: At least six passengers were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road at Akhal village of Devsar in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday evening, an official said.

An official said that the driver of a passenger Tavera vehicle bearing registration number (JK03A-5917) lost control on Akhal road, causing the vehicle to skid off the main road and resulting in injuries to six passengers.

He said all the injured have been immediately shifted to the hospital for treatment. "All six passengers are stable and are being treated at the health facility," he said. Meanwhile, police has taken cognizance of the accident—(KNO)

DODA ATTACK

Forces Need To Shun Traditional Ways, Says Former DGP

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The increased terror incidents in Jammu region has called for a revisit the strategy of security forces to deal with terrorists who are no longer staying in habituated areas but are preferring to remain inside forests where they have natural hideouts.

These foreign terrorists have the history of living in forests and they are trained like that to operate in Jammu and Kashmir.

For the last few months many foreign terrorists have entered Jammu region and they have resorted to unprovoked attacks on security forces in different areas including an attack on pilgrims in Reasi district.

But apart from Gundoh, where three terrorists were gunned down for the security forces in a day-long operation on June 26, terrorists continue to remain at large and forces haven't had much success in eliminating them.

Former Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, S.P. Vaid said that the "deep state of Pakistan has changed the strategy and terrorists operating in Jammu region have also come with a changed strategy." "Terrorists have changed their strategy and it is a fact that forces don't get much information about them. They come and attack forces like what happens in mountain warfare and flee from the area without suffering any casualty in the retaliation. No information comes from the public as they don't give any chance to people to collect information about them," he said.

"As terrorists have changed the strategy, forces also need to change and the traditional system will not work. Terrorists will ambush if forces

go around in vehicles on bad roads. Forces have to move on foot and give a surprise element to terrorists. What forces did in Kashmir can't work here and they have to change. Pakistan has given terrorists modern weapons like the M4 carbine of America with night vision which works as sniper and they have Chinese-armour piercing bullets or steel-coated bullets," the former DGP maintained.

Since the fresh wave of terrorism in Jammu region, foreign terrorists are hiding in forests by avoiding contact with the local population.

Commenting on this, Vaid said, "They are all from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa area of Pakistan which borders Afghanistan and they have a history of living in forests."

The former DG said that when it looked like things have improved after abrogation of Article 370 and operation all out in Kashmir valley, Pakistani deep state changed the strategy and sent the terrorists to Jammu region which has a vast area where even a battalion in one forest doesn't count.

"Firstly, there were security gaps after the forces were withdrawn from many areas of Jammu region and they were sent either to Ladakh or Kashmir and taking advantage of this terrorists attacked different areas of Jammu region. Secondly, their attacks are aimed at spreading forces as Jammu region has a vast area and is a mountainous one. Thirdly, BJP's claim of turning things around in Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370, this balloon has been punctured and even Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti can also attack the government on this," Vaid added—(KNO)

AP, PDP Enter Into Verbal Brawl After Altaf Bukhari's Unity Call

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir including Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Apni Party have entered into a verbal brawl after the former minister Syed Altaf Bukhari called for a united fight amongst the mainstream parties against the government moves.

Altaf Bukhari had appealed to the parties to join hands to safeguard the interests of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir after the government's recent move of giving additional powers to the Lieutenant Governor.

However, turning down the suggestions from Bukhari, the PDP General Secretary Gulam Nabi Lone Hanjura has said that let the AP president Syed Altaf Bukhari seek apology first from the people for his role post Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lone said that it was Altaf Bukhari who claimed high and tall about securing the

jobs and land for the people of Jammu and Kashmir all alone, but now what was the need for him to fight unitedly. He said that Bukhari should tender an apology before the people of Jammu & Kashmir for his role after the abrogation of Article 370 here in August 2019.

However, Apni Party senior leader, Muntazir Mohi-ud-din has reacted to his statement, saying that some people for their vested interests are trying to give excuses. "We have not made any claims in the air, but have spoken whatever has been done by the party," he said.

He added that for what reasons the party has to seek apology, it is because it has safeguarded the interests of people by securing jobs, lands, ensuring the return of people from outside states during covid or other things.

"We don't want to highlight the mistakes of anyone. It was the time to unite for safeguarding the interests," he added—(KNO)

Drug Peddler Arrested In Kulgam: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Jammu and Kashmir Police have arrested a drug peddler in Kulgam and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Qazigund at a checkpoint established at Upper Bazar Qazigund intercepted a motorcycle ridden by one person identified as Sahil Ahmad Lone Son of Abdul Rashid Lone resident of Dalwachi, Qazigund carrying a nylon bag. During the search, 1.4 Kgs of poppy straw-like contraband substance was recovered. He has been arrested and shifted to Police Station where he remains in custody. Vehicle used in commission of crime has been seized, a police spokesman said in a statement issued.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 189/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Qazigund and investigation has been taken up.

"We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law," police said.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (OFFICER INCHARGE)
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY SRINAGAR
Tel/ Fax No: 0194-2490528 (Sgr), email: - ddfs@jkslmlr.gov.in
Tender No. NIT/FSL(S)/02/2024 Dated:18/07/2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

For and On Behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-bid under two cover system (Technical bid in cover-1 and Financial bid in cover-2) is invited for the Supply & Installation of "Flash Point Apparatus - 01 No." at J&K Forensic Science Laboratory, Srinagar, from the Original manufacturers/ Direct Importers/ Authorized Representatives of the manufacturers/ direct importers. Details tender document may be downloaded at J&K Govt. Portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The cost of the tender along with tender processing charges of Rs.1,500/- (Rupees One Thousand Five Hundred only/-), non refundable, shall have to be paid either through NEFT/RTGS only in the Departmental Bank Account No. 0005010100005559, maintained at J&K Bank Limited, Residency Road, Srinagar, IFSC Code JAKA0CHINAR, or by depositing the amount directly into the above Account No., along with the submission of requisite valid documentary proof.

- IMPS mode of transfer is not verifiable and hence shall not be entertained as tender fee or tender processing charges.
- Bidders claiming to submit money through IMPS Mode shall be out-rightly rejected.
- DD as mode of payment for cost of tender/tender processing fees/Bid Security shall only be entertained if the same is deposited physically against proper receipt in the Office of Deputy Director, J&KFSL, Srinagar, before the closing due date of e-bid.
- Bid Security of Rs. 35,500.00/- (Rupees Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred only) in the form of DD/CDR/BG (CDR from scheduled/Nationalised Bank / BG from Nationalised Bank) with validity of 30 months. Bids submitted without sufficient bid security & validity shall be summarily rejected. Firms which are registered as (Micro and Small Enterprise) MSEs (Unit)s as defined in MSE Procurement Policy issued by Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) shall be considered for Exemption of bid security including tender fee of Rs. 1500/- as per provisions of MSME Policy.
- Physical hard copy of Bid Security in form of DD/CDR/BG may be submitted to the J&KFSL, Srinagar before the closing due date of e-bid. Scanned copy of the same shall be uploaded along with Technical Bid, failing which bid shall be out rightly rejected.
- The bidders seeking EMD exemption must submit the valid supporting document for the relevant category. Under MSE category only manufacturers for goods and service providers for services are eligible for exemption from EMD. Traders are excluded from the purview of this Policy.
- Scanned copies of NEFT/RTGS/Bank Transfer/Receipt towards the cost of tender documents and tender processing charges shall have to be uploaded along with Technical Bid, failing which bid shall be out rightly rejected.

No.FSL.Sgr/Accts/2024/1467-68
Dated:- 19.07.2024

DIPK-3261-24
DT: 19/07/2024

Sd/-
Deputy Director / Officer Incharge
J&K Forensic Science Laboratory, Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir,
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SKIMS/ JVC,
HQ: SKIMS Soura
Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159 email: - mechanicalskims@gmail.com

No: MHD/SKIMS/JVC/ 819/24- 1598-1605 Dt:- 16.07.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
GSIT of E-NIT NO. MHD/SKIMS/JVC 12 OF 2024-25 dated.16/07/2024

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system (Technical and financial) on percentage basis from Registered, reputed & experienced firms for execution of below mentioned work;

Name of Work	Est./ceiling Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of completion (In months)	AA accorded	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
AMC for refrigerators, coolers, VRV etc in various sections/ areas in SKIMS	15.00	1000/-	30000/-	12	Accorded vide 60 of 2024-25 Dt22.05.2024	Available with Identifying Department

i. Downloading of Bids: The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 16/07/2024(17.00hrs) and can be downloaded from 16/07/2024 (17.00hrs).

ii. Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 16/07/2024(17.00hrs) to 23/07/2024(15:30hrs) in two (02) covers.

iii. Opening of Bids: The bids received up-to due date and time shall be opened on 24/07/2024 (14.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the Department in the office of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division SKIMS/JVC.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical and Hospital Division
SKIMS/JVC

DIPK-NB-939-24
DT: 19/07/2024

Reassessing Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission

Challenges and Solutions

Ummar Jamal

The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) has been facing intense criticism due to its failure to conduct examinations on time and a series of issues that have adversely affected countless aspiring candidates. These delays and irregularities have not only caused significant frustration among students but have also disrupted their career plans, undermining the credibility of the examination process and contributing to a broader inefficiency in the recruitment system.

Impact of Delays and Irregularities

Candidates preparing for JKPSC exams invest months of hard work and dedication. However, the persistent uncertainty surrounding the examination schedule leads to a loss of motivation and productivity. These delays have resulted in a considerable backlog in the recruitment process, further straining the already limited job opportunities in the region. The irregularity in the examination schedule not only impacts the candidates' preparation but also their mental well-being, as the lack of a clear timeline creates an environment of continuous uncertainty.

The Age Limit Controversy

Recently, significant changes were introduced by J&K Public Service Commission, particularly concerning the age criteria for candidates. Before 2018, the age limit for general category students for appearing in JKPSC CSE was set at 37 years, which was in line with many other states across India. For instance, states like Punjab, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh maintained an upper age limit of 37 years, while Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan extended it to 40 years. This age criterion allowed a fair opportunity for aspirants, even if they faced interruptions or delays in their preparation.

However, the sudden reduction of the age limit to 32 years has created significant challenges for those who had already begun their preparation under the previous age limit. This abrupt change has diminished their chances and fostered a sense of injustice, particularly given the unique challenges faced by aspirants in Jammu and Kashmir. The frequent disruptions in the examination schedule have meant that many candidates, who have invested years in preparation, now find themselves excluded from opportunities due to age restric-



tions.

Challenges Unique to Jammu and Kashmir

The distinct circumstances in Jammu and Kashmir, including frequent disruptions and delays in the examination schedule, have profoundly impacted candidates' preparation and attempts. Between 2015 and 2020, the JKPSC conducted only two civil services examinations. This infrequency, compared to the more regular schedules observed in other states and by the UPSC, meant that many candidates had limited opportunities to attempt the exam. Consequently, many candidates reached the age limit before they could fully utilize their permissible attempts.

From 2014 to 2023, JKPSC has conducted only four examinations. In contrast, the UPSC holds its examinations annually, providing candidates with regular opportunities to attempt the exam. The limited number of examinations conducted by JKPSC not only reduced the number of attempts available to candidates but also increased the pressure on those close to or those who have exceeded the age limit.

Comparison with UPSC and Other States

The UPSC has implemented changes to its examination pattern and age limits gradually, allowing candidates to adjust to new requirements. For instance, changes to the UPSC pattern over the years, including the introduction of CSAT and adjustments in the number of papers and subjects, were phased in to

minimize the impact on candidates. The maximum age limit for general category candidates was raised to 32 years, and the number of permissible attempts was increased to six.

In contrast, JKPSC made sweeping changes to the examination pattern in one go, incorporating entire SRO 103 into a single update. This abrupt shift has not provided candidates with sufficient time to adapt, exacerbating the challenges faced by those who had been preparing under previous rules. The lack of a phased approach in implementing changes has intensified the difficulties for candidates who now face an uneven playing field.

Recommended Solutions

To address the current issues and restore fairness in the examination process, several measures need to be undertaken. Firstly, JKPSC should consider restoring the age limit to 37 years for general category candidates. This adjustment would align JKAS with the standards observed in other states and offer a fair opportunity for all aspirants, accounting for the unique challenges faced by candidates in Jammu and Kashmir.

Moreover, implementing a well-defined examination calendar and adhering to it in a timely manner would significantly benefit candidates. A clear schedule would enable candidates to plan their preparation and attempts more effectively, reducing uncertainty and stress. Consistency in the examination process is crucial

for maintaining candidates' motivation and ensuring a fair competitive environment.

Restoring the age limit to 37 years and allowing a reasonable number of attempts would not only rectify the current discrepancies but also uphold the principles of fairness and opportunity for all candidates. By addressing these issues, the JKPSC can contribute to creating a more equitable and supportive environment for civil service aspirants.

Conclusion

The sudden reduction in the age limit for JKAS aspirants has had a profound impact on many candidates who have been preparing under different assumptions and conditions. Addressing the issues related to age criteria, adherence to examination calendar, and alignment with UPSC standards is essential for creating a more just and supportive framework for civil service examinations. The Jammu and Kashmir Government and JKPSC must take these concerns seriously and implement necessary reforms to ensure a fair and efficient recruitment process that accommodates the unique challenges faced by aspirants in the region.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author is a Kashmir based columnist. He tweets at ummar_jamal and can be reached at umajamal968@gmail.com



JKPSC should consider restoring the age limit to 37 years for general category candidates. This adjustment would align JKAS with the standards observed in other states and offer a fair opportunity for all aspirants, accounting for the unique challenges faced by candidates in Jammu and Kashmir

India Needs A Climate Stack

Society, business, and policymakers need data and models of climate change; building a tool that houses a common understanding can empower all stakeholders

Akhilesh Tilotia

Digital public infrastructure (DPI) is a unique Indian innovation: it has revolutionised identity, payments, commerce, credit, among many sectors. The 2023 Economic Survey estimated that DPI could add between 60 and 100 basis points every year to India's economic growth potential.

DPI, as an interoperable, open, and inclusive system, can play a critical role in accelerating digital transformation. It is an infrastructure-based approach to achieve societal goals through an ecosystem (comprising technology, markets, and governance) built in public interest and leveraging private innovation.

Think of the payment apps built on top of the Unified Payments Interface or Know Your Customer applications built on the foundation of Aadhaar. Account aggregators Open Network for Digital Commerce and Open Credit Enablement Network have created the plumbing for financial and commercial transactions. It is now time to harness the versatile power of DPI: India needs a climate stack. The intense heatwave of north India this year or the devastating floods in Sikkim and Assam are only a few examples of climate events that significantly hit human and business activities. Four aspects emerge.

Physical changes: The physical impact of climate change-induced events ripples through

almost all segments of society: agriculture, businesses, homes, health, insurance, etc. The impact is seen in physical aspects like soil, houses, infrastructure, and supply chains.

Business and insurance: Businesses see revenue losses, stalled operations, increasing expenses, or investment requirements. Many areas are becoming uninsurable as insurers and reinsurers are unable to come to a common understanding of what a good model of future losses could look like, at a time when regulatory reporting requirements with respect to climate are increasing.

Public intervention: Governments are being called upon to make global commitments and develop policies to attract investments. This impacts fossil fuel tax revenues and increases climate investment incentives. Governments are now required to invest in resilience and face uninsured expenditure for immediate relief after a crisis.

Time: Climate change events in the short run require quick adaptation measures. In the longer run, citizens and communities must develop a resilient lifestyle, or in extreme cases find new places and ways to live. The short- and long-term impacts feed into each other, requiring high quality data and forecasting.

At its core, a climate stack puts together the many pieces of information that various participants are observing. This information can be historical: weather data like temperature, humidity, precipitation, and significant events, losses, etc.; current: soil conditions, insurance rates, type, fre-

quency, and impact of damage, etc.; future: model-based forecasts of weather events or their impact, or investments planned.

Many data points are already public, produced by authorities or agencies charged with their production and maintenance. Many current data points can be collected via a digital ecosystem of internet-of-things devices, subject to privacy and consent. Similarly, various agencies, largely in the public or academic sphere, are building forward-looking models on climate impacts. These data and models are being developed independently. Enterprises are integrating aspects pertinent to them to power forecasting and action systems. For example, ITC, along with an ecosystem of partners, has created artificial intelligence-powered models to identify micro and near-term impact of weather patterns that are disseminated to stakeholders (farmers, officers, supply chain participants), with advice on contingent actions.

Climate stack, a common platform with standardised vocabulary on climate terms and information, can create a shared language for all participants. It can foster reciprocal data relationships: all participants can receive input and offer data. This will help aggregate and develop learnings. A common understanding can power robust forecasting methodologies.

Unlike in traditional insurance where risks are empirically estimated through long-range data sets, climate risks are based on forecasts. Standard forecasting models can create a com-

mon definition and understanding of the risks being underwritten. With short-range and granular forecasting, such a tool can create a dispersed model of interventions.

The stack can also feed into various other initiatives: Gati Shakti in infrastructure, building codes in different locations, health-related digital interventions, or serve as the base for business reporting and supply chain planning. It can become a repository of India's carbon emissions and inventory of its credits. In global negotiations, an open and transparent stack can create further confidence in our interventions to peak and bend our carbon curve to zero. Models and forecasts built on the stack can offer alternative ways to achieving India's 2070 net zero goal.

Just like the DPI ecosystems, building a climate stack will require a grouping of climate stakeholders from engineering, social impact, financing, regulation, etc. to build common standards. It will require the convening power of the government, preferably in a separate entity like it was done for the unique identification project. Cross-ministerial and cross-sectional support of the society will be required to make this stack a success.

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

Unlocking the Potential of Kashmir's Creative Economy

The creative economy moves beyond being just a subset of tourism. The sector in itself has the potential to generate employment opportunities and help Kashmir's economy it

SAKHRA RIYAZ

Traditionally, Kashmir's economy has relied primarily on two sectors: agriculture and tourism. These sectors have been the backbone of the economy of the region. Although important, there is another sector that has a lot of potential: the creative economy. The term "creative economy" refers to a sector of the economy that is based on human creativity and innovation. It includes Kashmir's unique art and craft, and is a separate industry that is sometimes misinterpreted as a mere extension of tourism. However, the sector holds immense potential for both economic growth and cultural preservation.

Kashmir's artistic heritage is centuries old, and its crafts have always been famous worldwide. For instance, one famous art form is Kashmiri papier-mâché, introduced in the 15th century by King Ghiyasud-Din Zain-ul-Abideen. This intricate craft involves hand-painting detailed patterns on a papier-mâché base, creating items such as trays, book covers, and decorative boxes. The art form flourished and gained international popularity in the 19th century, especially through the trade in Kashmiri shawls, which were packed in "Kar-i-qalamdani" boxes.

Similarly, copperware art in Kashmir is another example of the region's rich artisanal skills. This art was introduced after the decline of the Mughal era when Kashmiri metalworkers began creating beautifully carved vessels using "Meenakari". This art form is still found abundantly in the markets of the downtown area of Srinagar, where craftsmen continue to produce stunning copper items such as Kashmiri samovars, trays, lamps and utensils.

Thus, Kashmiri handicrafts are known around the world for their rich history and global recognition. However, the sector still faces significant challenges. Even though Srinagar was designated a UNESCO Creative City for Crafts and Folk Arts in 2021, the sector is struggling. The data from the Handicrafts Department shows a 45 percent decline as shawl exports have de-



creased from Rs 305.90 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 172.53 crore in 2020-21.

Efforts need to be made to promote as well as preserve traditional crafts. Such endeavours should involve providing local artisans with resources — especially virtual — to advertise their skills as well as to sell their products. An important part of such efforts would be access and use of e-commerce platforms to help local crafts reach a global market.

Second, the government can provide subsidies to artisans and small businesses,

helping them upscale their operations without high costs.

The government can also facilitate training programs to introduce new skills and techniques while preserving traditional methods. In this way, old and new techniques will be blended together, resulting in new interpretations of Kashmiri crafts. Lastly, it is important to protect the technique of Kashmiri crafts through intellectual property rights, to maintain the crafts' value and uniqueness.

There are examples of countries that

have made significant investments to develop their creative economies, such as establishing museums, architectural projects, and creating specialized programs and centers. These initiatives help create more jobs but also promote the arts and generate revenue.

For instance, the European Union launched the "Creative Europe" program in 2014, which includes the Cultural and Creative Sector Guarantee Facility. This facility supports entrepreneurs by providing insurance and encouraging them to finance cre-

ative businesses that in turn help employ over "12 million people".

On the other hand, in the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates has made significant progress in developing its creative economy. There was an agreement between the government of Abu Dhabi and Paris that led to the establishment of the Louvre Museum Abu Dhabi. The museum regularly holds masterclasses with local Emirati artists in areas such as papermaking, pottery and portraiture, as well as screenings of films by local directors. This highlights how museums can serve as platforms for showcasing and investing in the creative economy.

A similar policy could be adopted by the government to build museums and cultural centers dedicated to Kashmiri art and crafts. Local artisans could be invited to conduct workshops and masterclasses on traditional crafts. This can help preserve these skills and pass them on to younger generations.

The creative economy is more than just a subset of tourism; it is a standalone sector that has the potential to provide substantial employment opportunities and contribute to Kashmir's economic development. Handicrafts from Kashmir, including papier-mâché, copperware, embroidery, and Pashmina shawls, are in demand worldwide. By promoting traditional crafts, we can boost the economy and preserve the rich history of the region. Each handcrafted item tells a story of Kashmir's past, its people, and their artistic ability.

Therefore, while agriculture and tourism continue to play important roles in Kashmir's economy, the creative sector presents an opportunity for economic growth and cultural preservation. By investing in and promoting this sector, Kashmir can bolster its economic resilience while preserving its artistic heritage. We need to recognize the creative economy as a vital third sector and provide it with the support and recognition it deserves.

The author is a student from Georgetown University

Mysterious of Long Covid are Now Unraveling

Long COVID puzzle pieces are falling into place – the picture is unsettling

Ziyad Al Aly

Since 2020, the condition known as long COVID-19 has become a widespread disability affecting the health and quality of life of millions of people across the globe and costing economies billions of dollars in reduced productivity of employees and an overall drop in the work force.

The intense scientific effort that long COVID sparked has resulted in more than 24,000 scientific publications, making it the most researched health condition in any four years of recorded human history.

Long COVID is a term that describes the constellation of long-term health effects caused by infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. These range from persistent respiratory symptoms, such as shortness of breath, to debilitating fatigue or brain fog that limits people's ability to work, and conditions such as heart failure and diabetes, which are known to last a lifetime.

I am a physician scientist, and I have been deeply immersed in studying long COVID since the early days of the pandemic. I have testified before the U.S. Senate as an expert witness on long COVID, have published extensively on it and was named as one of Time's 100 most influential people in health in 2024 for my research in this area.

Over the first half of 2024, a flurry of reports and scientific papers on long COVID added clarity to this complex condition. These include, in particular, insights into how COVID-19 can still wreak havoc in many organs years after the initial viral infection, as well as emerging evidence on viral persistence and immune dysfunction that last for months or years after initial infection.

How long COVID affects the body
A new study that my colleagues and I published in the New England Journal of Medicine on July 17, 2024, shows that the risk of long COVID declined over the course of the pandemic. In 2020, when the ancestral strain of SARS-CoV-2 was dominant and vaccines were not available, about 10.4% of adults

who got COVID-19 developed long COVID. By early 2022, when the omicron family of variants predominated, that rate declined to 7.7% among unvaccinated adults and 3.5% of vaccinated adults. In other words, unvaccinated people were more than twice as likely to develop long COVID.

While researchers like me do not yet have concrete numbers for the current rate in mid-2024 due to the time it takes for long COVID cases to be reflected in the data, the flow of new patients into long COVID clinics has been on par with 2022.

We found that the decline was the result of two key drivers: availability of vaccines and changes in the characteristics of the virus — which made the virus less prone to cause severe acute infections and may have reduced its ability to persist in the human body long enough to cause chronic disease.

Despite the decline in risk of developing long COVID, even a 3.5% risk is substantial. New and repeat COVID-19 infections translate into millions of new long COVID cases that add to an already staggering number of people suffering from this condition.

Estimates for the first year of the pandemic suggests that at least 65 million people globally have had long COVID. Along with a group of other leading scientists, my team will soon publish updated estimates of the global burden of long COVID and its impact on the global economy through 2023.

In addition, a major new report by the National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine details all the health effects that constitute long COVID. The report was commissioned by the Social Security Administration to understand the implications of long COVID on its disability benefits.

It concludes that long COVID is a complex chronic condition that can result in more than 200 health effects across multiple body systems. These include new onset or worsening:

Heart disease

Neurologic problems such as cognitive



impairment, strokes and dysautonomia. This is a category of disorders that affect the body's autonomic nervous system — nerves that regulate most of the body's vital mechanisms such as blood pressure, heart rate and temperature.

Post-exertional malaise, a state of severe exhaustion that may happen after even minor activity — often leaving the patient unable to function for hours, days or weeks

Gastrointestinal disorders

Kidney disease metabolic disorders such as diabetes and hyperlipidemia, or a rise in bad cholesterol

Immune dysfunction

Long COVID can affect people across the lifespan from children to older adults and across race and ethnicity and baseline health status. Importantly, more than 90% of people with long COVID had mild COVID-19 infections.

The National Academies report also concluded that long COVID can result in the inability to return to work or school; poor quality of life; diminished ability to perform activities of daily living; and decreased physical and cognitive function for months or years after the initial infection.

The report points out that many health effects of long COVID, such as post-exertional malaise and chronic fatigue, cognitive impairment and autonomic dysfunction, are not currently captured in the Social Security Administration's Listing of Impairments, yet may significantly affect an individual's ability to participate in work or school.

A long road ahead

What's more, health problems resulting from COVID-19 can last years after the initial infection.

A large study published in early 2024 showed that even people who had a mild SARS-CoV-2 infection still experienced new health problems related to COVID-19 in the

third year after the initial infection.

Such findings parallel other research showing that the virus persists in various organ systems for months or years after COVID-19 infection. And research is showing that immune responses to the infection are still evident two to three years after a mild infection. Together, these studies may explain why a SARS-CoV-2 infection years ago could still cause new health problems long after the initial infection.

Important progress is also being made in understanding the pathways by which long COVID wreaks havoc on the body. Two preliminary studies from the U.S. and the Netherlands show that when researchers transfer auto-antibodies — antibodies generated by a person's immune system that are directed at their own tissues and organs — from people with long COVID into healthy mice, the animals start to experience long COVID-like symptoms such as muscle weakness and poor balance.

These studies suggest that an abnormal immune response thought to be responsible for the generation of these auto-antibodies may underlie long COVID and that removing these auto-antibodies may hold promise as potential treatments.

An ongoing threat

Despite overwhelming evidence of the wide-ranging risks of COVID-19, a great deal of messaging suggests that it is no longer a threat to the public. Although there is no empirical evidence to back this up, this misinformation has permeated the public narrative.

The data, however, tells a different story. COVID-19 infections continue to outnumber flu cases and lead to more hospitalization and death than the flu. COVID-19 also leads to more serious long-term health problems. Trivializing COVID-19 as an inconsequential cold or equating it with the flu does not align with reality.

By arrangements with The Conversation

'Siblings Of Autistic Children 20% More Likely To Have Condition'

Press Trust Of India

Siblings of children with autism are at a 20 per cent higher chance of being diagnosed with the condition, compared to those without the neurodevelopmental disorder, a new research has found.

Other factors such as the sex of the first autistic child and that of the later-born were also found to influence the chances of the disorder recurring within a family.

Autism is marked by repetitive behaviour, along with affected social communication.

"If a family's first autistic child was a girl, they were 50 per cent more likely to have another child with autism than if their first autistic child was a boy," said corresponding author Sally Ozonoff, a professor at the University of California Davis, US.

"This points to genetic differences that increase recurrence likelihood in families who have an autistic daughter," said Ozonoff.

The study, published in the journal Pediatrics, was conducted in 1,600 infants



from across the US, Canada, and the UK, all of them having an elder autistic sibling. The infants were evaluated for autism from the age of six months to three years and data was collected from 2010-2019.

"A total of 20.2 per cent of siblings developed autism spectrum disorder, which is not significantly higher than the previously reported

rate of 18.7 per cent," the authors wrote, referring to their 2011 study which included 664 children.

Furthermore, the researchers found that if the sibling of an autistic child was a boy, he was nearly twice as likely as a girl to be on the spectrum.

"The familial recurrence rate if the new baby was a boy was 25 per cent, whereas

it was 13 per cent if the new baby was a girl," said Ozonoff.

"This is in line with the fact that boys are diagnosed with autism about four times as often as girls in general," the researcher added.

The study also found that a child having multiple autistic siblings is at a higher risk of having the condition (37 per cent), compared to a child having only one autistic sib-

“If a family's first autistic child was a girl, they were 50 per cent more likely to have another child with autism than if their first autistic child was a boy

ling (21 per cent).

The findings regarding recurrence of autism in a family should help them plan for and support future children, along with reassuring providers who are counselling and monitoring development, according to Ozonoff.

However, it is critical that the findings be replicated, as that may indicate that there are social factors of health which can lead to higher rates of autism in families, she said.

Therefore, more research is needed, said Ozonoff.

Plant-Based Oils Linked With Lower Heart Disease Risk, Blood Fat Analysis Confirms

Press Trust Of India

Analysing blood fat has helped researchers confirm with "even more certainty" that replacing butter and coconut oil with plant-based fats, such as groundnut and olive oils, can lower risk of metabolic diseases. In their new study, the researchers used lipidomics, which helps analyse fats in the blood, or lipids. They showed that it is possible to measure diet-related changes and directly link them to the risk of developing heart disease and diabetes. Their findings are published in the journal Nature Medicine.

"Our study confirms with even more certainty the health benefits of a diet high in unsaturated plant fats, such as the Mediterranean diet, and could help provide targeted dietary advice to those who would benefit most from changing their eating habits," said senior author Clemens Wittenbecher, a research leader at Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden.

The Mediterranean diet is rich in nuts, fruits and vegetables, along with whole grains and legumes. The dishes are mainly

cooked in olive oil and also include a moderate intake of fish, poultry, dairy and eggs. Red meat and sweets are rarely consumed.

A part of this research, involving 113 participants, was conducted in a diet-related study at the University of Reading, UK.

For 16 weeks, one group consumed a diet high in saturated animal fats, while the other group followed a diet rich in unsaturated plant-based fats. Blood samples were analysed using lipidomics to identify specific lipids reflecting the diets each participant consumed.

"We summarised the effects on blood lipids with a multi-lipid score (MLS). A high MLS indicates a healthy blood fat profile and a high intake of unsaturated plant fat and low intake of saturated animal fat can help achieve such positive MLS levels," said first author Fabian Eichelmann from the German Institute of Human Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbruecke.

The blood fat results were linked with the occurrence of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, data for which were taken from previous large-scale observational studies.

No Solid Evidence To Suggest Massage Effective For Pain: Researchers

Press Trust Of India

"No high-certainty evidence" that massage is effective in treating pain, despite "hundreds of clinical trials and dozens of previous scientific reviews on the topic", researchers said in a study.

According to the findings, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Network Open, reviews providing moderate- or high-certainty evidence that massage was superior to other pain therapies, such as opioids, were rare.

Massage therapy involves using hands to manipulate the soft tissues of skin, muscles and ligaments for treating pain, and is usually delivered by certified therapists.

Despite massage therapy's popularity and long history in practice, evidence regarding its benefits remain limited, according to the researchers, including those from the University of California, US.

Analysing 129 reviews published since 2018, they found that of these, only 41 used a formal method to rate the strength of evidence used to show that massage therapy helped relieve painful health conditions in adults.

Of the 41, the authors focused on 17 relating to 13 different health conditions, such as back pain and cancer-related pain.

"Across these reviews, no conclusions were rated as high certainty of evidence," the authors wrote in the study.

While the evidence presented in seven of the 17 reviews were rated as "moderate-certainty," others were rated as "low- or very low-certainty," according to the study.

Evidence of moderate certainty came from reviews showing massage therapy to have "beneficial associations with pain," the authors said.

"More high-quality randomised clinical trials are needed to provide a stronger evidence base to assess the effect of massage therapy on pain," they wrote.

NOTICE

In IDBI Bank at Karanagar Srinagar my name has been wrongly mentioned in my account no bearing Ac No. 204910400002134 as MD Azam while as my correct and actual name is Mohd Azam S/o: Mohd Qayoom R/o: Manchikrand, Uri District Baramulla . Now the necessary correction is to be made. In this regard if any body have any objection may convey to concerned branch within a period of 3 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Azam S/o: Mohd Qayoom
R/o: Manchikrand, Uri District Baramulla

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Office Of The executive Engineer
Left River Works Division
Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The Tenders in respect of below mentioned works are hereby cancelled, due to technical reasons;

Developemnt /Upgradation of road surface at Gogo Stadium and Govt Primary School to Gania Mohalla near defence Air Force areaby way of P/I of WBM G1 and G2 & Upgradation of lane from H/o Quanser Ali Rather, Mohd Yousuf Rather, Mohd Yusuf Parry, Mohd Afzal Rather & others at Gazi Mohalla Gund Hassi Bhat Srinagar of NleT No: 05 of 2024-25 dated 10.07.2024, issued under endorsement No.SMC/EELRWD/647-656 Dated: 10-July-2024..

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION,
SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

NO: SMC/EELRWD/735-742
DIPK-NB-946/24
Dated:-19/07/2024.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 08 of 2024-25
DAT ED: 15.07.2024

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible bidders registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

S. No	Name of work	Adv cost (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Class of Contract	Administrative Approval No. & date	Cost of Tender documents	Time of Completion
1.	Development of various play filed by way of good earth / GSB filling and development of concrete path with tiles around Athletic Track at GCOPE Gandarbal	Rs.96.20 lacs	Rs. 1,84,400/-	AAY Class	SE/Gbl/19 of 2024-25 dated: 04.07.2024	Rs. 1600/-	365 days

Position of Funds = Under Capex 2024-25
Position of TS = Accorded

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

2. Critical Dates Table

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice.	15.07.2024
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	15.07.2024 from 4.00PM to 22.07.2024 upto 4.00PM.
3.	Bid Submission Start Date.	15.07.2024 from 1.00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date.	29.07.2024 upto 4.00 PM
5.	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online)	30.07.2024 at 10.00 AM in the office of Ex. Engineer, Const. Division Kashmir, J&K Sports Council at Administrative Block, Bakshshi Stadium, Srinagar. (or any convenient date)

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

1) Name of Bank = J&K Bank Ltd.
2) Account Title = Executive Engineer, Construction Div. Kmr, JKSC
3) Account No = CDG-0365010200000842
4) Branch = Lal Mandi
5) IFSC Code = JAKA05BOARD

The bidders must upload the scanned copy of bank payment acknowledgment slip.
SC/CDK/e-01/1150-51
DIPK-NB-945/24 Dated: 19.07.2024

Ex. Engineer, CDK
J&K Sports Council

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Machinery Division Srinagar
Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir
Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmnds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

GIST of e-Tender
e-NIT No: MDSK/TS /2024-25/24
Date: 19.07.2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway/State/Central Government organization for the below mentioned work:

Name of the Work	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Cost in Rupees)	Estimated EMD in Rs	Position of AA	Position of TS
Renovation of watchman's Quarter of Workshop and Store Premises at Pampore and other accessories for watch and ward staff.	100/-	1,96,611.00	3950.00	Works programme approved by CE Vide vide no. MED/K/Actt/105 of 2024-25 dated: 31-05-2024. Under MH-3054

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below :-

01	Publish date	19-07-2024 (18:00hrs)
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	19-07-2024 (18:30 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	19-07-2024 (18:55hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	29-07-2024 (18:55 hrs)
06	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	30-07-2024 (14 hrs)

Sd/
Executive Engineer,
Machinery Division, Kashmir

No: MDSK/ TS/1779-82
DIPK-3258/24 Date: 19.07.2024

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar - 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender
E-NIT No. (21) of 2024-25 Dated: 11.07.2024

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, e-tenders (Single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Electric contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-12-2024 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Internal/external electrification work for Establishment of Fur Processing Unit under Promotion of Wool and Pelt for Effective Processing and Marketing (HADP) at FVSc & AH Shuhama, SKUAST-Kashmir	26.77	53,540	A class	1000/-	Alongwith civil work

a) Position of AAA: Accorded
b) Position of TS: Sanctioned
c) Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per following schedule:-

1.	Date of publication of Tender Notice	11.07.2024
2.	Date of start of downloading	11.07.2024
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	11.07.2024
5.	Bid submission end date	23.07.2024 (6.00 PM)
6.	Date of opening of Technical bid of the bidders (online)	24.07.2024 (12.00 PM)
7.	Date of opening Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	25.07.2024

Further information can be had from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(21)/223
DIPK-NB-930/24 Dated: 19.07.2024



'Kashmir Holds A Promising Future For Competitive Exams'

Salman Shahid, an IIT Kharagpur graduate, chose to prioritize education in Kashmir over lucrative corporate roles. Along with other two partners, he established RISE, a private coaching centre in Srinagar, to provide quality JEE coaching to tens of hundreds of students from across the valley. Staffed exclusively by IIT graduates, RISE boasts the highest number of students passing the JEE Advanced, the world's second most difficult exam. In a detailed conversation with **Farooq Shah**, Mr. Salman discusses the challenges they face, their innovative teaching methods, and the holistic support systems that ensure the success and well-being of their students.

Excerpts of the interview.

Could you share your professional background and personal journey? What motivated you to partner with RISE Coaching Centre, particularly focusing on preparing students for the highly competitive JEE exams?

Graduating from IIT Kharagpur with a B.Tech was a transformative experience for me, emphasizing the value of quality education and rigorous preparation. After cracking the IIT JEE, I had opportunities for a corporate career or moving to the USA. However, I felt a strong calling to impact education in Kashmir, where ongoing conflicts have disrupted the system. In 2015, along with fellow IITians Mubeen and Imbesat, I partnered with RISE to provide high-quality education to the students in Kashmir. Initially, our focus was on JEE preparation, as awareness in Kashmir was limited, with only one or two students making it to IITs every 2-3 years. We aimed to change this by offering quality local JEE coaching and increasing awareness of available opportunities. Recognizing the growing demand for medical education, we expanded to include NEET coaching and foundation classes for 9th and 10th grades, building a strong academic base and producing top rankers from Kashmir. These initiatives have broadened our reach, helping more students excel in their academic pursuits.

The journey of establishing a successful coaching centre is often fraught with challenges. Can you discuss some of the significant challenges RISE has faced, particularly related to JEE coaching, and how you have strategically overcome them?

Establishing RISE in conflict-hit Kashmir has been challenging. Frequent curfews and shutdowns, coupled with internet closures, disrupted classes for extended periods, impacting students' learning continuity. Many students had significant learning gaps due to mass promotions from previous disruptions, making it difficult to align them with the JEE curriculum. We implemented remedial classes and personalized learning plans to address these gaps. Retaining qualified faculty was also tough in Kashmir's volatile environment. To tackle this, we offered competitive salaries, continuous professional development, and a supportive work

environment. These efforts helped us maintain a dedicated team committed to our mission of academic excellence despite the region's challenges.

The quality of faculty is a significant factor in the success of any coaching centre. How does RISE ensure continuous professional development, motivation, and retention of its faculty members who specialize in JEE coaching?

At RISE, we prioritize the quality of our faculty to ensure the success of our JEE coaching centre. We implement several strategies for continuous professional development, motivation, and retention of our educators. Firstly, we provide regular training and workshops to keep faculty updated with the latest teaching methodologies, curriculum changes, and exam patterns. These sessions enhance their teaching skills and help them adapt to students' evolving needs. We encourage a culture of mentorship and collaboration, where experienced educators guide newer colleagues and share best practices. This supportive environment motivates



WE OFFER REPEAT COURSES AT REDUCED FEES TO ENSURE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS DON'T HINDER THEIR PREPARATION. Our goal is to help every student overcome setbacks and achieve their full potential, ensuring they remain motivated and have a clear path forward in their academic journey.

and empowers faculty members to excel. Additionally, we offer competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain top talent in JEE coaching. We also provide opportunities for career advancement and professional growth, encouraging faculty to pursue their teaching passion and contribute to our students' success.

Your coaching institute exclusively employs IIT

pass-outs as faculty. Is this primarily a marketing strategy, or a genuine effort to improve education quality? How do you attract and retain such in-demand professionals?

We employ IIT graduates as faculty to genuinely improve education quality, not just for marketing. Their deep understanding of JEE exams, coupled with their own experiences, provides invaluable insights and strategies, enhancing the learning experience. To attract and retain these professionals, we offer competitive compensation, including housing and food, professional development opportunities, and a collaborative work culture. Our faculty has access to the latest teaching tools and technologies, ensuring they can deliver high-quality education. This focus attracts top talent, ensuring their long-term commitment to our mission of empowering students from underprivileged backgrounds.

In a field as competitive as JEE coaching, innovation is crucial. How does RISE incorporate cutting-edge teaching methodologies and technologies to ensure its students are well-prepared for the JEE exams?

We leverage cutting-edge teaching methodologies and technologies to prepare students for JEE exams. Our interactive approach includes lectures, hands-on problem-solving, and group discussions to stimulate critical thinking and deepen understanding. We integrate technology through educational software, online resources, and multimedia tools to enhance learning. Our faculty undergo regular training to stay updated with the latest pedagogical techniques, ensuring instruction is both rigorous and engaging. By embracing innovation, we equip our students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the competitive JEE environment and beyond.

Preparing for the JEE exams can be incredibly demanding for students. What specific support systems does RISE offer to ensure students receive holistic development, emotional support, and guidance throughout their JEE preparation journey?

We provide holistic support to ensure students' well-being and success. Regular counselling sessions help manage stress and anxiety associated with

JEE preparation. Our faculty members act as mentors, offering academic guidance and emotional support. Additionally, we conduct workshops on time management, study skills, and exam strategies, equipping students with tools to optimize their study routines and maximize their potential. These initiatives address the academic, emotional, and personal needs of our students, fostering a supportive environment that promotes overall success.

The pressure of preparing for the JEE exams can take a toll on students' mental health. How does RISE address this issue and ensure that students maintain a healthy balance between rigorous study schedules and their mental well-being?

We recognize the mental health challenges of JEE preparation and have established comprehensive support. This includes regular mental health workshops and counselling sessions with professionals. Our faculty are trained to identify stress and burnout, providing timely interventions. We encourage a balanced study approach, incorporating breaks and recreational activities. Open communication between students, faculty, and parents ensures issues are addressed promptly. By fostering a supportive environment, we help students maintain a healthy balance between studies and mental well-being, ensuring they can achieve their academic goals without compromising their mental health.

Success stories can be incredibly motivating. Can you share some inspiring success stories of students who have achieved exceptional results in the JEE exams through RISE's coaching? How do these stories reflect the effectiveness of your coaching methods?

One inspiring RISE success story is of a labourer's son who overcame significant odds to excel in the JEE exams. Despite financial constraints, his determination and dedication were unwavering. With personalized coaching and support from RISE, he achieved a remarkable JEE score and gained admission to an IIT. His success transformed his life and inspired his community, showcasing the transformative power of education. Such stories highlight the effectiveness of our coaching methods and holistic approach, reaffirming our belief in every student's potential and motivating us to

continue providing the highest quality education and support.

Not all students succeed in their first attempt at the JEE exams. How does RISE support and guide students who face setbacks, ensuring they remain motivated and have a clear path forward?

We support students who don't achieve their desired JEE results on their first attempt. Our faculty provides personal-

about their child's progress and address any concerns they may have. We provide detailed progress reports and keep them updated about the students' day to day progress. Our counsellors are available to discuss any issues and provide guidance on how parents can support their children at home. By maintaining open communication and fostering a collaborative relationship, we ensure that parents are well-informed and can play a supportive role in their child's academic endeavours.

Feedback is essential for continuous improvement. What mechanisms are in place at RISE to gather and act upon feedback from students and parents, specifically regarding JEE preparation?

Feedback is a critical component of our continuous improvement process at RISE. We have established multiple channels to gather feedback from students and parents, including regular surveys, feedback forms, and suggestion boxes. We also conduct focus group discussions and individual meetings to gather in-depth insights. All feedback is reviewed by me personally, and we take prompt action to address any concerns and implement suggestions. I am always available for all the students and they can come and meet me anytime. We also provide updates to students and parents on the changes made based on their feedback, ensuring transparency and demonstrating our commitment to continuous improvement. This approach helps us refine our programs and enhance the overall learning experience.

What are your thoughts on the future of education in Kashmir, particularly in the field of competitive exam preparation like the JEE? How is RISE preparing to adapt and contribute to this evolving landscape?

The future of education in Kashmir is promising, especially for competitive exam prep like the JEE. With growing access to technology and digital resources, more students can receive quality education despite regional challenges. RISE leads this change with innovative learning models, ensuring uninterrupted education. We're expanding through new branches and partnerships with local schools, aiming to build a strong educational ecosystem that nurtures talent and equips students for success in competitive exams and beyond.

One inspiring RISE success story is of a labourer's son who overcame significant odds to excel in the JEE exams. Despite financial constraints, his determination and dedication were unwavering. With personalized coaching and support from RISE, he achieved a remarkable JEE score and gained admission to an IIT.

ized feedback and tailored study plans to address specific areas of improvement. We conduct motivational sessions and counselling to help students regain confidence and stay focused on their goals. Additionally, we offer repeat courses at reduced fees to ensure financial constraints don't hinder their preparation. Our goal is to help every student overcome setbacks and achieve their full potential, ensuring they remain motivated and have a clear path forward in their academic journey.

The role of parents is crucial in a student's JEE preparation journey. How does RISE involve parents in this process, ensuring they are informed and supportive of their children's academic endeavours?

Involving parents in the JEE preparation journey is crucial for a student's success. We regularly organize parent-teacher meetings to keep parents informed

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Global Tech

scrambled to deal with the fallout. Thousands of flights were canceled and tens of thousands were delayed around the world, leading to long lines at airports in the U.S., Europe and Asia. Airlines lost access to check-in and booking services in the heart of the summer travel season.

Several local TV stations in the U.S. were prevented from airing the news early Friday, and some state and local governments reported problems at courts, motor vehicles departments, unemployment agencies and other offices.

Affected hospitals had problems with appointment systems, forcing them to suspend patient visits and cancel some surgeries.

Alison Baulos said her 73-year-old father's emergency heart surgery in Paducah, Kentucky was canceled Friday morning because of the tech outage, leaving her family scared and worried.

"So if anything happens, it would be as a result of not having the surgery this morning," Baulos said in an interview. She said her father was waiting at Baptist Hospital to find out what will happen next. A phone message left with the hospital was not immediately returned.

Elsewhere, people experienced minor inconveniences, including trouble ordering ahead at Starbucks, causing long lines to form at some of the coffee chain's stores.

A disturbing reminder of vulnerability Cyber expert James Bore said real harm would be caused. "All of these systems are running the same software," Bore said. "We've made all of these tools so widespread that when things inevitably go wrong — and they will, as we've seen — they go wrong at a huge scale."

The head of Germany's IT security agency, Claudia Plattner, said "we can't expect a very quick solution." A forecast for when exactly all systems will be up and running is difficult, but "it won't be hours," she added.

CrowdStrike said in a recording on its customer service line that the problem was related to "the Falcon sensor," referring to one of its products used to block online attacks. The company says it has 29,000 customers.

In an interview on NBC's "Today Show," CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz apologized, saying the company was "deeply sorry for the impact that we've caused to customers, to travelers, to anyone affected by this, including our companies."

"We know what the issue is" and are working to remediate it, Kurtz said. Shares of the company, which is based in Austin, Texas, fell nearly 10% on Friday. Microsoft's stock price fell more than 3%.

Though the outage's impact could be felt far and wide, the forecasting firm Capital Economics said it was likely to have little impact on the world economy.

Cybersecurity experts said those affected by the outage also needed to be wary of bad actors reaching out claiming they can help. "Attackers will definitely prey on organizations as a result of this," said Gartner analyst Eric Grenier.

Air travel delayed everywhere Most airlines attributed the problems to their booking systems. Thousands of flights were affected in the U.S. alone, though by late morning on the East Coast airlines said they were beginning to mitigate problems and resume some service.

Airlines and railways in the U.K. experienced long wait times. And airports across Europe suspended landings or halted takeoffs for several hours due to difficulties in checking in passengers.

Saskia Ottinghaus, a member of the German Olympic diving team, was among those stuck at the Berlin Airport.

Other athletes and spectators traveling to Paris were delayed, as were their uniforms and accreditations, but Games organizers said disruptions were limited and didn't affect ticketing or the torch relay.

Broadcasters go dark, surgeries delayed In Australia, national news outlets — including public broadcaster ABC and Sky News Australia — were unable to broadcast on their TV and radio channels for hours. Some news anchors went on air online from dark offices, in front of computers showing blue error screens. Internet and phone providers were also affected.

In the U.S., KSHB-TV in Kansas City, Missouri, aired Scripps News instead of local news until about 5:35 a.m., the stations said on its website. IT teams and engineers worked through the night to resolve the glitch, the station said. Other local stations owned by Scripps reported similar problems, though Scripps spokesman Michael Perry said in an email early Friday that 90% of stations were able to air local news.

Hospitals in different countries also reported problems. Britain's National Health Service

said the outage caused problems at most doctors' offices across England. NHS England said in a statement said the glitch was affecting the appointment and patient record system used across the public health system.

At Mass General Brigham, the largest health care system in Massachusetts, all scheduled non-urgent surgeries, procedures, and medical visits were canceled Friday because of the outage, according to a spokesperson. Emergency departments remained open.

Financial Systems

Unavailable for passengers across airports, led to further chaos.

"They are doing it manually so obviously it will take time. They are taking about 30-40 minutes to process a passenger's ticket. How will they do it for all, They don't have a reply," said a passenger.

IndiGo has cancelled around 200 flights, however, the number of delayed flights can't be quantified, said a source.

"The Microsoft/CrowdStrike outage has taken down most airports in India. I got my first hand-written boarding pass today," said IndiGo passenger Akshay Kothari in a post on X displaying his manual boarding pass.

According to preliminary data put out by aviation analytics firm Cirium on the global IT disruption in the afternoon, 56 flights were cancelled out of 3,652 flights scheduled from Indian destinations. This does not include inbound flights to India.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu assured the passengers that the ministry and Airports Authority of India (AAI) are actively managing the situation using manual methods to ensure minimal disruption.

"We have instructed all airlines and airport authorities to keep passengers informed about their flight status and provide necessary assistance," Naidu said.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said the ministry and aviation safety regulator DGCA are closely monitoring the situation. The minister said that instructions have been issued to private airlines to promptly inform passengers about the disruptions.

The impact was more on passengers flying out of high-density airports like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai.

"A global outage with the Navitaire Departure Control System (DCS) has been affecting operations of some airlines across their network, including BLR Airport since 10:40 IST on July 19, 2024. Indigo, Akasa, and Spicejet in T1 and Air India Express in T2 are among the impacted airlines," a Bengaluru airport spokesperson said.

The Common Use Terminal Equipment (CUTE) and Common Use Self Service (CUSS) systems are also experiencing disruptions, the airport operator said adding that in response to this situation, IndiGo, Air India Express, Spicejet and Akasa have taken proactive measures by initiating manual check-ins to ensure minimal disruption to passengers and flight schedules.

"Due to a major global system outage, all gate screens at DEL (Delhi airport) blank. Flights are being held at the gate. Some gates boarding pax (passengers) and holding on board, some flights holding pax at gate itself, which is better. Seems to be impacting many airports and airlines," Sanjiv Kapoor, executive vice-president (strategies) of Saudia Airlines and former CEO of Jet Airways 2.0, said in a post on X.

Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport saw as many as 23 flights -- 12 departures and 11 arrivals -- including IndiGo's flights to Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru being cancelled.

"We are closely working with all our stakeholders to minimise the inconvenience to our flyers. You may please get in touch with the airline concerned for updates on your flight information. We thank you for your support and understanding," the airport, run by GMR, said in a post on social media platform X.

Earlier in the day, IndiGo said its systems were impacted by the Microsoft outage and during this time, booking, check-in, access to boarding pass, and some flights were impacted.

Services of budget carrier Akasa were also impacted.

"Due to infrastructure issues with our service provider, some of our online services, including booking, check-in and manage booking services will be temporarily unavailable. Currently we are following manual check-in and boarding processes at the airports," Akasa said in a

post on X.

SpiceJet also said that it was experiencing technical challenges with the service provider affecting online services including booking, check-in, and managing booking functionalities.

Other Services Hit In India Microsoft Apps

The users were also unable to access various Microsoft apps and services. Microsoft 365, Microsoft Team, and Microsoft Azure were among the services that were affected.

Instagram, Amazon According to the outage tracking website Downdetector, some users also complained that they were facing issues while using the following apps: Instagram, Amazon, Gmail, the State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Bank of India, and HDFC Bank.

Windows users Millions of Windows users globally encountered the Blue Screen of Death, leading to computer shutdowns or restarts. In some instances, computers repeatedly restarted resulting in users losing unsaved data as the screen displayed the message: "Your PC ran into a problem and needs to restart. We're just collecting some error info, and then we'll restart for you."

Indian Financial Systems Largely Unaffected

The Indian financial and payments systems remained largely unaffected by the Microsoft services outage, though about 10 banks and NBFCs faced minor disruptions which have either been resolved or are being fixed.

The Reserve Bank said it has made an assessment of the impact of this outage on its regulated entities.

"Critical systems of most banks are not in cloud and further, only a few banks are using the CrowdStrike tool. Our assessment shows that only 10 banks and NBFCs had minor disruptions which have either been resolved or are being resolved," RBI said in a statement.

Overall, it said the Indian financial sector in the Reserve Bank's domain remains insulated from the global outage.

Meanwhile, SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara told PTI that "We (SBI) are all fine". SBI is the country's largest lender and commands nearly 25 per cent market share.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) chief executive Dilip Asbe too said the country's payments architecture, including the widely popular Unified Payments Interface, has been unaffected.

HDFC Bank, the biggest among the private sector lenders, also said that it has not faced any impact of the outage.

"Our systems are unaffected by the global outage. There is no impact on banking operations," said Ramesh Lakshminarayanan, the group head for information technology at HDFC Bank. Officials at ICICI Bank and Axis Bank also said that their systems were working fine and showing no impact of the outage.

The RBI said it has issued an advisory to all of its Regulated Entities for taking necessary steps to remain alert and ensure operational resilience and continuity.

A widespread Microsoft outage disrupted flights, banks, media outlets and companies around the world on Friday.

Centre Issues

due to a recent update received in the product.

The concerned Windows hosts are experiencing a "Blue Screen of Death (BSOD)" related to Falcon Sensor.

"The issues occurred in the latest update of CrowdStrike and the changes have been reverted by the CrowdStrike Team," said the cyber security agency, suggesting steps for customers to mitigate the issue.

Meanwhile, former Union Minister

Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that he hopes Microsoft will restore its services soon. "Microsoft 365 and Microsoft Suite are used by millions of Indians. Any disruption on this platform disrupts the business and operations of many companies. The government will work with Microsoft to ensure that services are restored as soon as possible," he said.

Mischievous Plea

said it was dismissing the application and imposing a cost of Rs 1 lakh on Parmar to "prevent the filing of such mischievous and frivolous petitions in future".

The fine amount will have to be deposited in the Advocates' Welfare Fund within two weeks, it added.

Advocate Monika Kohli, appearing for Sinha, argued that the impleadment of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by name was not permissible in view of Article 361 (4) of the Constitution.

The tribunal, while accepting this contention, said it was not clear how Parmar could claim reliefs related to his service conditions from the authorities in their private capacity.

"It is also seen that the applicant has unnecessarily impleaded the Cabinet Secretary of India and Secretary, DoPT as a party in the O.A. by name, though no allegations have been made by the applicant against them in the application," the order said.

The tribunal said no civil proceedings can be instituted against the Lt Governor, until the expiration of two months next after a notice in writing has been delivered to him, stating the nature of the proceedings, the cause of action therefore, the name, description and place of residence of the party by whom such proceedings are to be instituted and the relief which he claims.

"The applicant has failed to produce any proof or evidence, that such a notice has been made and delivered. Hence, this tribunal is not inclined to grant any relief to the applicant to this extent," it said.

Parmar, in his plea, sought direction to the Lt Governor and other officials to upgrade his grading of 5 to 10 (on a score of 1-10) on the assessment of work output, personal attributes, and functional competency and also to upgrade his overall numerical grade of 5 to 10.

He also sought to expunge the adverse remarks in his 'Performance Appraisal Report' for the reporting period -- May 4, 2022, to August 6, 2022 -- for his performance as principal secretary of the Jal Shakti Department.

He also sought his empanelment as an additional secretary with effect from 2019 and as secretary from 2023.

Calls For Evacuation

suspended has only added to the distress of their parents. Immediate steps must be taken to bring them back home," she said on X.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal Friday said 15,000 Indians including 8,500 students residing in Bangladesh were safe.

The Indian high commission has already activated helpline numbers that are operating 24x7, he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association has written to the MEA for assistance in relocating and ensuring safety of Kashmiri students. "Hundreds of Kashmiri students have contacted us, expressing severe anxiety regarding their personal security and demanding immediate relocation from their hostels to a safer environment. The escalating violence poses a significant threat to their lives and academic pursuits. We have received distress calls from several Kashmiri students stranded in various universities and colleges. Scores of parents have also

informed us that their children are scared and anxious due to the ongoing violence and unrest. The families back in Kashmir are deeply worried and concerned for their safety," JKSA said in a statement.

Unfinished Gandbal

might not have occurred, had this footbridge, construction of which began eight years ago, been finished on time," the aggrieved residents told Kashmir Observer.

They said the difficulties they have been facing over the years— seem to have less of an impact on the administration.

"We want the authorities to complete the bridge as soon as possible."

NGT Team Slams

Municipal Corporation (SMC) failed to implement the Solid Waste Management Action Plan as per rule.

Meanwhile, locals in the area demanded immediate shifting of the dumping site as per the 2006 agreement between the local representatives and municipal authorities.

"We are suffering every day, not just due to the pungent smell but from the hazardous gases and leachate. The water bodies and agricultural land have also turned deadly as the poisonous water seeps into the water table," Dar Wahid, a local, who met the NGT team said.

Wahid claimed that nearly 8,000 kanal (approximately 1,000 acres) of agricultural land in the Saidpora area had turned barren due to the landfill site.

He said the waste seepage is affecting agricultural produce and entering the food chain, causing severe health issues.

"We have submitted our representation to the NGT team and raised the issues we are facing due to toxic substances from the dumping site. Let's hope they come to our rescue," he said. (KNO)

KPDCL Disconnects

Hawal, Anantnag, Kupwara, Handwara, Sopore, Budgam, Chadoora, Zainakote, Zakura, Nishat and Dalgate for not paying bills for over three months," he added.

Seeking cooperation from all consumers in clearing pending dues, the spokesman said that KPDCL will further accelerate disconnection drives against defaulter consumers who are reluctant to pay their electricity bills on time.

Urging the consumers with huge opening balance to avail the benefits of Government's Power Amnesty Scheme, the spokesman advised them to approach the concerned Electric Subdivision for paying principal amount in full or instalments, enabling them to claim waiver on late payment surcharge.

"To facilitate the consumers, KPDCL is organising Amnesty Camps on daily basis across all Electric Divisions and so far, over 1 lakh domestic consumers have availed the benefits of the scheme," he added.

Synergy Among

and the fight against terrorism, the home minister impressed upon all the meeting's participants to increase engagement with the MAC and make it into a cohesive platform that brings together all law enforcement, anti-drug, cybersecurity and intelligence agencies for decisive and prompt action.

During the meeting, Shah also stressed on constituting a team of young, technically proficient and passionate officers drawn from all agencies involved in national security to dismantle the terror ecosystem utilising big data, artificial intelligence and machine learning driven analytics and

technological advancements. He reiterated that in the face of new and emerging security challenges, security agencies must always be one step ahead in their responses.

The home minister also informed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the MAC framework was poised to undergo a major technical and operational revamp to increase its reach and effectiveness.

He exhorted all stakeholders to bolster these efforts further through prompt responses and aggressive follow-up of shared inputs.

PM Regularly Reviewing

"Some incidents that took place (in Doda district) recently, the government has taken serious action (to address terrorism). The prime minister himself is regularly reviewing the situation, apart from armed forces and paramilitary forces," Singh told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Kishtwar.

A new strategy to combat terrorists has been implemented but the details cannot be disclosed publicly, he said.

Singh, who inaugurated a sanitary napkin manufacturing unit in the mountainous district, emphasized that not only are VDGs being reinstated but new units are also being considered for deployment in sensitive areas.

"We are seriously considering the revival of VDGs and potentially establishing new units in sensitive areas," he said.

The minister said the VDGs will be equipped with modern weapons, including self-loading rifles (SLRs). "The government is committed to this as VDGs have played a commendable role in combating terrorism in the region," he added.

Singh said the sanitary pads manufacturing unit was opened under the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative to promote natural and sanitary hygiene among women and girls in remote areas of the region.

He also said that Kishtwar is expected to generate 8,000 megawatts of electricity in the near future. Kishtwar will also have an airstrip to connect it with the rest of the country, he said.

Austrian Rifle

by intelligence agencies, regarding a group of foreign terrorists likely to infiltrate through the Keran Sector.

On July 18, at around 1230 hrs, alert troops observed the movement of two terrorists through thick foliage, on their side of LoC. The infiltrating terrorists were challenged, who in retaliation opened fire, leading to an intense firefight, he said.

"In the ensuing firefight, two foreign terrorists were neutralised, and the searches were made which led to the recovery of weapons and other incriminating material besides a Pakistani identity card," the official said.

This was the third such successful anti-infiltration operation along the LoC over the last few weeks, he added.

Notably, Commander 268 infantry brigade, Keran sector, Brigadier NR Kulkarni earlier on July 15 said that during the last few weeks, there have been intelligence inputs regarding terrorists trying to infiltrate the LoC along the Keran sector. They intended to carry out sabotage and subversive activities, aiming to disturb normalcy, particularly the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, he said.

Pertinently, security forces earlier on July 15 said they eliminated three hardcore foreign terrorists, who tried to infiltrate the LoC in the Keran sector. They recovered a large quantity of war-like stores, including 3 AK series rifles along with magazines, 4 pistols and a grenade during the searches in the area.



27th year OF PUBLICATION

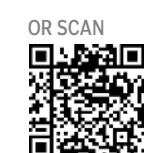
KASHMIR OBSERVER®

The methods used to consume news have changed over time from newspapers, to television, to the Internet on our computers to carrying the news around with us 24/7 on smartphones in our pockets.

Kashmir Observer, with 25 years of experience in news gathering is now available 24x7 on all digital platforms like laptops, cell phones or via Bluetooth on your smart TV's across the world.

Kashmir Observer is a one stop information bank for you. Watch live debates, talk shows and

VISIT
<https://www.youtube.com/c/kobserver>



Overlooked For India, Can Hardik Pandya Keep Top Post At MI?



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: He left the Caribbean basking in the glory of his success in India's triumphal march to their first ICC tournament title in 11 years. However, in a mere three weeks, Hardik Pandya's world has turned upside down.

Elite sport can be ruthless and Pandya found that out when he was pipped by Suryakumar Yadav for the post of captain of the Indian T20 side for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka while battling problems on personal front.

The vote of 'no confidence' in his leadership ability was so emphatic and in your face that it has left the flamboyant all-rounder facing another big question thanks to one of the most dramatic twists in Indian cricket.

Will Mumbai Indians, the

franchise with the deepest pocket and biggest say in the IPL Universe, be ready to give one more year to their current preferred leader Pandya, who replaced their most popular captain (Rohit Sharma) in acrimonious circumstances last year?

By leading the team to the T20 World Cup title, Rohit has elevated himself to a position which is second only to Mahendra Singh Dhoni in Indian cricket, barely months after being dumped by his IPL franchise.

So how do they deal with Rohit before the mega auction next year and what if the Indian skipper isn't interested in retention.

To make matters more intriguing, MI also have the new Indian T20 captain Surya in their roster, and they will have to retain him at all costs going into next year's mega auction.

For an Indian skipper's retention, MI might have to make an offer Surya can't refuse. As an India captain, what if he now harbours an ambition of also leading the IPL's most popular franchise.

So where does all this leave Pandya, who moved to MI after a very successful stint with Gujarat Titans following a much-publicised all-cash deal, only to be booed in every nook and corner of the country during the last IPL.

The IPL Governing Council hasn't yet announced how many retentions they will allow and if it is kept at four with one being an overseas player, it leaves the franchise with three Indian choices.

The upcoming mega auction will be all about creating a team for the next five years and some harsh calls will have to be taken.

Short TAKES

Hardik Pandya & Wife Natasa Stankovic Officially Part Ways

Star India all-rounder Hardik Pandya, on July 18, announced his separation with wife Natasa Stankovic after a relationship of four years.

The couple disclosed the decision in a joint statement on their respective official Instagram accounts.

Pandya and Stankovic got married on May 31, 2020, and welcomed their first child, son Agastya on July 30 of the same year.

They renewed their wedding vows in the presence of close friends and family on February 14, 2023 in Udaipur in a grand celebration.

India Beat Pakistan By 7 Wickets In Women's T20 Asia Cup

Title contenders India saw off Pakistan by seven wickets in their Women's T20 Asia Cup opener here on Friday.

Opting to bat first, Pakistan were bowled out for 108 with experienced spinner Deepti Sharma (3/20) emerging as the most successful bowler.

In reply, India completed the chase in 14.1 overs with the opening duo of Smriti Mandhana (45) and Shafali Verma (40) putting on 85 runs in 9.1 overs.

PCB Bars Star Players From Global T20 Amid Busy Schedule

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to deny senior players Babar Azam, Muhammad Rizwan, and Shaheen Shah Afridi permission to participate in the upcoming Global T20 Canadian League, citing a packed international calendar.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi, along with coaches Jason Gilliespie and Gary Kirsten, have reportedly concurred on this move. A reliable source within the board noted that these players engage in all formats of cricket, impacting the decision significantly.

Alvaro Morata Joins AC Milan In Major Transfer Deal

Spain striker Alvaro Morata has signed a four-year contract with AC Milan, with an option to extend for an additional year, the Italian club confirmed on Friday.

The 31-year-old, who led Spain to the European Championship victory last Sunday, joins from Atletico Madrid, where he netted 21 goals this past season. Morata brings experience from top clubs like Real Madrid, Juventus, and Chelsea, accumulating over 200 club goals and 36 for Spain.

Man United Signs Promising Defender Leny Yoro Until 2029



Manchester United has officially announced the signing of young French defender Leny Yoro from Ligue 1's Lille on a contract that extends until June 2029, with an option for an additional year. The club's statement confirmed the 18-year-old's arrival, pending registration.

Yoro, who has already amassed 60 first-team appearances for Lille, was a notable inclusion in last season's Ligue 1 Team of the Season and played a pivotal role in helping Lille secure a fourth-place finish.

12 Students From KIIT-DU Qualify For Paris Olympics

KIIT-KISS founder announces Rs 7 lakh to each athlete



Observer News Service

BHUBANESWAR: In a big achievement for KIIT Deemed to be University (KIIT-DU), Bhubaneswar, twelve students have qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024 beginning July 26, bringing pride and joy to the institution.

KIIT is the first university in the country to be sending the largest contingent of athletes among all universities in India.

The founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta has announced Rs 7 lakh to each of the athletes, encouraging them to give their best in the field and bring glory to the country.

The athletes who have earned their spots are – Amit Rohidas in Men's Hockey, Kishore Kumar Jena in Javelin Throw; Parul Chaudhary in 3000m Steeplechase & 5000m; Priyanka in 20 km Race Walk & Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay; Annu Rani in Javelin Throw; Jyothi Yarraji in 100m Hurdles; Tajinderpal Singh Toor in Shot Put; Abha Khatua in Shot Put; Prachi in the 4x400m Relay Team; Anika in 5000m; Paramjeet Singh Bisht in 20km Race Walk and Suraj Panwar in the Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay Team.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT & KISS, congratulated the proud contingent at a special programme in Bhubaneswar, saying, "Your hard work and dedication have brought you to this prestigious

stage." He declared Rs. 7 lakh cash support to each player.

All twelve players, who are currently in various camps in different countries of Europe, joined the programme virtually.

Informing the media, Dr. Samanta said that KIIT & KISS is the first organization in India to send the highest number of players to the Olympics. He also mentioned that KIIT & KISS has produced 20 Olympians and 2 Paralympians who represented India at the 2016 Rio Olympics, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and will be representing the country at the 2024 Paris Olympics. KIIT & KISS is proud to have 7 Arjuna Awardees, he added.

"We are happy that 12 students from KIIT are participating in the Paris Olympics 2024, making us and the country proud. Give your best and shine with your achievements. The entire KIIT & KISS family stands behind you, cheering you on," he said.

These talented athletes have demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication, earning their places among the world's elite in their respective sports. Among others, Prof. Baljit Singh Sekhon, Jt. Secretary, Sports & Youth Affairs, AIU; Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, KIIT-DU; Prof. Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT-DU; Sanjaya Kumar Garnaik, Chief Athletic Coach; and Dr. Gaganendu Dash, Director General, Sports & Yoga, KIIT-DU were also present.

District Level U-19 Football Tournery Begins In Anantnag

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports kick started its district level football tournament for Under-19 boys on Friday, with some intense and exhilarating matches taking place.

In a gripping match, HSS Brakpora faced off against HSS Mattan. The game saw exceptional performances from both sides, with Tahseen from HSS Brakpora and Adnan Reyaz from HSS Mattan each netting a goal. The evenly matched teams held the score at 1-1 until the end of regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout. In the high-stakes shootout, HSS Brakpora clinched the victory with a 5-4 win, advancing to the next round.

Another exciting match featured HSS Vessu taking on HSS



Dailgam. Kifayat Manzoor of HSS Dailgam delivered a stellar performance, scoring two goals for his team as they won 3-0.

In another competitive encounter, SRJ Khanabal went head-to-head with HSS Hakura. The match saw SRJ Khanabal emerge victorious with a 2-0 scoreline, thanks to the impressive goals scored by Danish and Faizan.

The first semifinal match was a one-sided battle be-

tween SRJ Khanabal and HSS Arwani. SRJ Khanabal showcased their prowess on the field, defeating HSS Arwani with a decisive 3-0 victory. The goals came from Faizan, Ikhlas, and Majid.

The inter-school football tournament continues to be a platform for young athletes to display their talent, determination, and sportsmanship, promising more exciting matches in the days to come.

Inter Zonal Sports Competitions For Girl Students Held In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Budgam has taken the lead in organizing several inter-school level events across the district.

Inter-Zonal District Level Wushu competitions were organised at Indoor Stadium in which Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 girls participated. Sports events in Taekwondo, Boxing and Judo were inaugurated by District Office Sports Incharge Activities Ghulam Hassan Khanday, Shakeel ur Rehman Lone and



Incharge Convener Mohd Ayub Khan.

In Taekwondo U-17, Zeenat Altaf of Zone Narbal defeated Rutba Riyaz of Zone Nagam. In Boxing, Saima Jan of Zone Magam defeated Muntaha

Abid of Zone Chadoora, while in Judo category U-14 Areeba Jan of Zone Charisharief defeated Eshal Ali of Zone Chadoora. These competitions will continue for the next two days.

FIFA Postpones Decision On Palestinian Bid To Suspend Israel

Agencies

FIFA has put off a decision on a Palestinian bid to suspend Israel from international soccer until after the Paris Olympics, saying both parties had requested more time to submit their positions.

The Palestinian Football Association (PFA) had submitted a proposal to suspend Israel in May over the war in Gaza, with FIFA ordering an urgent legal evaluation and promising to address it at an extraordinary meeting of its council in July.

Soccer's global governing body said on Thursday the legal assessment would now be shared with its council by Aug. 31.

"Following requests for extension from both parties to submit their respective positions, duly granted by



FIFA, more time is needed to conclude this process with due care and completeness," FIFA said on its X account.

The Paris Olympics will be held from July 26-Aug. 11, with group matches for the men's soccer tournament starting on July 24.

Israel qualified for the men's tournament and play Mali, Paraguay and Japan in

the group phase.

A report this week by lawyers who specialise in international law called on FIFA to ban Israel for violating several of FIFA's statutes related to human rights and humanitarian objectives.

Since an Oct. 7 cross-border raid by militant group Hamas that Israel says killed more than 1,200 peo-

ple, Israel's Gaza offensive has left more than 38,000 Palestinians dead, according to Gaza health officials.

Critics have accused Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians, which Israel denies.

Israel says its strikes are targeted at militants and aimed at preventing another attack like the one on Oct. 7.

'Joyful, Daring': Paris Promises Unforgettable Olympics Ceremony

Agencies

PARIS: The Paris Olympics' opening ceremony next Friday will be a joyful, daring and atypical show in which artists and athletes together celebrate Paris, France and the Games alongside the river Seine, the ceremony's organisers said.

Unlike for previous Olympics, the Paris 2024 opening ceremony will not take place in a stadium. Instead, dozens of boats will carry thousands of athletes and performers on a 6km route along the Seine.

We know the importance of the opening ceremony for the Olympic Games. It's key for the athletes, it's key for the country which organizes it," Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris Olympics Organising Committee, told reporters.

"That's why, from the start, we have been very ambitious because we really want this opening ceremony to embody all the ambition of Paris 2024: daring, atypical Games, which shows the best of France."

Details including some of the artists taking part, who will last carry



the torch and light the Olympic cauldron to mark the start of the Games, have been kept secret, and the ceremony's artistic team said they had been rehearsing in private to keep it all under wraps.

But what is known is that there will be a floating parade, departing from Austerlitz bridge, sailing by Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral and arriving near the Eiffel Tower, with

the show also using nearby monuments and mixing music, light and dance.

More than 300,000 spectators will be watching from the riverbanks, with hundreds of millions more expected to watch on TV or on social media.

The Olympics will run from July 26 to Aug. 11, while the Paralympics will be held from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8.



Hospital Bills can Exhaust your Family's Hard Earned Life Savings








Bajaj Allianz Family Health Care policy covers you and your family from expenses incurred during hospitalization along with the added benefits of Health Prime Rider.

Bajaj Allianz Family Health Care's Benefits:

-  In Patient Hospitalization Expenses
-  Pre & Post Hospitalization Expenses
-  Road Ambulance
-  Day Care Procedures
-  Organ Donor Expenses
-  Sum Insured Reinstatement Benefit

Benefits of Health Prime Rider:

-  Rider for both Individual & Family Floater Basis**
-  24*7 Unlimited Tele-Consultation
-  Investigations Cover
-  139000+ Doctors
-  Preventive Health Check-up (45+ Test Parameters at Network Centers)

**Based on the variant opted in health plan

To know more, contact your **J&K Bank's Relationship Manager**