

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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Terror Attacks Spark Emergency Security Meetings

Govt Rolls Out New 'Counter Terror Strategy'



Agencies

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi Saturday chaired two separate joint security review meetings in Jammu where a new counter terrorism strategy was rolled that entails—plugging the operational flaws, intensifying counter terrorist operations and tracking

the hiding terrorists with active support of locals."

Sources said that General Dwivedi arrived in Jammu at 2:30 pm and chaired the first security review meeting at Police Headquarters, Jammu. The meeting ended at 4 pm. Sources said that at 4:30 pm, another security review meeting was held at Rajbhawan, Jammu that was chaired by LG Manoj Sinha. Both meetings, | More on P6

'Kashmir Model' For Jammu In Offing: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar- Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that the security forces will adopt the "Kashmir model" to counter the efforts of revival of terrorism in Jammu region by the adversary. "People of Jammu have never supported terrorism and instead always stood against it. J&K has gone through a huge transformation in the past four to five years. In Kashmir's ten districts, peace prevails and young boys and girls

are shaping their future in innovations and other sectors including Agriculture etc," the LG said addressing the launch function of Hausla 2.0 and Start-ups portal at International Convention Centre on the banks of Dal Lake. He said that "our neighbour is not able to digest the peace prevailing in J&K."

"Efforts are being made to revive terrorism in the Jammu region. We will not allow revival of terrorism in Jammu at any cost and adopt the Kashmir model to wipe out terrorism in Jammu. The | More on P6

Our Focus Women-Led Development In J&K: LG

'Hausla 2.0 To Empower Women, Foster Global Brands'

New JK Startup Portal To Support Young Entrepreneurs



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched the 'Hausla 2.0' and JK Startup Portal at Srinagar on Saturday. Building on the success of the Hausla 1.0, the inaugural batch, Hausla 2.0 seeks to enhance financial inclusion among women in

Jammu Kashmir by promoting entrepreneurship and facilitating market access. In his address, the LG congratulated and extended his best wishes to the women and young startup entrepreneurs on the occasion. He said the prime objective of the Hausla program is to | More on P6

Heat Wave Returns To Kashmir

Temp Surges; Qazigund, Kokernag Hit 33°C

Observer News Service

Srinagar: After relaxing temperatures, the mercury has increased yet again across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday with twin places of the Valley including Qazigund and Kokernag recording heatwave as the maximum temperatures settled above 5 degrees than the normal temperature.

Qazigund and Kokernag recorded heatwave today where the mercury settled at 33.4 degree Celsius and 33.0 degree Celsius respectively.

However, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, witnessed a maximum temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius, which was 4.3 degree above than normal and just 0.2 degrees below than entering into the heat wave.

The mercury witnessed a rise across Kashmir today amidst the forecast of heat wave conditions across Kashmir and some parts of Jammu division for the next 72 hours. In Pahalgam, a famous tourist | More on P6

MMU Calls For Unity, Peace Amid Sectarian Tensions In Kashmir

Forms Committee To Probe Khanqah-e-Maula Episode

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulama (MMU), a conglomerate of major religious bodies of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday called for maintaining peace and sectarian harmony following a controversy over a mourning ritual during Muharram by some members of the Shia community inside Khanqah of Mir Syed



File Photo
Ali Hamadani in Srinagar. MMU, which is led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq,

emphasized that the people of J&K should not allow any group to disrupt

the "legacy of Kashmir's unique identity and composition based on unity, sectarian harmony and brotherhood."

The people of Kashmir cannot afford such divisions and need to show restraint and patience, MMU said in a statement issued after an emergency meeting.

The controversy erupted after a group of Shia youth held | More on P6

Action Taken Against Those Disturbing Peace: Waqf Board

Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board chairperson Darakhshan Andrabi Friday said action has been initiated against those who tried to vitiate peace in the Valley and vowed that nobody will be allowed to

create sectarian divide in the society. Her remarks came after some youth from the Shia community held mourning inside the revered shrine of Khanqah-e-Maula. "A planned attempt to hurt | More on P6

J&K Sees 1.2 Lakh Increase in Govt School Enrolment

Agencies

Srinagar: In Jammu and Kashmir, authorities have claimed that the student enrolment in the ongoing academic year has increased by more than 1.2 Lakh students in government-run schools.

A top government official said that during the academic year 2021-22, the total enrolment in government schools was approximately 12 Lakhs.

The official said, "In the year 2022-23, AAO School Chalein Campaign, was launched and there was a notable increase of



17 percent, resulting in a total enrolment of around 14.18 Lakhs."

It also said that in 2023-24, again the enrollment witnessed, increasing trend, after deletion of duplicate entries and substantial increase in the pre-primary category. | More on P6

Kashmir's Nirbhaya 17 Yrs On, Tabinda Gani's Family Awaits Justice

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Over 17 years have passed since the horrific rape and murder of 13-year-old Tabinda Gani, yet her family continues to await justice. In July 2007, Tabinda, a Class 8 student from Handwara, Kashmir, was subjected to a brutal assault by four men as she returned home from school. The appalling crime sparked widespread protests and outcry across the valley, reflecting the anguish and concern of the public.

While all four accused were arrested and a chargesheet filed, the journey towards justice has been prolonged.

The accused were identified as Sadiq Mir alias Saeda Choor, Azhar Mir | More on P6

HC Quashes FIR Registered On Trial Court Orders

Says Court Is Empowered To Proceed Against Offender Under CPC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh has quashed an FIR ordered to be registered by a trial court for violation of its orders in a civil matter.

Based on an order on February 29 this year by a court in Kupwara in a civil suit regarding immovable

property at Trehgam, police had filed the FIR for commission of offences under erstwhile IPC sections of 188 (violation of an order issued by a public servant), 427 (mischief) and 447 (criminal trespass) on 3 March this year.

"Law is settled that a Court is empowered to take cognizance of the disobedience or breach of an order granted by it and to proceed against the offender for such disobedience or breach under the provisions of Order 39 Rule 2-A

CPC," a Bench of Justice Javed Iqbal Wani said.

The provisions of Order 39 Rule 2-A, the court said, are intended to maintain majesty of judicial orders and to preserve rule of law and to ensure faith of litigants in the administration of justice.

"The nature of proceedings under | More on P6

Awaam Ki Awaaz

▶ 21 July, 2024 11:00 AM

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Legal Literacy Clubs Inaugurated At Crescent, Bilaliya Schools

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Justice Tashi Rabistan, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, today inaugurated the Legal Literacy Club (LLC) at Bilaliya Educational Institute, Baghwanpora, Lal Bazar, Srinagar.

Justice Tashi was accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority and was warmly received by Jawad Ahmed, Chairman DLSA (PDJ) Srinagar, Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, Manzoor Ahmad Wangnoo, Chairman Bilaliya Educational Institute, Dr. Tawseef Ahmad Bhat, Coordinator, and other teaching and administrative staff of the institute.

Justice Tashi Rabistan in his continuous efforts to reach out to every part of

the region also inaugurated the Legal Literacy Club at Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, where he was cordially welcomed by Shakeel Ahmad Dar, Chairman Crescent Public School, Karttik Chopra, Philanthropist, alongside the teaching and administrative staff.

During these inaugurations, Justice Tashi Rabistan held interactions with the newly enrolled student members and teacher in charge of these Legal Literacy Clubs. He emphasized the critical role of Legal Literacy Clubs in fostering a legally aware and informed society. Justice Tashi highlighted the importance of active and positive engagement of students in addressing legal and societal issues, urging the Incharge to motivate and guide students in understanding their rights and responsibilities.

Govt LD Hospital Refutes Reports Of 'Mismanagement'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The authorities at Govt Lalla Ded Hospital today clarified on some allegations leveled against it regarding mismanagement of patients, terming them nothing but sheer acts to malign the sanctity and reputation of the hospital.

In a statement issued here, it has been given out that all patients especially referrals are received and attended in Casualty (Emergency Room) by the doctors

on duty and it is as per their status that they are shifted to Labor room or High Dependency Unit (HDU) where again they are attended to and beds are assigned to them in the labor room where doctors and nursing staff attend to them.

All this is done under the supervision of senior doctors and consultants who take rounds frequently. Evening round of the Labor room is also taken by consultants, so at any point of time no patient is left unattended.

Exquisite Wood Carving Exhibition Inaugurated At Govt. Arts Emporium

Observer News Service

Srinagar: An exquisite wood carving exhibition showcasing the extraordinary craftsmanship of Ghulam Nabi Zargar, a revered master wood carving artisan was inaugurated today at the Government Arts Emporium Srinagar.

This event is part of the Handicraft Department's 'Know Your Artisan' initiative, aimed at highlighting the exceptional talents and rich cultural heritage of Kashmiri artisans.

The two-day exhibition was inaugurated jointly by the Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir and the Managing Director of Handicrafts and Handloom S&E.

Since Srinagar's inclusion in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and its recognition as a 'World Craft City' by the World Crafts Council, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir has been at the forefront of organizing events that celebrate the region's rich artistic traditions. This exhibition is a testament to their ongoing efforts to promote and preserve the unique craftsmanship of Kashmir.

Ghulam Nabi Zargar, renowned for his intricate wood carvings, has dedicated his life to perfecting the art form. His work, characterized by detailed patterns and exquisite designs, has garnered national and international acclaim. Visitors to



the exhibition have the opportunity to witness the masterful techniques and unparalleled creativity that define Zargar's creations.

"We are thrilled to present this exhibition, which not only honors the remarkable talent of Ghulam Nabi Zargar but also highlights the cultural significance of wood carving in Kashmir," said Mahmood Ahmad Shah, Director of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, adding, "Our 'Know Your Artisan' initiative aims to bring these exceptional artists into the spotlight, fostering appreciation and support for their craft."

The exhibition promises to be a

visual feast for art enthusiasts, collectors, and anyone interested in the rich heritage of Kashmir. The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir extends a warm invitation to all to attend this celebration of artistry and tradition.

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir is dedicated to the promotion, development and preservation of the region's rich artisanal heritage. Through initiatives like 'Know Your Artisan', the Department aims to support local artisans, enhance their skills and provide them with a platform to showcase their work to a broader audience.

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Commissioner SMC Attends Felicitation Ceremony

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr Owais Ahmed today attended the Felicitation ceremony of 3 day Archery camp, organized by the Field Archery Association of J&K at RP School premises Lawaypora.

The event served as a platform to celebrate the exceptional performance, dedication and hard work of the young archers who participated in the camp.

Commissioner SMC, in his inspiring address, underscored the significance of sports in fostering holistic development of children and lauded the budding archers for their remarkable skills and unwavering dedication to the sport.

Dr.Owais commended the organizers for providing a nurturing environment that allowed the participants to hone their talents and shine in the field of archery. He said that sports presents tremendous opportunities for students to bring laurels to the institutions at



national and international level.

The young archers were recognized for their achievements with certificates of excellence and trophies presented by Dr. Owais, recognizing their passion, dedication, and exemplary sportsmanship.

The Chairman expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Commissioner SMC, the Field Archery As-

sociation of J&K, and the coaching staff for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout the camp.

As a token of appreciation, the Field Archery Association J&K, and Chairman of RP School presented a memento to the Chief Guest, extending a warm vote of thanks for his presence and support.

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HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
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Srinagar-Leh - (Open)

PRAYERS

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

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14 Muharram
1446

This Day In History

- 1921 - To prove his contention that air power is superior to sea power, US Colonel William Mitchell demonstrates how bombs from planes can sink a captured German battleship
- 1933 - Haifa Harbor in Palestine opens
- 1947 - Indonesia begins 1st political election
- 1951 - Dalai Lama returns to Tibet
- 1960 - In Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) Sirima Bandaranaike is world's 1st woman PM
- 1961 - Launch of Mercury 4 (Liberty Bell) with Grissom
- 1962 - Battles on Chinese & Indies boundary
- 1965 - Pakistan, Iran & Turkey sign Regional Co-Operation pact
- 1969 - Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to step on the Moon at 2:56:15 AM (GMT)
- 1969 - Russia's Luna 15 impacts moon after 52 lunar orbits
- 1970 - Aswan Dam opens in Egypt, enables human control of the flooding of the Nile
- 1972 - Bloody Friday: within the space of seventy-five minutes, the Provisional Irish Republican Army explode twenty-two bombs in Belfast; six civilians, two British Army soldiers and one UDA volunteer were killed, 130 injured
- 1973 - USSR launches Mars 4 for fly-by (2600 km) of red planet
- 1974 - US House Judiciary approves two Articles of Impeachment against President Richard Nixon
- 1977 - Libyan-Egyptian border fights
- 1978 - US Postal Service & unions agree on a contract averting mail strike
- 1978 World's strongest dog, 80-kg St Bernard, pulls 2909-kg load 27 m
- 1984 - USSR performs underground nuclear Test
- 1986 - Pleasure Island plans unveiled
- 1988 - ESA's Ariane-3 launches 2 communications satellites (1 Indian)

From KO Archives

Turned Down VP's Post For NC's Sake: Farooq

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The chief patron of the National Conference, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, today disclosed that to ensure the victory of his party in the coming elections he had turned down the offer of becoming the vice-president of the country.

Addressing a public function in Hazratbal, Dr. Abdullah said that cross border efforts were on resolve the issue "though the peace process was temporarily stalled because of the recent events in Pakistan."

He said that everyone would have to extend co-operation to strengthen the peace process to restore peace in the state.

"I was offered the post of the vice-president of the country, but I turned it down because I want to strengthen my party and see it victorious in the coming elections," he said.

He said that the offer had been made by the central government when he was in Delhi, but during consultation with his party colleagues on his return he was advised that the party needed him in the forthcoming elections

"My colleagues told me that in the 2002 election I had stayed away from the party and the state because of presidential aspirations, and that had contributed to the NC's defeat," he said.

He said that the NC had not taken any decision so far in joining the emerging Third Front at the Centre. "The final decision will be taken by the executive committee which is meeting on July 17," he said. Criticising the coalition government on the law and order situation, Dr. Abdullah said that all sorts of slogans were being used to fool the public while no attention was being paid to development and the multitude of issues facing the people.

(Kashmir Observer, 21 July, 2007)

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Name has been wrongly entered in my aadhaar card as Muddasir while my correct name is Mudasir Hamid Ganie which needs to be corrected. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Mudasir Hamid Ganie
S/o Abdul Hamid Ganie
R/O Sheerpora Bangil Pattan
fko

Wallet Loss
I have lost my wallet while travelling from Naik Bagh to Lasjan which contained my driving licence, voter card, aadhaar card, jkbank cards and some passport size photos. If anybody has found the same he/she is requested to contact on 9419078017 | 979791225. Otherwise I have to apply for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection he/she may contact the concerned offices within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Younis Ismail
S/O Mohammad Ismail Bhat
R/O: 77, Sector B, Abu Bakar Colony, Naik Bagh, Natipora.
a

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
NEW CAMPUS, BENINA, SRINAGAR
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I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-1/1/107 under Roll No.139012074 Session: Annual Regular year 2024 through the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the School against my Father's name as MOHAMMAD AMIN WANI instead of MOHAMMAD ANJ WANI.
Now I have applied for correction in the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus, Benina, Srinagar. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates Kashmir Division within seven days from the date of publication of this notice, after their expiry of said period, no objection will be entertained.
This is published for the information of the general public.
The correct particulars he received are under:
Name:- IQBA AMIN
Father's Name:- MOHAMMAD AMIN WANI
Mother's Name:- SHAMIRAMA
Date of Birth:- 06/06/2008
Residence:- 90 FEET ROAD ILLAHI BAGH
Mobile No:- 7006472263
Media Link

NOTICE
I Riyaz Ahmad Gojri F/o Abdullah Riyaz want to correct my name, my son's name in his School Record From Reyaz Ahmad To Riyaz Ahmad Gojri F/o Abdullah Riyaz To Abdullah Riyaz Studying 8th class in Angel's Home Public School which needs to be corrected as per Aadhar. In this regard, if anybody has any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Principal Angel's Home Public School (Sazgaripora, Iddagah Road, Howol, Srinagar, KMR) within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Media Link

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written in my passport as Saleema while my correct name is Saleema Wani. Now I have applied for the renewal of my Passport with my correct name as Saleema Wani if anyone have any objections he/she may contact it to RPO Srinagar within in week after that no objection will be entertained
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W/O-Ali Mohammad Wani
R/O-Mukhta Pokhri
Vicharnag Nowshera
Srinagar
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EXTENSION NOTICE FOR ADMISSIONS 2024

Since the CUET-UG 2024 results are awaited, the last date for submission of online Application Forms for admission to below mentioned programmes has been extended up to **29-07-2024 (Monday)**.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES	
B. Tech. Food Technology	MBA (5-Year Integrated)
B.A. English (FYUGP)	B. Sc. Physics (FYUGP)
B. A Journalism & Mass Communication (FYUGP)	B. Sc. Chemistry (FYUGP)
B. Sc. Economics (FYUGP)	BS Design your Degree - DYOD (FYUGP)
B. A. Islamic Studies (FYUGP)	B. Sc. Mathematical Sciences (FYUGP)
B. A. Arabic Language & Literature (FYUGP)	B. Sc. Computer Science (FYUGP)
B. Arch.	

THREE YEAR POLYTECHNIC DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES		
1. Diploma Civil Engineering	2. Diploma Electrical Engineering	3. Diploma Mechanical Engineering

LATERAL-ENTRY PROGRAMMES	
B.TECH. ENGINEERING: Civil/ Computer Science/ Electrical/ Electronics & Communication/ Mechanical/ Food Technology	DIPLOMA ENGINEERING: Civil/ Electrical/ Mechanical

NOTE: Candidates having passed 3-Year Engineering Diploma (at par with NCF Level IV) are also eligible for admission to various undergraduate programmes at IUST. The candidates who have not appeared in CUET-UG 2024 can also apply online for admission at IUST, however, first preference shall be given to CUET-UG 2024 candidates. The selection for the vacant/ remaining seats shall be made on the basis of University Entrance Test or percentage of marks in the qualifying examination which shall be decided later.

Revised Eligibility for B. Sc. Physics (FYUGP): Candidates having passed 10+2 with a minimum of 55% marks with Physics as one of the subject from JKBOSE or from any other recognized board.

All other Terms & Conditions including eligibility criteria for admission to the advertised programmes shall remain same. The detailed admission notifications are available on the university website www.iust.ac.in. The candidates can apply online for the aforesaid academic programmes by following the link <https://admission.iust.ac.in> or on the University Website www.iust.ac.in. For any further query/information, the candidates may contact the Admission Officials on phone: 9858306455/ 9906400789 EPABX: 01933-247954/ 247955 EXT: 2086 Email ID: admissions@iust.ac.in
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Assistant Registrar Academics

The idea of the article came through after I read the article in this newspaper about the advent of the usage of AI tools to write articles, papers and many other things these days. Having used the tool myself, a straightforward query may come to my mind: Who is the copyright holder of the articles written by AI? ChatGPT, because ChatGPT wrote the output? Or is it OpenAI because this output was produced by their software? Me, since I created the prompt that produced the output?

For a predetermined period of time, the right owner—a legal person—is granted exclusive rights by intellectual property rights, including copyright and related rights. These rights permit the protection of the work, creation, or innovation and permit the licensing of royalties to be collected. The owner of a right must fulfill the legal requirements in order for it to be awarded. As a signatory to all significant international treaties and accords pertaining to the protection of intellectual property rights, India provides sufficient legal protection for works created by legal entities under the Copyright Law and utilizes the Patent system to safeguard inventions. As a result, the Indian IPR Regime does not need to establish a distinct category of rights for AI and associated technologies.

The Copyright Act of 1957, which protects authors and creators of works, governs copyright in India. The Act specifies authorship according to the kind of work, encompassing sound recordings, cinematographic films, musical compositions, theatrical works, literary works, and visual works.

Taking a few of them first, the Copyright Act specifies that the author of a literary or theatrical work is the one who really creates the work. The author of literary works created by computers is recognized by the Copyright Act as the person who created the work using a computer. Nevertheless, the Copyright Act is silent on AI-generated works; nevertheless, if we attempt to read the extant provision—Section 2(d)(vi) of the Copyright Act, 1957—we find that "author" is defined as "the person who causes the work to be created."

This clause can be read liberally to encompass those who give an AI system the information or instructions it needs to produce computer-generated art. The author of a work should be the "first owner" of the copyright, according to the Copyright Act, which also addresses copyright ownership. The person who generates the work by providing input or instructions will be considered the first owner of the copyright for an AI-generated work, as per the aforementioned sections. As a result, these sections recognize the authors of the final content—those who supply data to AI tools or provide them instructions—and their contributions.

The Current position of law

So, let us circle back to the question, who really owns the copyright to the content generated by various AI tools?

ChatGPT?

Because Indian copyright law requires the person claiming the copyright to be a natural person, ChatGPT cannot be deemed the author. According to Section 17 of the Indian Copyright Act, authors are only individuals. Generally speaking, only individuals are included in the definition of "persons," but organizations like corporations may be granted copyright (Section 18) by an in-



Artificial Intelligence Authorship, Originality and Legality

Madiya Mushtaq

dividual for a finite amount of time upon agreement. According to Section 17, the original copyright of the product will always belong to the human, barring a contract to the contrary. Furthermore, it is obvious that the act's design is human-centric. For instance, the claimant's name, nationality, and address must be included on the copyright registration application.

AI developer?

The entirety of the developers' claim would be governed by their "Terms-of-Use" guidelines. Unless a contract specifically states otherwise, a developer who states that they would own the rights to work produced by their AIs will own the copyright for that work. Nevertheless, the "Terms-of-use" for the majority of widely used AIs, such as ChatGPT/BingChat, do not assert copyright over the results produced. It does not seem reasonable, even on the surface, to give developers the right to claim copyright ownership of items created by AI. When someone uses Microsoft Paint to create a painting, the situation is similar in that Microsoft cannot legitimately claim copyright on the output.

3.Me?

This is where the intriguing interaction between the law and generative-AI begins. In 1994, the Indian Copyright Act was modified to take into consideration scenarios in which computer-generated artistic creations could occur. The amendment added a new section to the legislation, Section 2(d)(vi), which states clearly that the person who caused the develop-



India has the opportunity to set the standard for creative policy development that strikes a balance between the needs of users, artists, and AI developers

ment of computer-generated works is the author of those works.

Since, the "prompt-giver" is the one who is generating the work, one could be tempted to conclude that this clarifies the status of law in India. But merely typing a single line at a prompt does not provide copyright protection for a work. An author is entitled to protection under copyright law if their creative work satisfies the requirements necessary to qualify as a "original" product.

The "sweat of the brow" theory, which holds that an author obtains copyright rights based on basic diligence and effort put in by them, is the lowest bar for awarding copyright protection to the Author (this criterion is not applicable in India). The University of London Press Ltd. v. Tutorial Press Ltd. case, in which

a publisher assembled examination materials made available by the University of London, is crucial to comprehending it.

The university filed a challenge, claiming that it violated the copyright of the professors who invested their time and expertise in writing those articles. The publisher countered that the papers could not be protected by copyright because they were not "original" because they were derived from an already-existing body of information. The court decided that, despite the fact that the paper was developed using pre-existing knowledge, it nonetheless qualifies for copyright protection because some effort was made.

In India, when deciding on the "originality" requirement for India, the Supreme Court took into account several criteria. The Canadian standard was chosen, which stipulates that the piece in question ought to be the result of the author's judgment and talent. Additionally, the use of judgment and skill shouldn't be reduced to the point where it can only be done mechanically. This also restates the argument against protecting an output produced by a single line prompt.

Copyright is deemed to apply too stringently to novelty, and there is no justification for AI-generated works to be subject to a lower bar. Therefore, regardless of whether they were taken from previously existing bodies of knowledge, AI-generated works can satisfy the necessary standard of "originality" in India.

Conclusion

In just a few months, generative AI

has become inescapably ingrained in our daily lives. It will undoubtedly expand more dramatically as a result of recent advancements and the entry of major tech companies like Google and Amazon. Since a large portion of invention and creativity going forward would require AI aid to make chores easier, India's existing policy of not extending copyright protection to any AI-generated material will no longer be possible.

The complex and fascinating landscape that arises from the junction of AI and copyright in India calls for careful regulation and a nuanced understanding. With AI technology developing at a rapid pace, conventional ideas of authorship and intellectual property rights are being challenged by its capacity to produce original work. To ensure that both human creators and AI-generated works are sufficiently protected, India's current legal structure needs to change to meet these difficulties.

At this pivotal moment, India has the opportunity to set the standard for creative policy development that strikes a balance between the needs of users, artists, and AI developers. Not only must current laws be changed, but stakeholders like legislators, legal professionals, technologists, and the creative community must also be encouraged to engage in cooperative discourse.

The ultimate objective should be to establish a legal framework that protects the rights of all parties concerned while promoting innovation. By doing this, India can guarantee that society reaps the greatest benefits from AI while preserving a just and equitable system for the protection of intellectual property. Although the road ahead is difficult, India may successfully negotiate the difficulties of AI and copyright with careful consideration and preemptive action.

The below mentioned poem was generated by AI, I was the prompt giver—now be a peach and tell me who deserves the copyright?

*ChatGPT emerged, our new machine.
With algorithms grand, it speaks so bright,
Guiding our queries, day and night.
Oh marvel, oh wonder, this digital sage,
Words on command, our thoughts it gauges.
Yet, can it fathom the depths of the heart,
Or mimic the soul in every part?
A marvel of tech, no doubt it seems,
Our prose machine, fulfilling dreams.
But in its circuits, does wisdom lay?
Or just a mirror to our dismay?
So hail the chatbot, our modern muse,
Crafting our thoughts, as we amuse.
Yet ponder, dear reader, at what true cost,
In this grand game, what have we lost?*

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
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India Must Bring In Innovators

Siddarth Pai

Indian innovation powers the digital world. India has shipped more software than Saudi Arabia exports oil—worth over \$200 billion in a year. Over 1 million engineers in the US are of Indian origin. Over 10% of the Fortune 500 companies have Indian-origin chief executive officers (CEOs). Eric Garcetti, the US envoy to India, joked that one cannot become a CEO in America unless they are from India. A study of US unicorn founders by Ilya Strebulaev of Stanford Graduate School of Business showed how Indians are the largest proportion of non-US-born founders.

This innovative heft has propelled India to become the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world in terms of capital raised, unicorns, and number of start-ups. Yet, a dirty secret exists in the Indian start-up ecosystem—over half of India's unicorns are not Indian companies, but foreign companies run by Indians. The Flipkart sale to Walmart, which is the largest start-up exit from India, was not of an Indian company. Flipkart was and is still headquartered in Singapore,

though the team and management sit in India. India is at risk of becoming a land of subsidiaries, not start-ups.

The reasons for founders to choose to enter the Indian market though a foreign country are manifold, beginning with incorporating a company where founders run the risk of their company names being rejected for frivolous reasons. Our compliance demands for raising capital are onerous and require multiple forms to be filed and approved, with the choices of securities severely restricted. India is also unique in taxing capital investments as income, a tax colloquially known as angel tax.

Though laundering unaccounted funds is a global issue, no other country has sought this innovation of taxing investments as income. The Foreign Exchange Management Act regulations and enforcement make it impossible to launch global software as a service companies from India, where every credit from a foreign source requires invoices in triplicate before the bank processes the transaction. Even exits as share swaps, the most common exit avenue for start-ups, is taxed in India, despite no cash exchanging hands. India also taxes

domestic capital at twice the rate of foreign capital, and investments in start-ups at twice the rate of investments in listed companies. The Economic Survey 2022-23 covers the reasons for flipping in great detail and urges the government to look at remedying these issues.

Despite these frictions, India is still the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world. The ability of Indian entrepreneurs to build world-class products despite such odds is commendable.

The situation has improved in the last 10 years, with further reforms in tow. India crossing \$2,000 in terms of per capita GDP in 2019 marks an inflection point where spending shifts from sustenance to consumption. This happened in the US in the 1950s, Germany in the 1960s, Japan in the 1970s, and China in the early 2000s. Regulators such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India and International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) have created regulated vehicles for pooling capital into private assets such as start-ups, creating an over \$100 billion investing industry through alternative investments funds. This has allowed rupee capital to finally invest in start-ups, though the legislated subordination of

private market investing to listed market investing in terms of tax rates and holding periods should be removed. Various committees have been formed to reevaluate our existing laws and rationalise them further. Indian retail investors are pumping close to Rs 19,000 crore monthly as systematic investment plans into the stock market and are lapping up initial public offerings through double-digit oversubscriptions.

Many start-ups that shifted out of India over the last 15 years now wish to come back to the country, but lack a mechanism to do so. PhonePe was unique in paying over \$1 billion in taxes for moving back to India from Singapore, but no other start-ups have the balance sheet to support this.

This is why the scheme mentioned in the "Onshoring Indian innovation to GIFT IFSC" report released in August 2023 is crucial. It lays out a framework based on the scheme to redomicile funds investing in India but based in other countries to shift to GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in a tax-free manner. GIFT IFSC has a unified regulator in the form of the IFSCA, allows start-ups to maintain accounts in US dol-

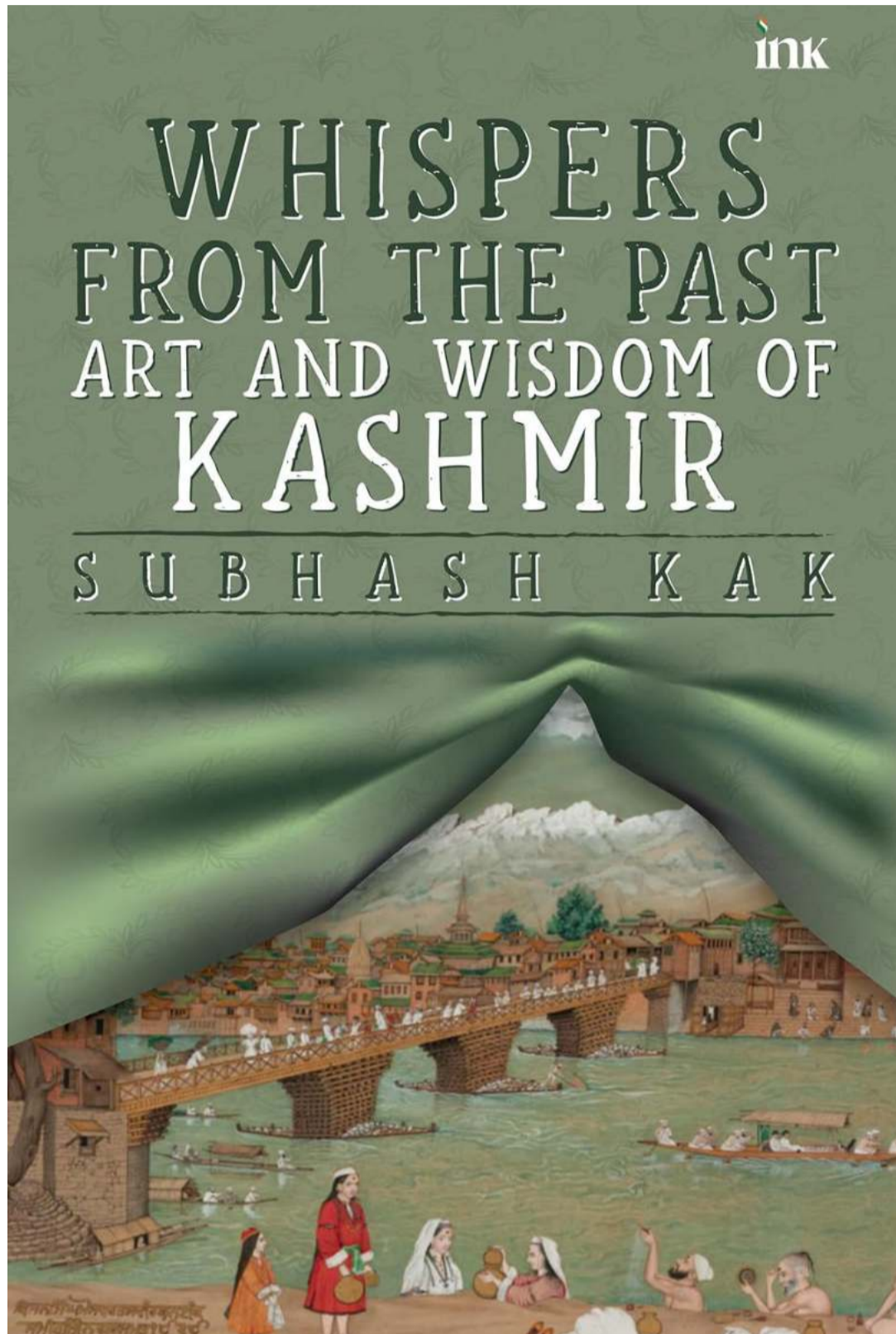
lars, and has a host of tax benefits to attract and retain companies. It forms the perfect landing spot for such flipped start-ups to come back to India and remain Indian companies.

Digital businesses have blurred geographic boundaries and the extent of the sovereign over digital businesses arises from having these companies domicile in the said country. This is best understood by the US and China, who allow their companies to operate overseas while remaining domiciled in the motherland. Europe is a digital colony as it lacks major tech companies headquartered in its borders. India too runs the risk of this unless it allows for Indian entrepreneurs to redomicile in India and reforms legislation that prompted them to move out in the first place.

Indian entrepreneurs look up to the Start-up Prime Minister to allow them to return to the country and create immense value for India and Indians.

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

Kashmir's Theory of Aesthetics and Rasa



Subhash Kak

Kashmir has a long tradition of scholars over centuries continuing to work on aesthetic theory and rasa. It has also been proposed that the count of 36 chapters of the Nāṭya Śāstra was deliberately chosen to conform to the theory of 36 tattvas or elements of reality (25 tattvas as described in the Sāṅkhya system together with the 11 Rudras that represent states of consciousness), which count was later formalized in Kashmir Śaivism. Also note that the bhāna, a one-actor play described by Bharata, is still performed in Kashmir by actors called bhānd pather (bhāna pātra, in Sanskrit).

Manomohan Ghosh, the modern translator of the Nāṭya Śāstra, believes that it belongs to the 5th century bce. He bases his assessment on the archaic pre-Pāṇinian features of the language and the fact that Bharata mentions the Arthaśāstra of Brhspati and not that of the 4th century bce Kauṭilya.

It is also noteworthy that there are close connections between Kashmir and South India in the dramatic tradition and the worship of Śiva, Pāñcarātra, Tantra, and the arts. A few years ago, when I pointed this out to Vasundharā Filliozat, the art historian who has worked on Karnataka, she said that the inscriptional evidence indicates a continuous movement of teachers from Kashmir to the South and that Kashmir was likely the original source of many of the early Shaivite, Tantric, and Sthāpatya Āgamas. While this is true of the period when scholars were compelled to leave Kashmir due to its unsettled conditions, a migration of teachers from the South to Kashmir in the earlier periods is a distinct possibility.

The Nāṭya Śāstra not only presents the language of creative expression, but is also the world's first book on stagecraft. It is so comprehensive that it lists 108 different postures that can be combined to give the various movements of dance. Bharata's ideas are the key to proper understanding of Indian arts, music, and sculpture. They provide an insight into how different Indian arts are expressions of a celebratory attitude to the universe.

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The term nāṭya is synonymous with drama. According to Bharata, the nāṭya was created by taking elements from each of the four Vedas: recitation (pāṭhya) from the

Rgveda, song, or melody (gīta) from the Sāmaveda, acting (abhinaya) from the Yajurveda, and sentiments (rasa) from the Atharvaveda. By this synthesis, the Nāṭya Śāstra became the fifth Veda, meant to take the spirit of the Vedic vision to the common man.

The Nāṭya Śāstra classified the diverse arts that are embodied in the classical Indian concept of the drama, including dance, music, poetics, and general aesthetics. Later, the Viṣṇudharmottara Purāṇa of the 4th century ce (compiled during the Karkotas) describes canonical conventions of architecture, iconography, and painting.

Five of the thirty-six chapters of the Nāṭya Śāstra are devoted to music. Bharata speaks of the 22 śrutis of the octave, the seven notes and the number of śrutis in each of them.

He explains how the vīṇā is to be tuned and describes the dhruvapaḍa songs that were part of musical performances.

The concept of rasa, enduring sentiment, lies behind the aesthetics of the Nāṭya Śāstra. The artist, through movement, voice, music, or any other creative act, attempts to evoke them in the listener and the spectator. This evocation helps to plumb the depths of one's experience, thereby facilitating self-knowledge. Love poems are suffused with śṛṅgāra rasa in one of two modes: union (sambhoga) and separation (vipralambha) and, of course, they can be joined with other rasas. If love is about the impending sense of loss, it is bound with the deepest emotions related to being.

The ideas of the Nāṭya Śāstra provide an overarching framework to the Indian theory on sculpture, temple architecture, performance, dance, and storytelling. But unlike other technical śāstras that were written for the scholar, Bharata's work influenced millions directly. For these reasons alone, the Nāṭya Śāstra is one of the most important books ever written.

The author is US-based scholar and historian

The above text is excerpted from "Whispers from the Past: Art and Wisdom of Kashmir" by Subhash Kak

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Major IT Outage Points of Vulnerable Global Information Ecosystem

Richard Forno

The global information technology outage on July 19, 2024, that paralyzed organizations ranging from airlines to hospitals and even the delivery of uniforms for the Olympic Games represents a growing concern for cybersecurity professionals, businesses and governments.

The outage is emblematic of the way organizational networks, cloud computing services and the internet are interdependent, and the vulnerabilities this creates. In this case, a faulty automatic update to the widely used Falcon cybersecurity software from CrowdStrike caused PCs running Microsoft's Windows operating system to crash. Unfortunately, many servers and PCs need to be fixed manually, and many of the affected organizations have thousands of them spread around the world.

For Microsoft, the problem was made worse because the company released an update to its Azure cloud computing platform at roughly the same time as the CrowdStrike update. Microsoft, CrowdStrike and other companies like Amazon have issued technical work-arounds for customers willing to take matters into their own hands. But for the vast majority of global users, especially companies, this isn't going to be a quick fix.

Modern technology incidents, whether cyberattacks or technical problems, continue to paralyze the world in new and inter-

esting ways. Massive incidents like the CrowdStrike update fault not only create chaos in the business world but disrupt global society itself. The economic losses resulting from such incidents – lost productivity, recovery, disruption to business and individual activities – are likely to be extremely high.

As a former cybersecurity professional and current security researcher, I believe that the world may finally be realizing that modern information-based society is based on a very fragile foundation.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Interestingly, on June 11, 2024, a post on CrowdStrike's own blog seemed to predict this very situation – the global computing ecosystem compromised by one vendor's faulty technology – though they probably didn't expect that their product would be the cause.

Software supply chains have long been a serious cybersecurity concern and potential single point of failure. Companies like CrowdStrike, Microsoft, Apple and others have direct, trusted access into organizations' and individuals' computers. As a result, people have to trust that the companies are not only secure themselves, but that the products and updates they push out are well-tested and robust before they're applied to customers' systems. The SolarWinds incident of 2019, which involved hacking the software supply chain, may



well be considered a preview of today's CrowdStrike incident.

CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz said "this is not a security incident or cyberattack" and that "the issue has been identified, isolated and a fix has been deployed." While perhaps true from CrowdStrike's perspective – they were not hacked – it doesn't mean the effects of this incident won't create security problems for customers. It's quite possible that in the short term, organizations may disable

some of their internet security devices to try and get ahead of the problem, but in doing so they may have opened themselves up to criminals penetrating their networks.

It's also likely that people will be targeted by various scams preying on user panic or ignorance regarding the issue. Overwhelmed users might either take offers of faux assistance that lead to identity theft, or throw away money on bogus solutions to this problem.

WHAT TO DO

Organizations and users will need to wait until a fix is available or try to recover on their own if they have the technical ability. After that, I believe there are several things to do and consider as the world recovers from this incident.

Companies will need to ensure that the products and services they use are trustworthy. This means doing due diligence on the vendors of such products for security and resilience. Large orga-

nizations typically test any product upgrades and updates before allowing them to be released to their internal users, but for some routine products like security tools, that may not happen.

Governments and companies alike will need to emphasize resilience in designing networks and systems. This means taking steps to avoid creating single points of failure in infrastructure, software and workflows that an adversary could target or a disaster could make worse. It also means knowing whether any of the products organizations depend on are themselves dependent on certain other products or infrastructures to function.

Organizations will need to renew their commitment to best practices in cybersecurity and general IT management. For example, having a robust backup system in place can make recovery from such incidents easier and minimize data loss. Ensuring appropriate policies, procedures, staffing and technical resources is essential.

Problems in the software supply chain like this make it difficult to follow the standard IT recommendation to always keep your systems patched and current. Unfortunately, the costs of not keeping systems regularly updated now have to be weighed against the risks of a situation like this happening again.

By arrangements with The Conversation

Biden fact-checks Trump's speech, vows to fight on as he prepares to hit campaign trail again

Agenceis

President Joe Biden hit out at Donald Trump on Saturday for his "dark vision" for the country and said he will resume campaign next week to expose his Republican rival's Project 2025 agenda amidst Democrats' calls for him to quit the race.

In a thread of 13 posts on X, Biden, 81, said he had the distinct misfortune of watching Trump's speech, which he fact-checked and tore down the latter's claims one by one, at times, supporting it by what his government did on that issue late on Friday night local time.

Biden, who tested positive for

COVID-19 a few days ago, is in isolation at his home in Delaware. After this week's rest, he is expected to hit the campaign trail next week as he aims to seek re-election.

"I'm stuck at home with COVID, so I had the distinct misfortune of watching Donald Trump's speech to the RNC. What the hell was he talking about? Biden started with this post on X while poking fun at the keynote speech of the opposition party's presidential nominee for the November 5 election at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee on Thursday.

Biden then added 11 other posts each fact-checking issues, including

what Trump, 78, did with COVID-19, his claim about Social Security and Medical, tax cuts, inflation, and Project 2025 agenda where Trump wants to throw immigrants into mass detention camps.

The post which said, He praised Hannibal Lecter. Donald, Hannibal Lecter is not real. And he is a cannibal, almost went viral garnering the most retweets and likes among other posts in the thread.

The thread ended with: And if you're with me, pitch in to our campaign and had a poster showing Trump and his running mate J D Vance and a caption: Protect Democracy. Defeat

Trump-Vance.'

Meanwhile, in a statement issued by his campaign, Biden said: Donald Trump's dark vision for the future is not who we are as Americans. Together, as a party and as a country, we can and will defeat him at the ballot box.

I look forward to getting back on the campaign trail next week to continue exposing the threat of Donald Trump's Project 2025 agenda while making the case for my own record and the vision that I have for America: one where we save our democracy, protect our rights and freedoms and create opportunity for everyone, he said.

For over 90 minutes, he focused on

his own grievances, with no plan to unite us and no plan to make life better for working people, said the president referring to Trump's speech.

He avoided mentioning his Project 2025 agenda, but still proudly flaunted the worst of MAGA (Make America Great Again) extremism," Biden said, referring to Trump's mention of immigrants. Americans know exactly where he wants to take this country.

One of the priorities of Project 2025, published by the Heritage Foundation, is to create a roadmap for the first 180 days of the new Trump administration to quickly reorient every federal agency around its conservative vision.

It also aims to recruit and train thousands of people loyal to the conservative movement to fill federal government positions, according to CNN.

The Biden-Harris campaign alleged: Trump is still the same twice-impeached, 34-time convicted felon consumed by revenge and hell-bent on seeking retribution in a second term.

Days after Biden's disastrous performance against Trump in the first presidential debate, Democrats remained split on whether he can beat the former president in November and as of Friday at least 10 Democrats had joined the chorus calling on him to step back.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Terror Attacks

As per sources, were attended by Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain, DG BSF, DG CRPF, Heads of Intelligence Agencies and other senior officials of army, CAPFs and J&K Police at Raj Bhawan, Jammu.

The security review meetings in Jammu came close on the heels of the July 16 terrorist ambush in Doda district where five soldiers were killed and as many injured. On July 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security. The meeting was followed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah's another security review where surge in terrorist strikes in Jammu was discussed threadbare.

An official statement said that LG Sinha chaired a high-level meeting with the Army Chief, various heads of security and law enforcement agencies on the security situation in Jammu division at Raj Bhawan, Jammu. "Chief of the Army Staff and the LG asked the Army, CAPFs and the Jammu Kashmir Police to proactively conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations in Jammu Division," the statement said. "We must launch meticulous and well-planned counter-terrorism operations with greater synergy between all the agencies to wipe out terrorists and those aiding and abetting them." As per the statement, the LG also directed that the security grid should be further strengthened to ensure zero cross-border infiltration.

Earlier, in the meeting held at PHQ Jammu, sources said that the security officials discussed threadbare the modus-operandi of terrorists operating in Jammu, how they managed to sneak in, routes used by them to infiltrate, possibility of new tunnels dug along International Border and routes being used by foreign terrorists to enter Jammu via Punjab border.

They said that the Army chief stressed on well-coordinated efforts to tackle new terror challenges in the Jammu region while ensuring minimal casualties to security forces, especially the army. In the past 32 months, 41 soldiers have been killed in Jammu alone in a spate of terrorist attacks, triggering a security concern for the grid.

"The meeting focussed on plugging the operational flaws and intensifying the counter terrorist operations while following a renewed strategy," a source said. "It was also decided to zero in on the terror-ecosystem and terrorist sympathisers strictly. The meeting also evolved a consensus that a close watch must be maintained on the former terrorists and Over Ground Workers (OGWs)." (KNO)

'Kashmir Model'

Way security forces crushed terrorism in Kashmir, a similar strategy will be adopted in Jammu as well," the LG said, adding that "today all terror outfits in Kashmir are headless."

He said there is a peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Valley and one could have never thought about it some five years ago. "A series of steps were taken to shape the future of youth. We launched back to the village, my town my pride, identification of youth for skill development and entrepreneurship at Panchayat level," the LG said.

LG Sinha's statement comes on a day when Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi is arriving in Jammu to chair a high level security review meeting in the wake of surge in

terrorist attacks on army, especially the killing of four soldiers including the captain rank officer in the terrorist ambush at Doda district on July 16. In the past 32 months 48 soldiers were killed in action in J&K.

The LG said that at present, 540 boys and girls are becoming entrepreneurs on a daily basis in J&K.

"A total of 840 start-ups have come up in J&K of which 265 are run by young women," he said.

With peace, the LG said, in the past four to five years, J&K has seen transparency in the government recruitment process. "Not a single person was appointed on the basis of any sort of influence. Children of cart pullers, vegetable vendors and street vendors have got government jobs for the first time," he said.

'J&K Transformation Has Frustrated Master Of Terror'

The positive transformation in Jammu and Kashmir has frustrated the "master of terror", but our government will not allow ill intentions of the enemy to succeed, said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday amidst a spurt in violence in the Jammu region.

Speaking at a function at SKICC, Sinha said J&K has undergone a huge positive transformation, but some people have a problem with it.

"This transformation has especially frustrated the master of terror that our neighbour is, and they are trying to create terror in the Jammu region," he said, referring to the spate of attacks in the region.

The LG said, "We will not allow their ill intentions to succeed".

"The people of Jammu have always withstood terror, and I have full faith in the bravery of our jawans. The way the commanders of all the outfits were wiped out from here (Kashmir), our security forces and army will soon succeed in getting rid of them there (in Jammu region)," he said.

Our Focus Women

harness the entrepreneurial potential of women in J&K UT, increase financial access and market reach for women entrepreneurs and to create a nurturing ecosystem for women's economic empowerment.

"We want women entrepreneurs of J&K UT to build global brands and fortunes through their own hard work and strong drive. Our focus is women-led development and dedicated efforts have been made for women's economic participation to boost economic growth," the LG said.

The overarching goal is to establish a sustainable enterprise model that contributes to employment generation and economic growth, he added.

Reiterating the UT Administration's resolve to promote entrepreneurship and startups in J&K, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the LG said endeavours like Startup Policy is a testimony to our commitment to provide necessary support and resources to the youth to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality.

"The new JK Startup portal will ensure the seamless execution of the Startup Policy. The portal will streamline the application process for various support mechanisms viz. seed funding, mentoring, startup awards and claiming infrastructure benefits for development of incubators/incubation facilities," the LG said.

The LG also commended the JKPTO, JKEDI, J&K Bank and other stakeholders for their

significant contribution in empowering the women and young entrepreneurs of the UT.

To support the startup ecosystem and promote innovation in the region, JKEDI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with five higher educational institutions.

The LG said the MoUs will help the students enhance their skills and knowledge with entrepreneurship, innovation and startups.

On the occasion, women entrepreneurs associated with Hausla 1.0. shared their success stories. They also expressed gratitude to the LG led UT Administration for providing necessary support and guidance for their business ventures.

Hausla 1.0 programme has successfully trained 118 women entrepreneurs, expanded networks, facilitated participation in national exhibitions, and increased market reach.

Under Hausla 2.0, JKEDI will ensure quality training sessions at the district level to the selected 400 women entrepreneurs from Jammu Kashmir. This decentralized approach will ensure broader regional participation and cater to women from various sectors, it was informed.

Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, Vice Chancellor IUST; Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Khalid Jahangir, Managing Director, JKPTO; Sh Rajinder Sharma, Director, JKEDI; HoDs, representatives of trade bodies; women and young entrepreneurs were present in large numbers.

Heat Wave Returns

destination, the mercury settled at 29.9 degree Celsius while in Kupwara, it settled at 34.6 degree Celsius. Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, however recorded a maximum temperature of 24.5 degree Celsius.

Besides Kashmir, the mercury has also improved in Jammu division today with Jammu recording a maximum temperature of 37.4 degree Celsius.

Banihal has recorded a maximum temperature of 32.0 degree Celsius while Batote, Katra and Baderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 29.3 degree Celsius, 33.5 degree Celsius and 34.2 degree Celsius respectively.

Moreover, amidst the possibility of heat-wave for next 72 hours, the weatherman here has forecasted the possibility of a short spell in a few areas of Kashmir and many parts of Jammu division on July 23 and 24. (KNO)

MMU Calls For

a mourning ritual inside Khanqah-e-Maula on 12th Muharram. The event was flagged by former Mayor Junaid Azim Matuu on 'X' who demanded action by the Waqf Board. This prompted Waqf Board chairperson Darkhshah Andrabi to issue a statement announcing action against the youth. Not content with this an ultra conservative religious body 'Mutahida Ulama-e-Ahle Sunnat' led by Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi declared that Khanqah's sanctity has been violated and that the group will convene another meeting to decide on next course of action besides cleansing of the Khanqah.

MMU too lent its weight behind the demand for a probe saying that "it seems that this incident was a planned attempt to hurt the sentiments of the larger sect by some elements at work, which needs to be investigated.

"While it is the duty of the Waqf board to unearth the truth behind this incident as they are

the custodians of the shrines and maintaining their sanctity is their duty, MMU has decided to form a committee consisting of responsible members from both sects to investigate and identify the elements involved," it said in the statement.

MMU also expressed concern and condemnation over the remarks and comments made by some scholars, preachers, and speakers of both Sunni and Shia communities during various Ashura Muharram events, as well as remarks and comments during mourning processions regarding the Sahaba.

"Such remarks and actions cannot be tolerated and demand an inquiry, especially when all members of MMU from all sects are constantly making efforts to ensure unity and brotherhood among the followers of all sects while pursuing their respective practices," it said, adding that the committee will also investigate this matter and identify who is responsible for this.

Action Taken

the sectarian cordiality was made by some today at Khanqah-e-Maula. J&K Waqf Board has taken cognisance of the matter & action has been initiated. Nobody will be allowed to create any sectarian divide and stern action is being taken," Andrabi said in a post on X.

Srinagar's former Mayor Junaid Azim Matuu had flagged the incident earlier, saying it was unprecedented and could disturb sectarian harmony.

"I'm the most vociferous supporter of Shia-Sunni unity and we are all proud Muhibaan-e-Ahle-Bayat but Azadaari inside Khanqah-e-Moula is unprecedented and could potentially disturb sectarian harmony. What is @jandkwaqfboard upto? I appeal for calm and understanding," Matuu said on X.

J&K Sees 1.2 Lakh

has been noticed over the years. 0.71 Lakhs (2021) to 1.57 Lakhs (2022-23) and now 1.80 Lakhs in 2023-24.

"During the academic year 2023-24, the enrolment data of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) and Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) has been excluded from the total enrolment figures of government schools by MoE, which earlier remained a part of enrolment in the previous figures. As a result, the total enrolment in government schools stood at 13.84 Lakhs," the official said.

Stating the stats of current academic year, the official said that the proactive enrolment drives and campaigns have successfully increased enrolment in government schools, with new admission 64,500 children in Jammu division and 55,869 children in Kashmir division.

"This brings the total enrolment in government schools to an impressive addition of 1.20 Lakh Children, raising the overall enrolment at considerable level, which reflects a significant increase in the number of students choosing government schools," the official said. (KNO)

17 Yrs On, Tabinda

alias Billa, both residents of Langate, Jahangir Ansari of West Bengal, and Suresh Kumar of Rajasthan.

A case vide FIR number 152/2007 under Sections 302, 376 and 34 RPC was registered and after investigation, police filed a chargesheet against all the four accused.

The Trial Court in its judgement had observed

that convicts are a menace to the society, they have shown no sympathy to the helpless minor girl who was reading in the middle class and to conceal their evil deeds they had resorted to this drastic and extreme brutal act which resulted in depriving life of a innocent minor girl.

Sessions Court also drew parallels to the "Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case", where not only the administration including the police but the political class was shaken and the response was in the form of legislative amendments and setting up of fast track Courts for trying sexual offences.

The Kupwara District Court pronounced its verdict on April 24, 2015, sentencing all the four convicts to death.

"Convicts are sentenced to death for offences under section 302/34 and each one for rigorous imprisonment of seven years for an offence punishable under Section 363/34 RPC. The convicts are also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years for the offence punishable under Sections 376(G)/34 RPC. They are also sentenced to simple imprisonment of one month for offences punishable under Section 341/ 34 of RPC. The sentences shall run concurrently," read the verdict.

However, the accused later approached the High Court and filed an appeal challenging the conviction Order passed by Principal Sessions Judge Kupwara.

Speaking to Kashmir Observer, Mubeen Wani, Deputy Advocate General who is representing the Government UT/State said, "Now the case is being taken up regularly on hearing days by the Hon'ble Court. We are defending the case to the best of our capabilities and we expect that the appeal will be decided soon."

HC Quashes FIR

Order 39 Rule 2-A is quasi criminal and though it has a punitive aspect embodied therein whereunder the offender can be ordered to be detained in the civil prison yet, the person who complains disobedience or breach of order has to clearly make out beyond any doubt that there was an order required to be obeyed by the opposite party and that the said order has been observed in breach or disobeyed," the court said.

It is also a settled position of law, the court said, that the provisions of Order 39 Rule 2-A CPC are to be exercised without there being any element of vindictiveness.

"Thus, in presence of the said provisions of Order 39 Rule 2-Athere was no reason or occasion for the trial courtto pass the impugned order dated 29.02.2024 directing the registration of FIR against the petitioners (3 persons/ defendants in the civil suit) in the matter for violation of order of injunction passed by the appellate court dated 07.06.2017," the court said, adding, "The said order thus, cannot but be said to have been passed by the trial court without any power and authority."

The court subsequently quashed the trial court order as well as FIR registered based on it.

"Viewed thus, what has been observed, considered and analyzed the instant petition merits to be allowed. Accordingly the petition is allowed and the impugned order dated 29.02.2024 passed by the court of Sub Judge/JMIC Kupwara as also the impugned FIR No. 10/2024 dated 03.03.2024 registered with Police Station Trehgam are quashed."

27th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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OR SCAN



Lam Tral, Breathtaking Site Seeks Government Attention



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lam, a breathtaking site in Aripal belt of Tral in South Kashmir's Pulwama district has been craving for attention from the authorities.

Locals said that Gujjar Saran is a very beautiful place with great tourism potential but needs government attention.

They said that the area is as beautiful as Pahalgam but the government has failed to give it connectivity due to which less people visit the spot.

Mohammad Abbas, a local resident said that hundreds of youth visit Lam-Gujjar Saran area on a daily basis but they have to go by foot for about two kilometers as the condition of the road is very bad.

He said that Lam-Gujjar Saran lush green forest and a canal has crystal water, which

attracts people towards it.

Basharat Ahmad, another local said that this area has huge tourism potential but that needs to be channelized properly.

He said that hundreds of people from this economically backward area can earn their livelihood if it is developed properly.

Locals said that they have brought this issue into the notice of concerned authorities several times but to no avail.

They urged the tourism department to develop it as a tourist spot, adding that developing it as a tourist destination can help locals to earn livelihood.

Meanwhile, an official told of the tourism department said that the area is being developed as tourist destination, adding that the work is expected to be started soon—(KNO)

Over 100 Hospitalized After Diarrhoea Outbreak In Srigufwara

Agencies

ANANTNAG: Over one hundred people from Srigufwara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district were hospitalised after the outbreak of diarrhoea in Trail village, officials said.

Officials said that a large population including elderly people in Trail village of Srigufwara suffered loose motions and vomiting, following which the health teams were immediately dispatched to the area and all the affected people have been admitted to health facilities.

"More than 100 residents were being treated for loose motions and vomiting. Probably unsafe or impure drinking water could be the cause, but test reports are yet to confirm the facts. The Health Department has set up a medical camp in the area," officials said.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, along with other officials, visited the village today after the outbreak.

Block Medical Officer (BMO), Sallar, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad, said that the number of infected people has reached 100, and all are stable. He said the infected people are being treated at three health facilities, and teams of medics have been deployed in the village.

Dr. Zahoor said that an awareness camp has been conducted, and teams from Srinagar have also visited the area. "Water test samples have been taken from eight places, and the results will be available soon. The most affected people are from the young and elderly age groups," he added.

Locals alleged that the reservoir from which the drinking water is being supplied to the whole area was kept open for a couple of days. They accused the Jal Shakti department of carelessness.

"We demand an investigation into why the water reservoir was kept open for two days. The reservoir is polluted, and there is no cleanliness at the site," they alleged.

Sareer Wani, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department, Division Bijbehera, told KNO that the reservoir is closed but the filtration point remains open, as it remains in other locations where there is a water supply after the scheme.

He said the water supply scheme serves water to almost ten villages, but only a single village was affected by the outbreak due to unknown reasons.

"Samples have been taken by the Jal Shakti Department from nearly 20 places for laboratory testing," he added—(KNO)

Dr Rakesh Bahl Appointed Principal GMC Doda

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has appointed Dr Rakesh Bahl as principal government medical college Doda with immediate effect.

According to the order, Dr Bahl will take charge of the post in addition to his own duties at government medical college, Jammu.

"In the interest of adminis-

tration and patient care, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Bahl of Department of Community Medi-

cine, Government Medical College Jammu shall look after the charge of the post of Principal, Government Medical College Doda, in addition to his own duties, in his own pay and grade, with immediate effect, till regular appointment to the post is made," read the order.



Cyber Cell Saves Rs 84,484 In Online Financial Fraud In Kupwara

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant achievement, the Cyber Cell of J&K Police saved Rs 84,484 after receiving a complaint regarding online financial fraud in Kupwara.

On receiving the complaint, an initial investigation was taken up which revealed that the fraud was done using a fake WhatsApp call. The investigation also revealed that the victim was asked to submit school fee via PhonePay, after following the directions from the

fraudster, a police spokesman said in a statement.

Using cyber tactics, Cyber Cell Kupwara successfully blocked the transactions and the amount was put on hold and saved this whole amount, police said.

Cyber Cell of J&K Police urged the general public to stay vigilant against online fake trading, avoid clicking on suspicious links, Fake SMS credit Messages, refrain from installing unauthorized Apps, avoiding to pick any video call from unknown numbers and be cautious while sharing personal information online.

Power DISCOMS Adds Over 40,000 New Connections In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The power distribution corporations (DISCOMS) of Jammu and Kashmir have added over 41,000 new connections to their consumer base during a massive drive against illegal connections and power theft in the Union territory this year, officials said.

The maximum number of new connections, nearly 70%, belong to domestic consumers, they said. The other categories include non-domestic commercial, agriculture sector, electric vehicle charging stations, industrial, and government departments.

Currently, there are nearly 20.5 lakh power consumers in J&K with a total agreement load consumption of 4010.52 megawatts

The DISCOMS also delivered nearly 1,900 applications related to name change, ownership change, and category change for power consumers recently, as per official data.

Early this year, the twin corporations of J&K, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation



Limited (KPDC) and Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), started a massive drive against power bill defaulters and illegal connections.

The drive resulted in the disconnection of 11,450 consumers for non-payment of dues, with outstanding arrears of Rs 43.26 crore recovered in the Kashmir division alone. KPDC also intensified action against smart metre tampering, with nearly 600 applications filed for the registration of FIRs.

KPDC also added 13,719 new connections to its domestic con-

sumer base, increasing the load by 7.5 MW. The new connections include 1,949 in Kulgam, 1,630 in Budgam, and 1,269 in Sopore, among other areas.

Meanwhile, corporations have advised consumers to avoid using crude heating gadgets like heaters and boilers, which have been banned by the government.

The crackdown on power theft is part of the power department's efforts to reduce losses and improve the overall efficiency of the power distribution system in the UT—(KNO)

'Ignoring High BP Pressure Can Increase Risk Of Stroke'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ignoring high blood pressure can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke and other serious health conditions, doctors warn, adding that regular screening is essential for managing and monitoring blood pressure.

Medical professionals said that high blood pressure, or hypertension, is often called a "silent killer" because it typically has no symptoms but can lead to life-threatening health problems. They said regular checkups are necessary to detect and manage this condition.

Dr Shah Nawaz, a cardiologist at DSHK, said that heart disease and stroke are among the most common complications associated with hypertension. "High blood pressure can damage your arteries, making them less elastic and decreasing the flow of blood and oxygen to your heart, leading to heart-related ailments," he said, adding that increased pressure could cause blood vessels in the brain to burst or become blocked, which results in a stroke.

Dr Iqbal, another physician said that high blood pressure could strain the kidneys and impair their ability to filter waste from the blood effec-



tively. "Hypertension could damage blood vessels in the eyes, leading to vision problems, and limit blood flow to reproductive organs, causing sexual dysfunction," he said.

According to doctors, every third or fourth adult in the region has hypertension, but almost half are unaware of their condition. "This silent killer doesn't show symptoms during illness except for some vague signs attributed to other diseases," they said. "Unfortunately, four out of five hypertensive patients are not keeping their blood pressure under control, which leads to severe consequences like heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure."

They observed that hypertension is also becoming more common among school-going

children due to drastic lifestyle and dietary changes, including sedentary habits, high intake of salt, sugar, and fat, junk food consumption, smoking, substance abuse and stress.

The experts called for adopting an active lifestyle, maintaining a healthy weight, regular exercise, and monitoring blood pressure. They said regular checkups are crucial for detecting and managing high blood pressure early, which can reduce the risk of severe health issues.

The doctors also recommended lifestyle changes such as a healthy diet, regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight, limiting alcohol intake and quitting smoking to help manage and prevent high blood pressure—(KNO)

Homestay Spring in Gurez, Keran Prove Source Of Income For Locals

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ali Mohammad Khan worked as a daily wage for years and would often spend summers in Srinagar for work.

It fetched him some money to support his family of six members. Come 2021, the government threw open Keran for tourists, which emerged as one of the preferred border tourist destinations for visitors worldwide.

Seeing it as an opportunity to make some extra bucks, Khan decided to convert his two-storied home into a homestay for tourists. "It proved to be a good decision. Now, I make good money to support my family as well as the education of my three kids," he said.

Khan is not the only case, as scores of the locals have converted their homes into homestays to cash in on the tourists flow to the border area.

Local residents have seized the opportunity by offering homestays, providing visitors with an authentic taste of Kashmiri life. These homestays not only offer comfortable lodging but also allow tourists to experience local customs, cuisine, and daily activities.



Similarly, Gurez, which has been on the wishlist of almost every tourist visiting Kashmir too is becoming a homestay heaven.

Fancy cafés and deluxe homestays have solved the problem of tourists who a few years before would have to make efforts for such facilities.

"While camping is becoming popular here, homestays are loved by the tourists who want a relaxing stay after a tough journey to the valley. We have scores of homestays, which provide locals as well as exotic dishes to the tourists," said Mohammad Anas Khan, a local.

Tourists from across the country and abroad are flock-

ing to the remote villages in Gurez and Keran to enjoy the serene landscapes, traditional Kashmiri hospitality, and the thrill of staying close to the LoC.

Pertinently, as per the official figures, Jammu and valley has witnessed an addition of 1,485 homestays boasting 13,000 rooms in the last few couple of years.

"To accommodate the increasing tourist flow and provide quality services, the Union Territory government devised homestay guidelines. More than 1,485 homestays with a bed capacity of 13,000 have been registered so far across Jammu and Kashmir," official document said—(KNO)

Jal Shakti Dept Appeals People To Use Water Judiciously

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: While the protests erupted in Srinagar and elsewhere over the paucity of water amidst the scorching heat in Kashmir, the authorities here have issued an appeal to the general public, urging them to use drinking water judiciously and refrain from unnecessary wastage.

In an appeal to general public, the Executive Engineer, water Works Division, Srinagar has stated that due to increase in temperature in Kashmir valley, the consumption, draws of water supply have increased considerably, resulting in shortage of water supply in some parts of Srinagar City especially in tail end areas of the city.

"As such, general public is appealed to use the drinking water judiciously and avoid wastages/misuse of water by using it in Lawns, Kitchen-Gardens, washing of vehicles etc," reads the communication.

The communication states that the consumers using direct on-line boosters are appealed to stop this practice immediately for equitable distribution of water supply in their respective areas.

"This is an offence under Jammu & Kashmir Water Resources Regulation and Management Act 2010 and the department shall be forced to take action against all such offenders", states the communication.



To address grievances related to water scarcity, as per the communication, a provincial control room has been established, operating round the clock to assist with complaints and issues.

Designated nodal officers have also been appointed to promptly address genuine concerns regarding water supply.

When contacted, Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Vivek Kohli said that the situation is not alarming, but the people have been asked to avoid wastages and also using the motors and other gadgets.

About the water scarcity, he said in case the need arises, the department has kept water tankers available in order to ensure adequate water supply to the consumers.

Pertinently, several areas of Kashmir witnessed protests on Friday as the people took to the streets, demanding adequate water supply, claiming that amidst the scorching heat, the people are being pushed to the wall due to inadequate water supply in their areas—(with KNO inputs)

District Administration Gears Up To Make Udhampur Plastic Free

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: In a significant effort under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai, a massive drive was undertaken to make District Udhampur Polythene-free.

A team led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Joginder Singh Jasrotia and comprising of other district officials including Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan, CEO Municipal Council, Divisional Officer Pollution Control Board, Assistant Controller Legal Metrology, and Assistant Director Handloom, among others, conducted thorough search and seizure operations targeting illegal poly-

thene use and distribution. The aim of the drive was not only to enforce the elimination of polythene and single-use plastics but also to educate and create awareness among the public about their harmful environmental impacts. The campaign emphasized promoting sustainable alternatives to plastic bags.

A total of 312.4 kilograms of polythene was seized during the drive, with fines amounting to Rs. 23000 imposed and recovered from the defaulters on spot to discourage further violations.

Teams were also mobilized at Sub-divisional, Tehsil, Block and Headquarters—to support the initiative.

Police Solves Cheating Case In Handwara

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Handwara on Saturday said to have arrested three accused persons involved in honey-trapping by impersonating as a girl on social media platform & grabbing money.

Police Station Vilgam received an application regarding cheating on social media platform (Facebook) using honey-trap method and grabbing money. In this regard, a case FIR No. 43/2024 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Vilgam and investigation was set into motion, a police spokesman.

During the course of investigation, three persons involved

in the commission of crime were arrested. They were cheating people using their fake Facebook account and impersonating as a girl. They have been identified as Firdous Ah Tantray son of Mohd Shafi Tantray, Danish Ah Bhat son of Gh. Mohd Bhat and Aaliyan Ah Bhat son of Ashiq Hussain Bhat, all residents of Dohama Vilgam. The trio arrested persons have been taken into custody and their mobile phones have been seized. Further investigation into the case is in progress, police said.

Meanwhile, police urged people not to fall in the trap of cheaters/fraudsters on social media and not to share personal details with unknown persons.

Preparations For Upcoming Special Lok Adalat By SC Reviewed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Patron-in-Chief & Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Tashi Rabstan, Saturday chaired a crucial meeting to review progress on identifying cases amenable to amicable settlement during the upcoming Special Lok Adalat. The special lok adalat would be organised by the Supreme Court of India from July 29, 2024, to August 03, 2024.

The meeting was attended by D C Raina Advocate General; Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Achal Sethi, Secretary Law; and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority and Nodal Officer for the Special Lok Adalat.

During the discussions, Justice Tashi Rabstan emphasized that out of the 107 cases identified and forwarded by the Supreme Court of India, 50 cases pertain to service disputes and 12 cases involve land acquisition issues.

The acting Chief Justice urged upon the Ld. Advocate General and the Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs to mobilize all the government departments to ensure settlement of maximum number of cases listed during the Special Lok Adalat.

Advocate General informed that a meeting has already been convened with all the concerned departments. Additionally, the list of identified cases has been shared and the departments have been directed to prepare a detailed report on the cases that can be amicably settled during the upcoming Special Lok Adalat. He added that the report will be furnished within a couple of days.

In light of the discussions, the meeting resolved that the Ld. Advocate General and the Secretary, Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, will actively engage with the concerned officers of various government departments to facilitate the amicable settlement of cases during the scheduled Special Lok Adalat.

J&K Sports Council Honored At AIFF Awards For Promoting Football

Open selection trials for JKSC Football Academy today



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The All India Football Federation recognised the efforts of J&K Sports Council in promoting football in Jammu and Kashmir by conferring a special award to JKSC during the AIFF Awards Night on Friday.

J&K Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gul received the award on behalf of J&K government during the awards night in New Delhi, which was attended by numerous sporting icons and dignitaries. The gala event was aimed to celebrate remarkable achievements of Indian footballers over the past year.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, Olympic medal winner Yogeshwar Dutt, India's Davis Cup captain, Rohit Rajpal and many other well-known faces of Indian sports.

AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey, Vice President NA Haris, Treasurer

Kipa Ajay, Acting Secretary General M Satyanarayan, Executive Committee members, and senior officials of the state associations, were also present.

Secretary JKSC expressed gratitude to AIFF for recognizing J&K Sports Council's efforts to promote and encourage football in India. She also thanked the AIFF for choosing Srinagar to host the SAFF U-16 National Camp last year, demonstrating their faith in JKSC.

"Jammu and Kashmir hosted the National Camp for the U-16 Championship for the first time ever. We are honoured that AIFF has extended another opportunity to J&K to host the Indian National Team Coaching Camp Under-17 in preparation for the upcoming SAFF Championship and AFC Qualifiers in 2024, which is underway at Srinagar," the Secretary said.

Notably, the government's massive investment in sports infrastructure has drawn the interest of numerous national federations to conduct national and international level events in J&K. "We want to solidify our place at

the top of the country's sporting map with the aid of these camps and National Competitions," Nuzhat Gul said.

SELECTION TRIALS FOR JKSC FOOTBALL ACADEMY TODAY

Open selection trials for J&K Sports Council Football Academy, AIFF Academy Accreditation 2024-25, is set to be held at JKSC Sports Complex, Polo Ground, on Sunday and Monday.

Per a press release, the Under-19 Boys selection trials will be held on Sunday, July 21 at 9:30 AM. Players born between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2008, are eligible for these trials.

On Monday, the Under-16 trials will take place at 7:00 AM. Players born between January 1, 2009, to December 31, 2010, are eligible.

The Under-14 trials will also be organised on Monday at 7:00 AM. Those born between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2012, can participate in the selection trials.

Interested players can contact J&K Sports Council at 9419010038 for more information.

Sports Activities At District & Zonal Levels Held In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Department of Youth Services and Sports organised several sports events across Anantnag on Saturday. A district-level Kabaddi tournament commenced at HSS Bijbehara and BHSS Anantnag.

The Under-17 age category saw thrilling matches on the first day, with Bijbehara defeating Mattan in the opening match, followed by Anantnag's victories over Srigufwara, Qazigund and Ashmuqam.

The standout players in this category were Basil Farooq (Zone Bijbehara), Mehjoor Bilal (Zone Qazigund), and Mohsin Javaid (Zone Anantnag).

In the U14 age category, Anantnag triumphed over Mattan, and Bijbehara overcame Srigufwara. Notable performances were recorded by Asif Altaf (Zone Srigufwara), Zeeshan Bashir (Zone Bijbehara), and Tayyab Mushtaq (Zone Anantnag).

Simultaneously, a district-level Kabaddi tournament was inaugurated at HSS Brakpora by the Principal of BHSS Anantnag, with matches ongoing as of the latest reports.

Zone Verinag organized cricket trials for Under-14 boys at the Col-

lege Ground Verinag, beginning with an anti-drug pledge to promote a drug-free lifestyle through sports. The trials saw enthusiastic participation from 68 students.

Exceptional batting performances were delivered by Athar Amin (HS Sadiwara) and Mehran Aslam Bhat (HS Nowgam), while Arhan Yousuf (HS Sadiwara) and Muntazir Zaffar (MCS Verinag) were recognized as the best bowlers. The high level of dedication and talent made the selection process highly competitive.

Zone Qazigund held cricket competitions for Under-17 boys at the Sports Stadium Wanpora Kewa and Sports Stadium Nipora. Emerging talents Faizan Nisar and Furkaan Hamid impressed the selectors with their performances. Faizan Nisar from HS Panzath scored an impressive 43 runs off 25 balls, while Furkaan Hamid from HS Nipora showcased his all-rounder skills with an unbeaten 40 runs and 3 wickets. The tournament is ongoing and will conclude on July 22.

These events underscore the vibrant sports culture in Anantnag, Verinag, and Qazigund, highlighting the exceptional talent and dedication of young athletes in the district.

JKSC's Summer Coaching Camp Concludes In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 10-day Summer Coaching Camp, organised by the J&K Sports Council in the disciplines of Rugby, Hockey, Gymnastics and Archery, concluded on Saturday at Multi Sports Complex, Polo Ground here.

The closing ceremony was attended by the Secretary, J&K Sports Council, along with the Divisional Sports Officer (Kashmir), Divisional Sports Officer (Central), and other officials.

The camp, which began on July 8, saw the participation of approximately 150 athletes who were selected through open selection trials. These athletes underwent rigorous daily training sessions conducted by expert coaches from the J&K Sports Council.



During the closing ceremony, J&K Sports Council Secretary Nuzhat Gul emphasized the primary goal of organising these coaching camps during the school summer vacation is to provide aspiring students from every corner of J&K the opportunity to train at government sports facilities. These camps are designed to improve physical fitness, develop skills and

techniques, enhance mental capabilities, build confidence, and prepare our athletes for national and international competitions, she stated.

In addition to the closing remarks, the Khelo India Centre Taekwondo trainees were presented with playing kits by the JKSC Secretary, further encouraging young athletes in their sporting endeavors.

DYSS Budgam Conducts Sports Competitions Across District

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Despite the intense heat, the Department of Youth Services and Sports in Budgam district is busy organising different types of sports events from inter school to inter zonal district level.

In Chadora zone, Narbal zone and Chari Sharief zone organised different events, along with cricket tournament at Rangar Ground, Sports Stadium Chari Sharief and Hill Top Sports Ground Sanoor Kalipora. Selection trials of cricket competitions have also been organized in which a good number of Un-



der-14 to Under-19 players are participating.

Zonal Physical Education Officer Jahan Ara in Chari Sharief, Senior Physical Master Mohammad Yaseen in Chadoora while Sheikh Bashir Ahmad in charge of the zone venue ground Batpora, inau-

gured the events.

The department is organising more events to keep children away from drugs in these zones, while the ground level staff of the department are also performing their duties with enthusiasm in promoting sports.

Downtown Heroes FC Durand Cup Jersey Unveiled



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Downtown Heroes FC are set to represent J&K in the upcoming Durand Cup, and the Srinagar football club had its jersey unveiled by the Chinara Corps Commander on Saturday.

Downtown Heroes are gearing up to take part in their second appearance at Indian Oil Durand Cup. The unveiling event, held at Srinagar, was attended by officers of the Chinara Corps, team officials and players.

While interacting with the Heroes, the Chinara Corps Commander congratulated the team for their endeavour and wished success in the upcoming tournament. The event was a significant step in the continued initiatives to uplift the spirit of sportsmanship in the region.

Founded in 2020, the Downtown Heroes FC aims to spotlight the heart of Srinagar, a region rich in culture and natural beauty providing a platform for local talent to shine on national stage by participating in the I-League

2nd Division, the Durand Cup and other major tournaments.

This year, the team is set to play the inaugural match against defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giants, symbolising a proud moment and a beacon of hope for Srinagar's downtown community. Downtown Heroes FC's success and continued participation in prestigious events like the Durand Cup are testaments to the potential and resilience of Srinagar's youth, bringing pride and transformation to the community.

Police Cricket Tournament For Women Held In Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The final match of the first edition Kupwara Police Cricket Tournament for Women 2024, which started on July 11 under CAP-2024, was played on Saturday at Sports Ground DPL Kupwara.

The tournament saw eight women teams from across the district participate, with Growth Sports Academy and Lolab Stars reaching the finals of the tournament.



Growth Sports Academy emerged victorious over Lolab Stars by 7 wickets, successfully chasing a target of 105 runs in 10 overs. Aiman Bashir was the standout performer of the match, scoring 57 runs and taking 2 crucial wickets, earning her the Play-

er of the Match title. Her remarkable performance throughout the tournament, amassing 257 runs and taking 5 wickets, also earned her the Player of the Tournament award.

The concluding ceremony was witnessed by chief guest SSP Kupwara Shobhit Saksena-IPS, who presided over the event and presented trophies and cash prizes to the winners and runner-up teams. The winners were awarded with cash prize of Rs. 25,000/- and a trophy, while

the runner-up team received a cash prize of Rs. 15,000/- and a trophy. The ceremony also recognised the efforts of the players, officials from District Youth Sports, commentators, and organizers from DPL Kupwara.

Short TAKES

Nayar, Doeschate To Join India In Sri Lanka As Assistant Coaches

Abhishek Nayar and Ryan ten Doeschate are set to join the support staff of newly-appointed head coach Gautam Gambhir during India's white ball tour to Sri Lanka, starting from July 27.

Nayar, who has played three ODIs for India, and Doeschate, who was a hard-hitting all-rounder for Netherlands, have worked closely with Gambhir at the Kolkata Knight Riders and are likely to come in as assistant coaches, the PTI has learned.

The Indian team is scheduled to travel to Colombo from Mumbai in a chartered flight on July 22.

Women's Asia Cup: India Eye UAE Scalp, Semifinal Berth

Dominant India will be eager to perfect their tactics further while warding off United Arab Emirates which also can push them firmly towards the semifinals of the women's Asia Cup here on Sunday.

Defending champions India's supremacy was evident in their facile seven-wicket victory over arch-rivals Pakistan on Friday, and the UAE will require a giant-sized miracle to stop Harmanpreet Kaur's side.

India currently have two points and a Net Run Rate of +2.29.

Manolo Marquez Named Head Coach of Indian Football Team

FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez has been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's senior football team, announced the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday. He replaces Igor Stimac, a former Croatian footballer, who was dismissed in June after the team's poor performance in the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification campaign. Senior officials of the AIFF held a virtual meeting to terminate Stimac's services.

The appointment was decided during AIFF's Executive Committee meeting.

ICC Monitors Bangladesh Security Amid Women's T20 WC Concerns

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is keeping a vigilant eye on the security situation in Bangladesh, which is set to host the women's T20 World Cup this October.

This follows after the Bangladesh Police imposed a curfew and military forces patrolled Dhaka due to escalating violence over student protests demanding job quota reforms.

"We have independent security monitoring worldwide. So, yes, we are keeping a watch on the situation in Bangladesh," an ICC Board member disclosed to PTI under anonymity.

Rafael Nadal Reaches First Final Since 2022 In Sweden



Rafael Nadal reached his first final since the 2022 French Open by rallying to beat Duje Ajdukovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 Saturday at the clay-court Nordea Open.

After needing four hours to beat the 36th-ranked Mariano Navone in Friday's quarterfinals, Nadal had a slow start against Ajdukovic and was a break down in the second set before turning things around.

Nadal will play either Nuno Borges or Thiago Agustín Tirante in the final.

District Level Kabaddi Competition Kicks Off In Ganderbal



Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Department of Youth Services and Sports inaugurated an inter-zone district-level Kabaddi competition for boys in the Under 17 and Under 19 categories in Ganderbal on Saturday.

The event was held at GCOPE Gadoora Ganderbal and saw enthusiastic participation from all four zones of the district.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Ganderbal, along with the Activity Incharge and other

staff members were present at the opening ceremony. During his interaction with the students, the DYSSO emphasized the transformative power of sports in the lives of the younger generation.

He extended his best wishes to all the participating teams and encouraged them to exhibit sportsmanship and dedication.

The event concluded with the distribution of trophies to the winning and runner-up teams, celebrating their achievements and participation in the competition.