

4 Killed In 'Mysterious' Sopore Blast



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Four people were killed in a mysterious blast in the Sopore town in Baramulla

district on Monday. The blast happened inside a scrap dealer's shop at Sher Colony when some people were unloading scrap from a truck. [| More on P10](#)

'15 Terror Incidents In 50 Days' Offensive Ops Planned In Jammu

Offensive operations should be carried out in districts in the Jammu region that have reported terror attacks and deployment in the hinterland and along highways reinforced to strengthen the security grid, officials emphasised at a meeting here on Monday. There have been [| More on P10](#)

Kashmir Gets A Breather: Rain Breaks Prolonged Heatwave

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Light-to-moderate rainfall across Kashmir on Monday broke the heatwave in the valley, which saw mercury rising to 25-year-high for July on Sunday.

Officials said moderate to heavy rainfall was reported from south Kashmir districts (Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, and Shopian) while light-to-moderate downpour occurred in the rest of the valley, including Srinagar city.

The Met department had forecast rainfall and subsequent drop in maximum temperature for the day.

MeT Director Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that the rainfall was witnessed



during the morning in parts of south Kashmir, especially Anantnag, Qazigund, Kokernag and Shopian. Later, in the afternoon, Srinagar too

received rainfall, which fell on and off for around an hour. "The relief from the scorching heat can be seen today (Monday). Also, [| More on P10](#)

Srinagar Records 2nd Highest Min Temp In 132 Yrs

Agencies

Srinagar has recorded a minimum temperature of 24.8°C, marking the 2nd highest minimum temperature in 132 years.

Today's temperature is 6.0°C above normal and ties with the 2nd all-time highest minimum temperature, which was also recorded on July 26, 2021. The highest minimum temperature remains 25.2°C. [| More on P10](#)

Farmers' Prayers Answered!

Farmers across Kashmir breathed a sigh of relief after heavy rains lashed many parts of the valley on Monday, breaking a prolonged dry spell and intense heat wave that had caused significant distress. The Meteorological

department had predicted rainfall in the region, a much-needed respite after a period of scorching heat and dry conditions that left farmers grappling with severe agricultural losses. The dry spell had [| More on P10](#)

Amarnath Yatra Sees Record Turnout

Over 4.65 Lakh Pilgrims Visit Cave Shrine

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The annual Amarnath Yatra to the holy cave shrine has seen over 4.65 lakh pilgrims, who paid their respects to Lord Shiva, exceeding the total number of visitors to the naturally formed ice lingam than last year.

Officials said that 7,500 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave on Monday, bringing the total number of pilgrims to 4,66,342, compared to 4.59 lakh pilgrims last year.

They said the pilgrims who visited the shrine today include 4,364 male pilgrims, 1,791 female pilgrims, 148 Sadhus, and one Sadhvi.

"32nd batch of 1,832 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp at 3:22 AM in a convoy of 62 vehicles, escorted by the CRPF. The group includes 1,358 men, 363 women, two children, and 109 Sadhus and Sadhvis. Of these, 1,263 pilgrims will take the traditional 48-km route to Pahalgam in Anantnag district, while 569 will [| More on P10](#)

Man Slapped With PSA For 'Sacrilege'

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A man involved in a "sacrilegious act" was arrested under the stringent Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, police said on Monday.

Senior Superintendent of Police Abdul Qayoom said Sher Mohammad was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on the orders of the district magistrate and lodged in Kot Bhalwal jail, Jammu.

The officer issued a stern warning to individuals involved in sacrilegious acts and bovine smugglers, emphasising that anyone found involved in such acts would face the "full force of the law".

The police reaffirm their commitment to maintain communal harmony and ensure the safety and security of all residents, he said.

"Acts that threaten the peace and public order [| More on P10](#)

2022 JKSSB SI Exam Paper Leak Court Dismisses Bail Plea Of 'Kingpin'

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A special court here on Monday rejected the bail application of the alleged 'kingpin' in 2022 JKSSB sub-inspector recruitment exam paper leak case, saying "money laundering is a serious threat not only to financial system of the country but also to the global economy at large".

The alleged mastermind Yatin Yadav (43), a resident of Haryana's Rewari area, was arrested by the Directorate of Enforcement, Jammu under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on July 24 and is presently under judicial custody.

The Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB)



BESIDES, THE INVESTIGATION UNDER PMLA IS SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT and therefore, the proceedings before the trial Court in the CBI case has no effect on the PMLA investigation conducted by the respondent."

allegations of paper leak and malpractice.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which was handed over the case, had already filed a chargesheet against 33 accused, including Yadav, on November 12, 2022. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case stems from the CBI FIR.

Hearing the bail plea of the accused, Bala Jyoti, Special Judge, Anti-corruption (CBI cases), Jammu, said the court is of the firm opinion that the application being devoid of any legal force and premature is not maintainable at this stage as the investigation is incomplete and at its infancy, besides many important witnesses are yet to be examined by the ED. Special [| More on P10](#)

sub-inspector recruitment exam was held on March 27, 2022 but the selected list of 1,200 candidates along with 1,300 junior engineers and 1,000 finance account assistants was cancelled by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in July following

'One Man's Food Is Another Man's Poison' Subjecting Non-IBPS Banking Associates Eligible For Promotion Illegal: HC

M Ahmad

Srinagar: Referring to Roman philosopher Lucretius quote: "One man's food is another man's poison", the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has held the subjecting of non IBPS Banking Associates eligible for consideration under Seniority cum Selectivity promotion channel in Jammu and Kashmir Bank as illegal, arbitrary and discriminatory.

Hearing separate pleas, a Bench of Justice Rahul Bharti also directed the Bank to consider the non IBPS Banking Associates with seven (7) plus years of service for promotion as per assessment envisaged under clause 5.2 (of Policy for Promotion of Workmen (Banking Associates, Assistants, Banking Attendants) to the next post with or without

subjecting them to a screening written test (objective type) at its discretion given the fact of number of available promotion posts are more and the total number of Banking Associates, IBPS and non-IBPS, less.

"...it is as clear as sky that non-IBPS Banking Associates with seven (7) years plus regular service aiming for promotion and Banking Associates, be it IBPS or non-IBPS, having less than seven(7) years of service but more than three years of service as Banking Associates not eligible for competing under Seniority-cum-Selectivity channel of promotion are constituting two different species under genus Banking Associates," the court said, adding, "It is here where the ...quote of Roman philosopher Lucretius that "One man's [| More on P10](#)

J&K Battles Drug Epidemic: 1014 NDPS Cases In 3 Years

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 1014 drug cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1985 in the last three years, the Centre has informed.

In a written reply, the Minister of Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai informed in Rajya Sabha that the effort's of the government under 'Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan' (NMBA) has helped in better detection of the drug addiction cases.

As per the latest data published by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) pertaining to the year 2022, details of Cases Registered (CR) for Possession of drugs for personal use/consumption under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

In 2020, as many as 289 cases were registered under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, in Jammu and Kashmir, 357 cases in 2021, and 394 in 2022, the minister informed.

The reply reads that the government has formulated and implemented the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), under which the Government is taking sustained and coordinated action to arrest the problem of substance abuse among the youth across the country, including the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

This includes launching [| More on P10](#)

Shri Manoj Sinha
Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K

J&K Film Conclave

1st August 2024 | 10:00 AM | SKICC, Srinagar

Inaugural Session

- Launch of Single Window Portal for film shooting permission and film subsidy
- Prize Distribution of Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Film Making Competition
- Launch of Frames of Transformation Photography Competition
- Inauguration of J&K Film Screening Series

Screening of Naya Jammu Kashmir Short Films

MELTING STONES | I AM VALMIKI
UNVEILING STRENGTH
THE WOMEN ATHLETES OF KASHMIR

Film Screenings

J L KAUL | NOOREH | SCHIZOPHRENIA
KHATTAY ANGOOR | UNICORN

Panel Discussion

Evolving Film Ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir
A New Dawn in Cinema

Rahhat Kazmi Director & Writer
Paragg Mehta Casting Director & Producer

Film Making Workshops

Local Stories, Global Audience
From Auditions to Screen: Blueprint for Aspiring Actors and Filmmakers

Premiere Screening
First Time Screening in India!
COUNTRY OF BLIND

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

DIPK-3711/24

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8-Week Vegan Diet Linked To Lower Biological Age, Study Finds



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Going vegan for eight weeks was found to be linked to lowering of biological age, according to a study published in the journal *BioMed Central (BMC) Medicine*. Researchers looked at the molecular effects of the plant-based diet that abstains from consuming animal food products, such as dairy. The diet largely includes eating fruits and vegetables, along with grains, beans and nuts. The researchers, including those at Stanford University, US, found that consuming the plant-based diet was related with changes in how a gene expressed itself, or gene behaviour, without changing the DNA itself. Specifically, they looked at DNA methylation, known to be able to "turn off" or "silence" a gene, thereby not allowing it to express itself. Higher levels of DNA methylation is associated with a higher biological age. It is one of the epigenetic processes, which affect the behaviour of a gene by altering its environment. For eight weeks, the team followed 21 pairs of adult identical twins -- one half of each pair consumed an omnivorous diet, including meat, eggs and dairy, while the other consumed

a vegan one. Identical twins share a significant amount of their genetic makeup. On average, the participants were aged 40 years and had a body mass index (BMI) in the overweight category. About 77 per cent of the group were women. After eight weeks, the researchers observed a 'younger' heart, liver, inflammatory and metabolic system among the participants consuming the vegan

the biological age in the vegan group, the researchers said. Reacting to the study, Tom Sanders, a professor emeritus of Nutrition and Dietetics at King's College London, and not involved in the study, said that the findings might be favourable for vegans in terms of ageing. However, the diet can come with micronutrient deficiencies, which often take years to exert harmful



Higher levels of DNA methylation is associated with a higher biological age. It is one of the epigenetic processes, which affect the behaviour of a gene by altering its environment.

diet. These changes were not seen in those eating the omnivorous diet. However, the authors cautioned that the extent to which these changes could be attributed to their diets was unclear. They noted that on average, the individuals on the vegan diet lost two kilograms more compared to those on the omnivorous diet. The results suggest that the weight loss could have contributed to lowering of

effects, Sanders said. "For example, unless a vegan diet is supplemented with vitamin B12 they develop vitamin B12 deficiency that causes chronic and often insidious damage to the nervous system," Sanders said. Long-term studies of vegans also find adverse effects on bone density, probably caused by very low calcium and barely adequate protein intakes, Sanders said

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar - 190 025
 Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT No. (31) of 2024-25 Dated: 26.07.2024

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2025 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S.No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Construction of Poultry Shed Under Rainfed Area Development Project (HADP) At Dars Budgam, SKUAST-Kashmir.	14.37	28,740	B, C & D Class	500/-	45 Days

- a) Position of AAA: Accorded
- b) Position of T.S : Sanctioned
- c) Position of funds: Available

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

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	26.07.2024
2.	Date of start of downloading	26.07.2024
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	26.07.2024
5.	Bid submission end date	05.08.2024 (18.00 PM)
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	06.08.2024 (12.00 PM)
7.	Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	07.08.2024

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

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(31)/317
 DIPK-NB-1104/24
 Dated: 29.07.2024

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class-10th) under Roll No: 132008082 Session: Annual/Regular Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the concerned School/parent/Board against my Mother's Name as Jameela Bano Instead of Nazneena Jan Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Syed Moezab Binti Nazir
 Father's Name: Syed Nazir Ahmad
 Mother's Name: Nazneena Jan
 Dob: 07-05-2008
 R/o Parigam Pulwama



PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing regd no: JK05F6575 somewhere. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Sopore within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Irfan Khaliq FKO
 S/O Abdul Khaliq Ganie

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048
 Registered Office: M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001
 Tel: 0194-2483775, Fax: 0194-2481928
 Website: www.jkbank.com
 Email: board.sectt@jkbank.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the certificates in respect of the under-mentioned shares of J&K Bank have been lost/misplaced and the holders of the said shares have applied to J&K Bank Ltd/ M/s KFin Technologies Ltd. (Share Transfer Agent) for issue of Duplicate Share Certificates.

S. No	Name of the Shareholder	Folio No.	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.'s	No of Shares	Address
1.	Neelofar	JKB035299	501489	2773651-2776650	3000	Udhampur

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way with above share Certificate(s). Any Person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/objection in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim(s)/objection with the Bank at the Corporate Headquarters, M. A. Road, Srinagar/Share Transfer Agent at the address given below, within fifteen days from the date of Publication of this notice, after which no claim(s) will be entertained and the Bank/Share Transfer Agent will proceed to issue Duplicate Share Certificates.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited
 Board Secretary
 Corporate Headquarters
 M. A. Road, Srinagar - 190 001, Kashmir

Share Transfer Agent
 M/s KFin Technologies Ltd.
 Selenium Tower B, Plot 31&32
 Financial District, Nanakramguda,
 Seringampally Mandal,
 Hyderabad 500 032

For Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd.
 Ref. No.: 07/2024-25

Place: Srinagar
 Date: 29th July, 2024

Sd/-
 (Mohammad Shafi Mir)
 Company Secretary

DIPK-NB-1094/24 dated: 29-07-2024

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Pir-Panjal Forest Division Budgam

e-NIT NO: - 06 OF 2023-24 DATED: 26-07-2024

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Forest / FDC Contractors registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt. for the following work:-

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Security (EMD) INR	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Raising of Conifer, Broad Leaved plants in Sheikh UlAam Nursery Kanidagan of Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the Scheme of CAMPANPV for the Year 2024-25 Conifer Raising 1.50 Lacs & 2-Leaved 0.50 lacs/78 Beds.	14.38	Rs. 28760	"B, C, D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 600/=	120 Calendar Days
2	Raising of Conifer Poly Pots in Hardpanzo Nursery Sukhnag Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the Scheme of CAMPANPV for the Year 2024-25 Conifer Raising 0.30 Lacs.	2.41	Rs. 4820	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	120 Calendar Days
3	Raising of Conifer Poly Pots in OB Post Nursery Soil Range Budgam of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the Scheme of CAMPANPV for the Year 2024-25. Conifer Raising 0.40 Lacs.	3.21	Rs. 6420	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	120 Calendar Days
4	Raising of Conifer Poly Pots in Ralihan Nursery Ralihan Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam under the Scheme of CAMPANPV for the Year 2024-25. Conifer Raising 0.40 Lacs.	3.21	Rs. 6420	"D" Class PWD Contractor/Forest Contractor, JKFC Contractor	Rs. 200/=	120 Calendar Days

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website: www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Accorded
 Position of T/S: Accorded
 Position of Funds: Budgeted

Publishing Date: -	27-07-2024
Download Start Date:	29-07-2024 from 04:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	29-07-2024 from 04:00 PM
Pre-Bid Consultation & Venue	07-08-2024 Working hours Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam.
Bid submission End Date:	09-08-2024 Up to 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online.	10-08-2024 at 10:00AM in the Office of the Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle at Sheikh Bagh Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:	To be opened (Online) after Technical Evaluation is Completed. Date will be notified separately.

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in the shape of EMD for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Bid security (EMD) , Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept. duly renewed for the current year 2024-25, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- In case the cost of lowest bidder is found below the advertised amount, the bidder has to deposit an Additional Security Performance in the shape of CDR/FDR before issuance of award of contract to the tune as per below details:-
 - Upto 15% below rate over advertised cost Nil
 - 15% to 20% below rate over advertised cost 5% of quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
 - 20% to 25% below rate over advertised cost 10% of quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
 - 25% to 30% below rate over advertised cost 15% of quoted cost in shape of CDR/FDR.
 - Below 30% rate over advertised cost 20% in shape of CDR/FDR of quoted cost.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.

NO- DFO/PP/Act/Tender/2024-25/522-27
 DIPK-3746/24
 Dated:- 29-07-2024.

Sd/-
 Divisional Forest Officer,
 Pir Panjal Forest Division,
 Budgam.

Subject-Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name and style M/S" Sky Valley Tour & Travels" Situated at Noor Bagh Near Tehsil Office Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Mr/Ms Sabreena Wani S/O D/O W/O Abdul Raheem Wani R/O Noor Bagh, Srinagar Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for the Registration of my proposed Travel unit under the name and style "M/S Sky Valley Tour & Travels Situated at Noor Bagh Near Tehsil Office Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate Pan Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency/ Adventure tour operator. Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director: Tourism Registration (e-mail Id-directortourismkmr@gmail.com) within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of general public that I lost number plate of my vehicle bearing registration number JK 16B7968 somewhere. Now I am supposed to apply for digital number plate. In this regard if anyone has any sort of objections he/she may file the same in written or through verbal communications at the office of ARTO Ganderbal within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After the lapse considered period of time no objections shall be entertained.

From : Shakeela Begum
 W/O : Riyaz Ahmad Mir
 R/O : Sheikh Zoo Ganderbal

jm

PUBLIC NOTICE

Office Of The Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam.

Tele Fax. 01951-260-276 pin code 193401
 Notice for general public

It is hereby notified that the applicant namely Gulam-Mohd-Shah S/o Late Gulam Ahmad Shah R/o Narbal tehsil Narbal district budgma has applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his son namely Gulam -Mohd-Shah S/o Gulam Ahmad Shah . The applicant intends to register the DOB of his son as per school records / vaccination card 01-04-1958 If anybody is having any objection / Claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Narbal

bmg

NOTICE

The DOB of my daughter has been wrongly written in her school records a 1-01-2013 while her correct DOB is 01-01-2012 as per aahaar card which needs to be corrected, if anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may file his/her objection in the office of the KGB S.K Pora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained
 Tariq Ahmad Bhat
 F/o Aaqida Tariq
 R/o Kant Bagh Magam

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

Office Of The Executive Magistrate 1st Class Narbal District Budgam.

Tele Fax. 01951-260-276 pin code 193401
 Notice for general public

It is hereby notified that the applicant namely Gulam Malik S/o Gulam Mohammad Malik R/o lalorchak tehsil Narbal district budgma has applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his Daughter namely Zeenat Ara D/o Gulam Malik. The applicant intends to register the DOB of his son as per school records / vaccination card 08-02-2008 If anybody is having any objection / Claim regarding the same he/she may approach the office of undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate
 1st Class Narbal

bmg

از عدالت ایگزیکٹیو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول نارہ مل ضلع بدگام
 عنوان: درخواست منجانب جیلڈاکٹر مخترم غلام محمد آسانک نارہ مل تحصیل نارہ مل ضلع بدگام برادر اجرائی پوم فائنٹ سند تہمت سائل آسانک مرحوم والد
 اشتہار برادر آسانک ہر خاص و عام
 معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں دفتر ذکاواک ایک درخواست باہت حصول تاریخ وفات سرٹیفکیٹ موصول ہوئی ہیں۔ سائل آسانک تاریخ وفات سند حاصل کرنے کی خواہ ہے۔ سائل آسانک دعویٰ کرتی کرتا ہے کہ غلام محمد ولد غلام احمد آسانک نارہ مل کی تاریخ وفات 31-01-2015 سے اس نسبت ہر خاص و عام کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا اعتراض ساتیم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 نائب تحصیلدار
 bmg

Work On Balidan Stambh On in Double Shifts: CEO SSCL



Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The construction work on Balidaan Stambh or the martyr's memorial at Pratap Park in the heart of the city, according to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Srinagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL), Dr Ovais Ahmad is on in double shifts and is set to be finished by the deadline.

Dr Ovais, who is also the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), said SSCL has tasked multiple teams to finish the work on the Balidaan Stambh, foundation stone of which was laid by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on June 23 last year.

The SSCL project, he claimed, is being built to its full potential in accordance with the current weather in Srinagar.

"We have tasked multiple teams, and the work is being done in double shifts (day and night), therefore we cannot expect the project to go as quickly as it is now. The work on this project is in full swing and will be finished by the deadline," he told reporters during his visit to Pratap Park to review the progress on the under construction project.

He also said the SSCL is trying its level best to complete all the pending projects in Srinagar within the deadline.

Screening Camp For Hepatitis B & C Inaugurated At JLNM Hospital

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, today inaugurated Screening Camp for Hepatitis B & C at JLNM, Hospital, here to commemorate "World Hepatitis Day -2024".

Speaking on the occasion, MD, NHM, J&K gave a brief description about the severity of viral hepatitis and how it has become a major Public Health challenge which needs to be redressed at all levels. The MD also gave a brief description about the Seroprevalence of Hepatitis B&C in the UT of J&K and showed his concern as J&K is having a high Hepatitis- C Seroprevalence/ Seropositivity i.e. 34.89% in IDUs (Induced drug users) as compared to National Average (33.41%).

The MD stressed upon the medical fraternity to tackle this grave public health challenge of such huge magni-

tude with utmost dedication and generate mass awareness among the high risk categories like blood/organ donors/recipients, patients on haemodialysis, Pregnant Women, prisoners, Induced drug users (IDUs) etc.

The MD also spoke about the importance of strengthening of Regulatory bodies like National Level/ State Level/District Level for implementation of National Viral Hepatitis Control Program (NVHCP). He assured that a regular supply chain of medicines and testing materials will be maintained for ensuring proper treatment to the patients.

Various beneficiaries were also screened by the Department of Microbiology, JLNM, Hospital Srinagar during the camp.

Similar camps were organized by the NHM in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir across various districts of J&K.

Special Lok Adalat On Criminal Compoundable Cases On Aug 10th

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR, JULY 29: In compliance to Plan of Action formulated by J&K Legal Services Authority, UT of J&K, for amicable settlement of disputes the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar is going to organize a Special Lok Adalat for criminal compoundable cases on 10th of August, 2024.

The Lok Adalat is being held under the chairmanship of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (PDJ) Srinagar, at District Court Srinagar and also at Addl. Spl. Mobile Magistrate (13th FC) Panthachowk.

In this connection, all the Ld. Judicial Officers have



been instructed to identify the criminal compoundable cases for the said special Lok Adalat beforehand and submit the list of the same cases to DLSA Srinagar by or before 05 August, 2024.

Ld. Advocates/litigants who are interested to settle their dispute in the said Lok Adalat are directed to approach the concerned courts immediately so that their cases shall be listed for amicable settlement in the Lok Adalat.



AFTER DAYS OF INTENSE HEAT WAVE, Srinagar received much-needed rainfall on Monday.

KO PHOT, ABID BHAT.

DAL LAKE 'SUICIDE' CASE

Husband Likely To Be Booked On 'Abetment Of Suicide' Charges

Majid Nabi

SRINAGAR: The suicidal deaths of a lady and her two minor children, whose dead bodies were recovered from Dal Lake on Saturday last, is expected to lead the police to initiate proceedings under 'abetment of suicide' against the husband of the deceased.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that 'strained' relationship with husband might have 'provoked' the deceased to commit suicide along with her two minor kids in Dal Lake on Saturday last.

The dead bodies of a woman and her two minor children, including a 3-years-old girl and 4-years-old boy were recovered from Dal Lake at Fore-Shore near Eco Park by the police on July 27 (Saturday).

Identified as 24-years-old Zahida Begum, wife of Mohammad Hussain Sheikh, according to CCTV analysis, tossed her two minor children, Muhammad Sahil and Nahida Kousar, into the Dal Lake before ending her own life.

The deceased, they said, were hailing from Dugga village of Arnas block in Reasi district and were living in a rented room at Shatta Mohalla Shalimar in Srinagar. The



marital life of the deceased with her husband, according to the preliminary findings, was not cordial, and the two were often engaging in heated arguments.

Police, sources said, have initiated findings under section 174 CrPC at police station Nigean in this regard, and the husband of the deceased, Mohammad Hussain Sheikh, a laborer has been taken into custody as

part of the investigation. Nonetheless, it has been confirmed that the deaths occurred due to suicide and not a murder. Sources said preliminary investigation into the instant matter has revealed that the deceased's relationship with her husband was strained, which might have forced her to take an extreme step. They said the police may initiate proceedings under section 306 IPC (abetment of suicide) and section 125 Domestic Violence, against the husband, in case it was found that he was committing cruelty upon her wife, forcing her to commit a suicide along with her minor children.

The dead bodies of the deceased woman and her two minor kids were recovered around 6: 30 by the police on Saturday evening.

POLICE, SOURCES SAID, HAVE INITIATED FINDINGS UNDER SECTION 174 CrPC at police station Nigean in this regard, and the husband of the deceased, Mohammad Hussain Sheikh, a laborer has been taken into custody as part of the investigation.

J&K Handicapped Association Protests In Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Handicapped Association staged a protest at Press Colony in Srinagar on Monday, demanding fulfillment of their budgetary and welfare demands.

The protesters, consisting of physically challenged individuals, voiced their concerns over the government's inaction regarding their long-pending requests.

The protesters, according to news agency-KNO, highlighted their primary concerns, including the immediate release of pending pensions, delayed since March 2023, and a special recruitment drive for qualified disabled persons.

They added that the association,



formed in 2000 under Article VI of the 1993 Act, presented a comprehensive list of demands, which include the immediate release of pending pensions, delayed since March 2023, and a special recruitment drive for qualified disabled persons. They had also called for an in-

crease in the monthly pension from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 and the implementation of vertical reservation for persons with disabilities in all government jobs.

However, they said that their demands have fallen into deaf ears, thereby leaving them to lurch at large.

DC Srinagar Felicitates International Delhi Public School Students

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: International Delhi Public School Srinagar today celebrated the Graduation of its primary students, marking a significant milestone in the young students' educational journey, filled with joy, achievements, and heartfelt memories.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who was chief guest on the occasion, presented a keynote address. He encouraged the graduates to continue their educational pursuits with the same passion and determination, and adopt



new technologies to evolve with changing times. Dr Bilal deliberated on Digital divide, Mental health being, Global perspective (climate change & inequality) and Focus on lifelong

learning by means of upgrading skills continuously (adaptability in the education system).

He also talked about Emotional & social skills - Emotional intelligence, Ethics and responsibility-implication of decisions in digital life and Role of Teachers dynamic from transmitters to facilitators.

Earlier, the ceremony commenced with a warm welcome from Sheema Manzoor, the School Principal who acknowledged the hard work and dedication of both the Students and the Faculty members.

The event featured a variety of performances by the students, including songs, zumba, and mar-

tial art programs highlighting the growth and learning journey of students. Proud parents and teachers watched as the students confidently showcased their talents and creativity.

The other dignitaries present in the event were Bilal Parray; Chairman JK Development Foundation; former Chief Justice, BK Khan; SP Hazratbal, Hilal Ahmad Khan; Chairman CET, Chowdhary Mohammad Showkat and SHO Zakura.

Addressing students, Chairman CET stated that this is just the beginning of your educational journey. Always stay curious and never stop learning.

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS	
FAJR	4:03
ZUHR	12:37
ASR	5:32
Magrib	7:37
ISHA	9:10

This Day In History

- 1946 - 1st rocket attains 100 mi (167 km) altitude, White Sands, NM
- 1949 - British warship HMS Amethyst escapes down Yangtze River, having been refused a safe passage by Chinese Communists after 3-month standoff
- 1966 - US airplanes bombs demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 1971 - Japanese Boeing 727 collides with an F-86 fighter killing 162
- 1971 - US Apollo 15 (Scott & Irwin) lands on Mare Imbrium on the Moon
- 1975 - Murtala Mohammed overthrows General Gowon to become Nigerian Head of State
- 1980 - Vanuatu (New Hebrides) gains independence from Britain & France
- 1985 - Discovery moves to Vandenberg AFB for mating of STS 51-L mission
- 1990 - The first Saturn automobile rolls off the assembly line.
- 2006 - World's longest running music show Top of the Pops is broadcast for the last time on BBC Two. The show had aired for 42 years.
- 2012 - Train fire kills 32 and injures 27 people in Andhra Pradesh, India
- 2012 - Indian power grid failure leaves over 300 million without electricity
- 2013 - 28 people are killed in a series of bombings in Kano, Nigeria

From KO Archives

School Girl Assaulted, Slaughtered In Langate Village

Police suspect criminal assault, hunting three perpetrators

SRINAGAR- In a ghastly incident, a school girl was criminally assaulted by three unknown assailants in the outskirts of Langate on Friday, and then mercilessly slaughtered in a bid to avoid identification (of the criminals). The enormity of the crime sent waves of shock through the area and thousands of people took to the streets in violent demonstrations.

The victim had, as usual, left her home in Batpora this morning for the 4 km trek to the Uqaab Public School in Langate where she studied in class 8.

It being Friday, school was over at 1:30 p.m., and she and two of her friends headed home through what the villagers call, the Wudiar route.

From what could later be pieced together from her friends account, they were suddenly waylaid by three persons who tried to grab the victim.

The two friends fled from the spot terrified and weeping, and out of fear did not say anything at home about their school-mate. But when pressed by the family of the missing girl, out poured the story that created alarm in the entire neighbourhood.

Search parties made up of the victim's family and their neighbours immediately set out for the track the girls had taken on their way home, and came across one of her shoes.

With fears of the worst mounting, the villagers found the girl's uniform, and shortly after came upon a body hastily hidden beneath clay and bushes of hay.

A villager, Ghulam Muhammad, said that the searchers were shocked to find that the throat of the victim had been slit, and her uniform, school bag, shoes and other belongings had been dumped some distance away from the "grave."

The Handwara police were informed about the gruesome incident, and top officers of the force tried to take custody of the body. But by then the news had reached the village, and a large number of men and women came out in grief and headed towards the scene of the crime. The huge procession demanded the immediate arrest of the killers.

The Handwara police said that an autopsy would be carried out to find out the motive behind the killing. The police fears that the victim might have been criminally assaulted before being murdered because the body bore marks of violence, and was without any clothes when discovered.

The police said that a liquor bottle and a tumbler were found near the body.

Villagers from Batpora and adjoining areas held up traffic on the roads by pelting stones on passing vehicles but dispersed late in the evening, when the additional deputy commissioner Handwara, Basheer Ahmad Wani visited the area and assured people of thorough probe into the crime.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 July, 2007)

Maduro Wins Third Term, Contradicting Exit Polls

Agencies

CARACASE: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has won a third term with 51 percent of the vote, the country's electoral authority said just after midnight on Monday, despite multiple exit polls which pointed to an opposition win.

The authority said opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez won 44 percent of the vote, though the opposition had earlier said it had "reasons to celebrate" and asked supporters to continue moni-



toring vote counts.

Maduro, appearing at the presidential palace before cheering supporters, said his reelection is a triumph of peace and stability and reiterated his campaign trail assertion that Venezuela's electoral system is transparent.

A poll from Edison Research, known for its polling of US elections, had predicted in an exit poll that Gonzalez would win 65 percent of the vote, while Maduro would win 31 percent.

Local firm Meganalisis

predicted a 65 percent vote for Gonzalez and just under 14 percent for Maduro.

About 80 percent of ballot boxes have been counted, said national electoral council (CNE) president Elvis Amoroso in a televised statement, adding results had been delayed because of an "aggression" against the electoral data transmission system.

The CNE has asked the attorney general to investigate the "terrorist actions" Amoroso said, adding participation was 59 percent.

The opposition had earlier said voters had chosen a change after 25 years of socialist party rule.

"The results cannot be hidden. The country has peacefully chosen a change," Gonzalez said in a post on X at around 11 p.m. local time, before the results were announced.

Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado reiterated a call for the country's military to uphold the results of the vote.

"A message for the military. The people of Venezuela have spoken: they don't want Maduro," she said earlier on X. "It is time to put yourselves on the right side of history. You have a chance and it's now."

Venezuela's military has always supported Maduro, a 61-year-old former bus driver and foreign minister, and there have been no public signs that leaders of the armed forces are breaking from the government.



45 Killed As Tribal Feud Sparks Sectarian Fighting In Pakistan

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: At least forty five people have died and over hundred wounded in Pakistan's lawless north-western frontier area where a small tribe is trying to break a seven day long siege imposed by armed groups, some of whom have crossed over from neighbouring Afghanistan, news reports said on Monday.

Official and local sources said that the land dispute between two tribes — Shia Malikhel and Sunni Mangal of Madaki Kali in Boshetra village — turned deadly, spreading over to the whole Kurram district.

The fighting between the two sides began on Wednesday, when a gunman opened fire at a council negotiating a decades-long dispute over farmland, local police official Murtaza Hussain said.

Rival tribes in villages including Boshetra, Malikhel, Dand, Pekar, Tari Mangal, Mughal, Kunj Alizai, Nastikot, Para Chamkani, Karman, Khar Kalai, Sangina and Balishkhel joined in and began targeting each others villages with small and medium range weapons including rocket launchers, mortars and small range missiles.

Hospital sources in Kurram

Agency headquarter, Parachinar said that the district hospital had received 31 dead bodies and around 150 injured by Sunday evening.

They said that the casualties might be higher as they were unable to confirm the dead and injured that have received the hospitals in Satta, as there is no official number available to confirm the overall death toll.

Since the single road linking Parachinar with the rest of the country is closed for almost a week now, there is a serious shortage of essential items, medicines, fuel and other commodities. A resident said over phone that the district hospital of Parachinar was flooded with the injured while the only health facility was running short of life saving medicines.

The trouble erupted after a land feud between rival tribes spilled over into sectarian fighting with both sides using machine guns and mortars.

While no one was wounded in that attack, Hussain said it reignited longstanding religious tensions between the clans who live side-by-side in the district of Kurram on the border with Afghanistan.

"Initially a land dispute, the issue has now escalated into sectarian violence," Hussain told

AFP, confirming the conflict "claimed 45 lives" so far.

"The conflict, now in its fifth day, has escalated into a sectarian dispute with the arrival of extremist groups, like those sympathetic to Tehrik-e-Taliban from neighbouring areas," one report said. "All attempts to resolve the conflict have failed."

A government official said the Shia tribe has "suffered most" in the conflict, with 30 of those killed from the tribe.

A police source said both sides were using automatic weapons and mortars in fighting focussed around the town of Parachinar, which had been blocked by law enforcement.

"Initially the elders of the Sunni-populated areas gathered in the village of Bushehreh and approached the Shia elders of Parachinar to resolve their differences by holding a peace jirga (peace meeting)", according to a report by IWN news agency.

"However the interference and violence by Pakistani-Afghan Takfiri armed groups has turned this land dispute into a deadly sectarian feud", it added. It further said the situation aggravated after several Shia residents, including a child, were abducted and beheaded by the extremist groups.

Fifth Indian Killed Fighting In Ukraine For Russia

Agencies

New Delhi: Hundreds of Indians are among the thousands of foreign soldiers Moscow is believed to have hired to bolster its forces

An Indian soldier died fighting with Russian forces in Ukraine, one of his relatives said Monday, the fifth confirmed death so far of an Indian citizen in the conflict.

Hundreds of Indians are among the thousands of foreign soldiers Moscow is believed to have hired to bolster its forces, and New Delhi has urged their repatriation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow this month and was "given assurance" to that effect, India's foreign ministry said.

Ravi Moun, 22, went to Russia in January after he was promised a job in transport by a private recruitment agent, his brother Ajay told AFP by phone.

But he was later given weapons training and forced to join fighting on the frontier with Ukraine in March.

"After losing contact with him, I approached the Indian embassy in Moscow and they informed us that my brother has died," Ajay said, adding the family was asked by the embassy to send DNA samples to identify Moun's body.

Ajay said his brother had returned from the frontier once, but was later taken to fight again.

It was unclear when he had died.

"We lost contact with him after that," Ajay said, adding that his family had appealed for help from Modi to bring Moun's body back.

More than two years since Russia's invasion began, tens of thousands of its soldiers have been killed in Ukraine, and Moscow has been on a global quest for more troops.

India's foreign ministry said last week that the government was still working with Russian authorities to bring back around 50 Indians fighting alongside the Russian army.

Four other Indian soldiers have died so far this year, according to local media reports.

Indian authorities have arrested several people accused of trafficking citizens of the country to fight for the Russian army after promising them non-combatant roles.

Unemployment remains high in India despite rapid economic growth and huge numbers seek work abroad each year.

That includes thousands who had sought employment in Israel after labor shortages sparked by the war against Palestinian militants in Gaza.

India is a longstanding ally of Russia and has shied away from explicit condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine.

Modi said he had discussed the conflict "openly and in detail" during his meeting with Putin this month, calling for peaceful dialogue and adding that "war cannot solve problems."

Will Action Be Taken Against "Coaching Centre Mafia"? Centre's Reply

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The government issued guidelines on the regulation of coaching centers in January this year, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed Lok Sabha on Monday, even as he evaded a direct reply to a question on the death of three IAS aspirants in Delhi due to flooding.

During the Question Hour, Congress MP KC Venugopal mentioned the death of the three students and said the institute had no approved building.

"Without an approved building, without any facility, some of the coaching centers become mafia... is the government going to take any action?" he said. Mr Venugopal also raised concerns about students' suicides.

Quoting information provided by the ministry in an earlier written reply, he said that between 2018-2022, around 80 students committed suicide in top-ranking institutions like IITs and IIMs, adding that caste discrimination is a major reason behind it. In his response, Mr Pradhan said, "The member has raised a question which is not related to the question put today."

"But I like to assure the House through you, this government is committed to total socio-psychological and mental protection of all students, whether they are studying in a coaching center, in an institution, school education or higher education," he said.

He said exhaustive and detailed guidelines on coaching centers were issued to all states in January, 2024.

"Some states also have regulations, like Rajasthan, Bihar, Goa. They have their own regulations to look into the matter," he said.

"Regarding the protection, this is a socio-psychological issue. We all have to take care. This is not an issue to be dealt with through only allegations and answers," he said.

Three civil services aspirants died on Saturday after the basement of a building housing a coaching centre in central Delhi's Old Rajinder Nagar area was flooded following heavy rains. In his reply to another question, Mr Pradhan dismissed that India was witnessing "brain-drain" with students going abroad for higher education. The students who go outside have made the country proud, he said.

In Loud Message To China, Quad Says No Country Should "Dominate" Others

Press Trust Of India

Tokyo: In a loud and clear message to China, the Quad on Monday reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, vowing to work towards a region where no country dominates others and each state is free from coercion in all its forms.

At a meeting here, the foreign ministers of the Quad countries called for upholding the free and open rules-based international order and respecting the principle of freedom, human rights, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations.

Without directly naming China, the four foreign ministers expressed serious concern over the situation in the East and South China Seas and reiterated the Quad's strong opposition to

any "unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion." The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Australia's Penny Wong.

"All countries have a role in contributing to regional peace, stability, and prosperity while seeking a region in which no country dominates and no country is dominated, competition is managed responsibly, and each country is free from coercion in all its forms and can exercise its agency to determine its own future," the ministers said in the statement.

The Quad also vowed to work towards a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific, a region that has seen increasing Chinese military muscle-flexing in the

last few years.

"We reaffirm the Quad's steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific, which is inclusive and resilient, and are united in our commitment to upholding the free and open rules-based international order, with its strong support for the principle of freedom, human rights, the rule of law, democratic values, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and peaceful settlement of disputes," the ministers said.

The ministers also referred to increasing Chinese manoeuvres in the South China Sea, especially the "dangerous use" of coast guard and maritime militia vessels.

"We continue to express our serious concern about the militarisation of disputed features, and coercive and intimidating manoeuvres in the South China Sea," the joint statement said.

High Court Sets Aside Afzal Ansari's Conviction. He Can Continue As MP

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Monday set aside a Ghazipur court order sentencing Samajwadi Party MP Afzal Ansari to four years' imprisonment under the Gangsters Act over the murder of BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai in 2005.

With Justice S K Singh allowing his plea against the conviction, the SP MP can now continue as a member of Parliament.

The court also dismissed pleas by the UP government and Piyush Kumar Rai, Krishnanand Rai's son, seeking enhancement of the Ghazipur MP's sentence.

An MP-MLA court in Ghazipur had on April 29,



2023, convicted Afzal Ansari and sentenced him to four years in jail and imposed a fine of 1 lakh in the Gangsters Act case.

Following this, Afzal Ansari was disqualified as an MP. He then filed a criminal appeal before the high court.

According to the Representation of the People Act,

any MP or state legislator sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more is disqualified "from the date of such conviction" and remains disqualified for another six years after serving time.

On July 24, 2023, the high court granted bail to the five-time MLA and two-time MP but declined to stay his conviction in the case. As a result, though Afzal Ansari was released from jail, his membership of Parliament was not restored.

However, later the Supreme Court stayed his conviction. His membership of Parliament was thus restored, and he also became eligible to contest the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Islamabad: In yet another cross-border love story, a 25-year-old Pakistani woman crossed the international border last week to join a man from Rajasthan, whom she had befriended on a social media platform and later got married to.

It was after the failure of her first marriage in 2018 that Mehvish, who resides in Islamabad, befriended Rehman who hailed from Rajasthan's Bikaner district and was working as a transporter in Kuwait.

After several interactions on social media, the two fell in love with each other, leading to a marriage proposal on March 13, 2022 and "marriage via videoconference" three

Pak Woman Crosses Border To Meet Rajasthan Lover, Marries Him On Video Call



days later.

Later, both had a formal, in-person marriage ceremony during Mehvish's Umrah pilgrimage to Mecca in 2023.

Mehvish was previously married for 12 years to a Pakistani man from Lahore's Badami Bagh and had two sons, aged 12 and 7, from the long

relationship. In 2018, both decided to part ways.

It was after her divorce that she befriended Rehman and later got married, first via video conference and then in-person during a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Sources say that Mehvish travelled from Islamabad to La-

hore and crossed over into India through the Wagah border on July 25. She has obtained a 45-day tourist visa after a thorough document checking done by both Pakistani and the Indian authorities.

Mehvish was received by Rehman's family and travelled to Pithisar village in Rajasthan's Churu along with them.

The latest cross-border love story adds on to a list of such episodes where men and women from India and Pakistan have made long and eventful journeys to be with their lovers.

The most famous recent case was of Seema Haider who had left her husband and crossed the border into India to meet and marry her lover.

Shopian Records 20 Percent Surge In Apple Production



Agencies

SRINAGAR: South Kashmir's Shopian has recorded a 20 percent surge in apple production last year, thanks to the upgradation of infrastructure by the government.

As per the economic survey 2023-24, apple production in Shopian has increased 20 percent last year especially after the government built pack sheds and irrigation arteries for the growers.

The enhancement in the production happened within a year after the Central government approved an "Apple Cluster" for Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district under the Cluster Development Programme.

The Shopian apple cluster envisages development of Shopian apple on three verticals including pre-production, post-harvest management and value addition and logistics, marketing and branding to make it globally competitive. The project is estimated to cost Rs 135.23 crore.

The growers credited the success to the government's initiatives taken under the apple cluster and One District One Product (ODOP).

"The granting of apple cluster status to Shopian district

proved beneficial for the growers in boosting their production. Apart from the existing ones, new apple orchards have come up in the district. Farming is being done on modern lines with proper guidance from the horticulture department," said Mohammad Amin Peer, President of Fruit Mandi Shopian.

He said the district is witnessing major apple plantations by the farmers, which subsequently improves the production in the district. The growers said there will be further improvement in the production in coming years. "We are going to witness a major upward trend in the production of Shopian apples. The quality of apples is also going to be even better as the new apple orchards are coming up with different and exotic varieties," Peer added.

To make the district a hub for exports, the Jammu and Kashmir administration last year enlisted Shopian apple among 75 products selected from 20 districts under the One District One Product Scheme for its huge potential for exports.

The government provided various facilities to the farmers including irrigation and cold storage to get better rates of the produce—(KNO)

Jammu Admin Orders Magisterial Probe Into Youth's Mysterious Death

Agencies

JAMMU: A 27-year-old man died under mysterious circumstances after he was allegedly beaten up by police, sparking protests by his relatives and neighbours here on Monday, official sources said.

Shubam Sharma, a resident of the Bantalab locality on the outskirts of Jammu, was playing cricket near his house when a police party raided the area in search of drug traffickers on Sunday evening, the sources said. Sharma's family alleged he was detained and severely beaten up by the cops before they left the spot.

He was rushed to hospital where he died, the family said, adding the body was lying at the hospital's mortuary for postmortem.

The family, relatives, and locals of the area this afternoon staged a protest alleging that

he had been 'murdered' and the culprits should be booked as per the law.

The protesters shouted anti-police slogans and demanded a probe into the matter besides a government job for one of the family members of the deceased along with compensation.

Senior police and administrative officers rushed to the spot to pacify the protesters and assured them a fair investigation into the incident.

The Jammu district administration, however, has ordered a magisterial probe and a post-mortem of the deceased by a board of doctors to ascertain the cause of the death.

"We have ordered a probe and will also look into the provision of compensation to the family as it was claimed that the deceased was the lone bread earner of the family," said a civil administration official on the spot—(KNO)

Drug Peddler Arrested In Budgam: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Jammu and Kashmir Police in Budgam on Monday said to have arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

"A police party of PP Soibugh at a checkpoint established near PP Soibugh intercepted a vehicle (Piaggio Auto) bearing registration number JK01AL-4083 driven by Hilal Ahmad Dagma son of Mohd Ramzan Dagma resi-

dent of Mahjoor Nagar Rose Line Colony Rambagh Sgr A/P Kenihama Nowgam Srinagar. During search, 14 Kgs of Poppy Straw were recovered from his possession. He has been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized," a police spokesman said in a statement.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 309/2024 under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Budgam and further investigation has been initiated.

8 Year Old Boy Dies After Falling From Swing

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An 8-year-old boy tragically died this evening after falling from a swing at tourist resort Tangmarg's Gogaldara village.

The boy, identified as Farhan Shafi, son of Nazir Ahmad Dar from Nasarpura Khag in Budgam district, was rushed to the hospital but could not be saved.

According to the news KNS the incident has cast a pall over

the popular resort, known for its scenic beauty and recreational facilities.

Farhan's family and friends have been left devastated by the tragedy, as they remember him as a lively and cheerful child.

Meanwhile, the local police are investigating the circumstances leading to the accident, while the local residents mourn the untimely loss of the young boy. (KNS)

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

'Rising Drug Use Leads To Spike In Hepatitis C Cases In Kashmir'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The rising use of drugs, particularly heroin, is leading to an increase in Hepatitis C cases in Jammu & Kashmir as approximately three out of four drug users in the region are Hepatitis C positive, recent data indicates.

An official from the Department of Psychiatry at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, said, "We screen every patient for Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and HIV. According to hospital-based studies, around 70 percent of drug users have tested positive for Hepatitis C."

The official said that injection drug use is prevalent among drug users, and the most common cause of Hepatitis C in this population is the sharing of needles. "Hepatitis C is a chronic disease and, if left untreated, can lead to chronic liver disease," he said, adding that the treatment requires expensive antiviral medications for 3-6 months, which places an additional burden on the families of drug users.

According to doctors, Hepatitis A is a viral liver disease primarily spread through the ingestion of contaminated food and water or direct contact with an infectious person. Unlike Hepatitis B, Hepatitis A does not cause chronic liver disease and is rarely fatal. However, it can cause debilitating symptoms and lead to acute liver failure, which can be fatal if untreated.

"Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can cause both acute and chronic disease," doctors explained. "The Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is transmitted through contact with the blood or other body fluids of an infected



person. Chronic Hepatitis B can lead to serious conditions like cirrhosis and liver cancer." Regarding Hepatitis C, doctors described it as a liver infection caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV), a blood-borne virus. They said it is most commonly spread through contact with blood from an infected person. The sharing of needles among drug users is a well-known transmission route for Hepatitis C, exacerbating the suffering of affected individuals and their families, they said.

The doctors warned that without treatment, Hepatitis C can be fatal. The disease often progresses without symptoms, potentially spreading silently to other family members and even being transmitted from an infected mother to her baby.

The doctors reiterated that needle sharing among drug users is the primary cause of Hepatitis C in Kashmir, with almost three out of four drug users affected. There is also a risk of these individuals contracting other infections, such as HIV, they added—(KNO)

Liver Transplant Facility In J&K Need Of The Hour, Say Doctors

Agencies

SRINAGAR: With an increasing number of liver failure cases and end-stage liver diseases in the valley, doctors here have called for the urgent need for liver transplantation facilities, which are currently unavailable in Jammu & Kashmir.

Doctors expressed concern over the rising incidence of hepatitis and fatty liver disease, which have led many patients to develop chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. They said establishing liver transplant facilities in J&K is crucial.

A doctor, speaking on condition of anonymity, "The lives of patients suffering from chronic liver disease can be saved, but in Kashmir, they continue to suffer with little hope of survival due to the absence of such facilities. Patients are dying for want of a liver transplant facility here."

The doctor added that there are hundreds of patients who cannot afford to travel outside Jammu & Kashmir for liver



transplants and, as a result, receive no treatment, which leads to inevitable death from progressive liver failure.

"There is a need for population-based screening to determine the extent of these diseases," the doctor continued. "Hepatitis B and C are common causes of cirrhosis or scarring of the liver, which can lead to liver failure and even cancer."

Another doctor said the region is facing an epidemic of hepatitis due to drug abuse, which not only increases the risk for users but also poses a risk to others through blood transfusions.

Lateef Ahmad Baba Takes Kashmiri Wazwan To Int'l Level

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Lateef Ahmad Baba, a prominent Kashmiri Waza (Chef), has not only mastered the art of Wazwan but has also taken it to international heights.

With a career that spans decades, Baba has become a symbol of Kashmiri hospitality and culture, enchanting food enthusiasts across the globe with his rich, traditional Wazwan dishes.

Baba said that he was born and raised in Srinagar, and that he was introduced to the intricate and labor-intensive cuisine of Wazwan at an early age.

"Wazwan, a multi-course meal, is central to Kashmiri culture, often served during weddings and significant events. Each dish in Wazwan requires meticulous preparation and a deep understanding of flavors and spices," he said.

Baba said that he is among the fourth generation from his family who is into this profession and that it was his elder brother, who advised him to take up this profession.

"We have a range of clients, and to meet the demands my brother advised me to join him and at a very early young stage of life, I started learning the Wazwan art," he said.

Baba, however says that in the 'Wazwan book' there are only seven dishes and that the extra additions of dishes is fading the



delicacy of original Wazwan.

He said his passion for cooking and dedication to preserving this culinary heritage set him on a path that would eventually make him a global ambassador of Kashmiri cuisine.

Baba, after exhibiting his cooking skills, soon caught the eye of food connoisseurs, and he was invited to showcase his expertise beyond the borders and oceans.

He said that one of his most notable international experiences was in Saudi Arabia and in Pakistan where he introduced the traditional Wazwan to a new audience, adding that he has served the Wazwan dishes to the cricket legends like Imran Khan and the West Indies team, who highlighted his versatility and the universal appeal of Kashmiri Wazwan.

"Serving these sports icons was an honour to me. I still re-

member when cricket greats like Imran Khan, Javid Mairan, V. Richards and other players from West Indies tasted Wazwan," he said.

Baba said that he ensured that each dish was a testament to the rich culinary traditions of Kashmir and the response he received was overwhelmingly positive.

"Many of the cricketers expressed their admiration for the food and the culture we presented," he added.

Baba says among his dishes, Rogan Josh, a fragrant lamb dish cooked in a blend of yogurt, garlic, and various spices, and Yakhni, a delicate yogurt-based mutton curry, Meethi are just a few examples of his masterpieces he creates.

"Each dish is a labor of love, reflecting the centuries-old traditions of Kashmiri cooking," says Baba—(KNO)

Candlelight Vigil For Parachinar Victims At Zadibal, Budgam



Syed Mohammad Burhan

SRINAGAR: A candlelight vigil was held at several places in Kashmir Valley Monday evening in solidarity with the Muslims in Parachinar, Pakistan who have been under attack for the past several days.

The vigil was organized at Imambargah Zadibal and Budgam and was attended by people from various areas who gathered to express solidarity with the victims and their families.

Participants raised slogans in favor of the slain and held candles and placards, demanding justice for those under siege.

Addressing the gathering at Zadibal Aga Syed Adeel condemned the killings and urged the international community

to notice the atrocities committed against Shia Muslims in Pakistan.

"It is sad to see that the killings are being ignored by the international community. People in Parachinar are oppressed just like people in Palestine but no one is raising voice against their killings. Are they sons of a lesser God?" Adeel questioned.

"We are against injustice against anyone regardless of their faith," he added.

Late night protests also erupted at Budgam, where protesters marched from Imambargah Budgam to Masjid-e-Sahib-e-Zaman, calling for an end to violence against the Shia minority in Pakistan.

The vigil concluded with a prayer for the victims.

KPDCL's Load Revision To Focus More On High Value Consumers In Flat-Rate Areas

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In order to check power pilferage and bring down losses in unmetered flat-rate areas, Kashmir DISCOM is conducting calibrated load rationalization, based on actual electricity usage by the domestic consumers.

Strict directions have also been given to all Electric Subdivisions to carry out door-to-door inspections, focusing particularly on high value consumers, whose agreed load is significantly lower than actual consumption.

In a press statement issued here today, a Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) spokesperson stated that under the flagship Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of Government of India, IT network and smart metering projects are being implemented to bring about a complete turnaround in the power sector, with ultimate goal of providing uninterrupted and affordable power supply to its consumers.

"All 13 packages related to loss reduction works are in progress in 10 districts of Kashmir Division under which DT substations and LT-AB cables are being laid," he said, while

urging consumers to facilitate the executing agencies in laying of new distribution infrastructure and upgradation of existing infrastructure in a hassle-free manner.

There have been reports where manpower of the executing agencies has been physically assaulted for laying of LT-AB cable and removal of bare conductor. "Complaints of physical assault have been received from parts of Srinagar city, Ganderbal, Kupwara & Budgam districts," he said, adding these are resolved with active support and facilitation extended by District & Police administrations.

Urging the consumers to not confuse load calibration with tariff hike which falls entirely within the domain of Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission, the spokesman stated that loads of consumers are being revised based on actual consumption patterns. "In several instances, the agreed load of the consumer is much lower than the actual consumption," he added.

Decks have also been cleared for smart metering of flat-rated consumers, which shall empower them with better control over their budget and real-time monitoring of consumption patterns—(KNO)

Trekker Dies, Companion Rescued Amid Heavy Rains In Tangmarg

Agencies

BARAMULLA: A man died, and another was rescued after they got stuck amid heavy rains in the upper reaches of Tangmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, on Monday.

Reports said the duo went trekking in the upper reaches of Tangmarg, where they became stranded amid heavy rains. "One person died, while the other, who was injured, was later rescued and has been

shifted to a hospital for treatment," the reports added.

The deceased has been identified as Sahil Shabir Lone son of Shabir Ahmad Lone of Pariswani. Legal formalities for his body are being completed, after which it will be handed over to his relatives for the last rites.

Notably, after a prolonged heat wave, parts of Kashmir have been lashed by heavy rains since last night, bringing relief from the heat(KNS).

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Dr Ajaz Ahmad Shah F/o Hamiz Ajaz class 9th at Tyndal Biscoo School Srinagar want to correct the particulars of my ward in school records, Father's name from Dr Aijaz Shah to Dr Ajaz Ahmad Shah and Mother's name from Ruqaiya to Ruqaya Amin. Anybody have objection may contact the Principal of the said school within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection will be entertained.

Dr Ajaz Ahmad Shah
F/o Hamiz Ajaz
Contact No: 9419014474

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Tuesday | 30-07-2024

Heatwave ebbs, may return

Rain on Monday brought a momentary relief to the Valley with temperatures dipping a bit from their record highs. Hopefully from hereon, the heatwave may subside. In July, the Valley experienced the highest recorded temperatures. On Sunday, Srinagar city recorded a high of 36.2 degrees Celsius, hottest July day since July 9, 1999, when the mercury had settled at 37 degree Celsius. Historically, the hottest day was recorded on July 10, 1946 when the day temperature rose to 38.3 degree Celsius.

The ongoing heatwave in the Valley and elsewhere in the world, according to environmentalists, owes itself to climate change. And with recurrent heatwaves sweeping the once one of the picturesque regions of the world, the consequences of the changing weather are becoming starker by the day. Agriculture and horticulture have borne the brunt of the water scarcity and drought-like conditions. The potable water supply too has been badly affected due to the depleting discharge in river Jhelum, and other major water bodies. Also, this year, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a 27 percent deficiency in rainfall this year.

Although climate change is a global phenomenon, Kashmir has become its microcosm. It is mirrored in the fragile ecosystem of the region. From erratic weather patterns to heatwaves, Kashmir has been experiencing the same changes as on the global level. The changes are not mere aberrations but harbingers of a dire future if immediate actions are not taken.

For example, one of the victims of climate change has been the Valley's apple and saffron production, which have suffered irreparable damage due to soaring temperatures, causing significant economic repercussions.

On a bigger scale and which has consequences beyond the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir, the rising temperatures have led to a rapid retreat of glaciers. Over the past six decades, Jammu and Kashmir has seen a staggering 25 percent reduction in glacier size, a trend exacerbated by the looming threat of climate change. If left unchecked, 48 percent of these vital sources of water could vanish by the end of the century.

While the immediate focus is on dealing with the imminent heatwave, it is also essential to recognize the broader implications of such extreme weather events in the context of climate change. The increasing frequency and intensity of heatwaves are a stark reminder of the urgent need to take decisive global action to mitigate the effects of climate change. We also need to recognize its impact on the vulnerable regions like Kashmir. But it may take decades before the world is able to sufficiently reign in the factors which are contributing to the disruption in the climate. As continuing heatwaves show, the world needs to quickly get its act together before it is too late. And at a smaller level in our region, the authorities have to take steps to ensure that our fragile environment is protected from the increasing human encroachment.



Protests in Ladakh's Leh to demand Sixth Schedule for the region. 3-02-2024

25 years After Kargil

Kashmir has changed beyond recognition since the three-month long conflict that nearly brought the two countries to the verge of an all-out war

RIYAZ WANI

“As for New Delhi, it has not given even a remote indication that it was ready for an engagement with Islamabad. Speaking in Kargil on Vijay Divas, prime minister Narendra Modi said that Pakistan had learnt nothing from history and continued to sponsor violence in Kashmir. As was expected, he offered no olive branch

A quarter of a century after the Kargil war, the situation in Kashmir has come a long way. Although militancy survives in one or another form, so much else has altered, not just in Kashmir but also between India and Pakistan. For one, Kashmir street is now silent, sometimes eerily so. There are no longer any anti-New Delhi protests, hartals or stone-throwing. Separatist politics has been all but wound up. What is more, Jamaat-i-Islami is now raring to contest elections. It is true that these changes are more recent and came about following the revocation of J&K's special status in August 2019, but Kargil war holds its own significance in the annals of decades-long Indo-Pak confrontation over Kashmir. It remains the last time Pakistan tried to wrest Kashmir directly by force but things didn't work out according to the plan and it had to retreat within three months into the conflict.

General Parvez Musharraf, believed to be the architect of Kargil, took over Pakistan in a subsequent coup which deposed the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif. Although initially he maintained a tough stance on dialogue with India, seeking implementation of the United Nations Resolution on Kashmir, the general's stance changed following 9/11. Overnight shift in the regional geo-strategic scenario forced him to explore pragmatic options for the settlement of disputes with New Delhi. He still made Kashmir a focal issue but was willing to give up his country's historical position on the region for a negotiated settlement of the dispute. His four point proposals envisaged a solution where Kashmiris across LoC would have substantial autonomy in governing their respective parts of the state and be free to trade and travel without a radical change in the border between them. Where he went beyond the scope of autonomy and self rule was in calling for a joint

management of Kashmir by India and Pakistan. What followed was a phase of perhaps the most promising engagement between the two countries, particularly the period through 2003-07, that saw the two countries coming tantalizingly close to pulling off an "out-of-box" Kashmir solution. But the lawyer's agitation followed by Musharraf's unexpected exit in 2008, put an end to this process. Mumbai attack followed in the same year, plunging the relations between the two to a new low.

It was actually Atal Bihari Vajpayee who had begun the promising negotiations with Musharraf, which were later followed up by Manmohan Singh. During this phase, Kashmir witnessed a progressive decline in militancy, an ironic about-turn from the architect of Kargil war. The militant killings went from 961 in 2004 to just 100 in 2013. What is more, it was during this period in 2002 that ceasefire was instituted along the Line of Control. And it was this truce that India and Pakistan reaffirmed in February 2021. In a sense, one feature of the current uneasy calm between the two neighbours harks back to that era.

However, a lot has happened since then. The dynamics that made the engagement possible at the time no longer exist. Several new factors are at play in the regional geo-politics and in the relations between the two countries that have made it increasingly difficult to go back to the formula. The biggest change that has since taken place is the withdrawal of Article 370, which granted J&K its semi-autonomous position within the Indian Union, and the splitting of the former state into two union territories. This, from New Delhi's point of view, has more or less ended Kashmir as an issue between India and Pakistan. India has now changed its goalpost. It seeks return of the part of Kashmir under the jurisdiction of Pakistan. And it is loath to even resume dialogue with Is-

lamabad except on its own terms. And Pakistan's response to this so far shows that the country is in no position to challenge India's altered stance on Kashmir. While Islamabad may not have reconciled to the constitutional changes in the region it claims, the country has now kind of gotten used to the new state of affairs.

It is now difficult to believe that immediately after the Kargil war, when the peace process between India and Pakistan was in full gear, billboards featuring Musharraf and Manmohan Singh's images were up all around Srinagar. Then it was seen as the right thing to do. Musharraf had made a dedicated effort to seek a lasting peace with India by finding what he then fondly called "out-of-box solution" to Kashmir. He sought to achieve this through unilateral flexibility - subsequently reciprocated by New Delhi - only to end up nowhere.

But in all other features, we have moved on from this time. Since then, Pakistan has become a weaker country and has also lost much of its bargaining power on Kashmir. And going by the words of its prime minister Shabbaz Sharif in 2022, Pakistan immediately after withdrawal of Article 370 was bargaining for a plan to freeze the Kashmir issue for 20 years, reportedly in lieu of trade with India. As for New Delhi, it has not given even a remote indication that it was ready for an engagement with Islamabad. Speaking in Kargil on Vijay Divas, prime minister Narendra Modi said that Pakistan had learnt nothing from history and continued to sponsor violence in Kashmir. As was expected, he offered no olive branch.

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

The author is the Political Editor at Kashmir Observer



Did you know?

Investing Early Leads to Financial Freedom

Irshad Mushtaq

Investing early is the key to financial freedom. Don't rely solely on working hours; make your money work for you through smart investments. Start building your wealth now to secure a prosperous future.

In today's fast-paced world, the question of whether our wealth stems from working hours or investments looms large. Understanding this distinction is crucial as we navigate our financial journey.

The essence of wealth creation lies not just in the hours we labor but in our investment strategies. The initial step is to establish robust saving and investment habits early in life. This groundwork is essential for financial success.

Decision-making plays a pivotal role. The ability to make informed financial decisions requires education, practice, responsibility, maturity, and a clear vision. It's not merely about working longer hours; it's about making strategic choices. This skill set helps in fostering a mindset geared towards earning and growing money.

Developing saving and investment habits early can seem daunting. It's often overlooked because youth typically lack the vision to foresee future benefits. However, starting early leverages the power of compound interest, a foundational principle in wealth accumulation.

Investing wisely is more crucial than ever. Understanding the growth potential of your money means you control your financial future. Many people don't grasp the importance of investing and, consequently, fail to harness the full potential of their income.

Successful professionals and financially savvy individuals realize that investments should work for them—not the other way around. They spend time researching and making informed decisions about shares, funds, and mutual funds. This approach allows money to grow passively, reducing the need for prolonged working hours.

In contrast, relying solely on labor hours has its limitations. No matter how much time you invest in work, income caps out. Realizing the importance of investments is often a late discovery; by then, regrets about lost time are common. Therefore, integrating a habit of financial literacy early on is paramount.

To truly unlock financial freedom, one must cultivate an early interest in financial education. Learning and understanding concepts related to savings and investments can vastly improve decision-making skills and financial acumen.

In essence, the road to wealth and financial independence is paved with informed investments and strategic financial planning. Start early, stay educated, and watch your wealth grow as your investments begin to work for you.

Learn from the insights of writer, investor, entrepreneur and founder of MI Securities & business partner of Sharekhan Srinagar. Reach



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Youth Focused Budget

As per economic survey 2023-24, only 51.25% of the youth are considered employable, but shockingly it also stated that half of Indian graduates are still unemployable due to lack of necessary skills. This alarming trend highlights a critical gap between academic education and industry-required skills. To address this, Sitharaman's

seventh consecutive budget outlined several initiatives aimed at job creation and skill enhancement. The government has allocated 2 Lac cr. to aiming to benefit 4.1 cr. youth over the next five years. Key highlights of the employment-linked incentive schemes includes one month's wages to new entrants in the formal sector, paid in three installments upto

15k. which is expected to benefit 2.1 cr. youth. Additionally, the government will link first-time employees and employers to the EPFO, reimbursing employer contributions up to 3,000 per month for new hires, potentially generating 50 lakh more jobs. 20 lakh youth will receive training over five years. 1,000 industrial training institutes will be upgraded

with modern facilities and course content will be aligned with industry needs under PM Packages for skilling scheme. These initiatives aim to foster inclusive growth and bridge the gap between education and the skills demanded by industries, ensuring a brighter future for India's youth.

Jyoti Goswami

The Simmering Valley

Mushtaq Hurra

Kashmir is simmering with sweltering and scorching heat, sultry currents of humid air are taking a toll on our health and business. Roads and markets bear a deserted look during the peak hours of the day. People avoid leaving their homes and places of work albeit exigencies. Even hill stations are unpleasantly warm. Everything seems to be on fire. Every soul is scalded, as the sun is blazingly barraging waves of vicious cannonade of fire. Creatures of Allah SWT are craving for a soothing breeze and rain of mercy. Water levels have drastically gone down in wells, springs, rivulets, streams and other water bodies. The unpleasant soar in mercury is wreaking havoc on our agriculture and horticulture. Immense water scarcity is perturbing farmers because standing crops are shriveling and withering for insufficient irrigation. Commoners are irked with dwindling amounts of drinking water, which consequently leads to protests and confrontations. The prolonged dry spell coupled with torrid conditions, is about to unfold a crisis of big magnitude upon us.

Kashmir - A land known for its frozen winters, pleasantly hot summers and mildly warm springs and autumns, is now steaming awfully. Temperature has exceeded normal levels. People are worried about the extreme weather events like heat waves and prolonged dry spells. Dehydration related ailments are frequently reported from most of the hospitals. It is not all about sweating. The harsh weather is sure to cause drastic climatic changes. A possible drought, species extinction, drinking water scarcity, political instability in the region and loss of livelihood to thousands, is probably in store for us.

We have begun to surpass red-hot cities like Kolkata in terms of simmering heat. We all are collectively and individually responsible for the catastrophic climate change but ironically, we are obstinate or oblivious enough to make a confession and mend our ways. Voice should go louder from the holy pulpits to edify and educate people of their responsibilities towards the environment. There are numerous references from the Quran and the Hadith to conserve the environment.

Probable and evident causes include inordinate plastic consumption, unrestrained



deforestation and enormous emission of greenhouse gasses. Plastic waste has assumed dangerous proportions in our fragile valley. Every road, street, alley and surrounding is inundated with plastic bags, wrappers and disposables. Fetor and stink causes embarrassment to commuters and residents.

The non-biodegradable waste has badly reduced the productivity of soil. Fertile farmlands have become barren. According to stats, Jammu and Kashmir produces 51,000 tonnes of plastic waste annually. Growing consumerism and urbanization are the two important causes behind the surge. Inadequate waste-management system is fanning the flames further. Plastic waste thrown into water bodies has diminished both the quality and the quantity of the water. River Jhelum and its tributaries are lamentably crying for the indifferent attitude of

its custodians. Our water was once an antidote, an elixir; but, now, it is as poisonous as Hemlock. I dare my Kashmiri brethren to take a glass of raw water from our rivers. Who is to be blamed for the mess?

Obviously, we all as a nation. Government though has the discretion and the responsibility to conserve natural resources, but they can't do it alone. We as Ashraf Makhlooqat and rational beings have to be wise, judicious and altruistic in our approach. Greed and avarice has ceased our rationale and intellectual acumen. Our degrees and certificates have become mere accolades and momentos. Our earned education is neither doing good to us nor to others. A conscious and cognizant illiterate is better than an oblivious and insensible scholar.

Polythene should be restricted both by the people at the helm and commoners.

Another potential cause of the surge in temperature is the unabated deforestation. Green gold is being plundered in the broad daylight. Tall and lofty trees are the natural coolers and refrigerators which keep the temperature of the mother earth under proper control. But our indifference, ignorance, greed and obstinacy to accumulate more wealth has damaged rather ruined our forests. Though authorities have placed modern checks and balances to curb the menace of deforestation, the damage control measures look too meager to conserve green wealth. Forest fires, constructional projects taken up by both the government and commoners reduce the tree cover very badly. Though the impact of climate change has clenched us terribly, our conscience is yet to awaken us from the deep slumber. We are yet to learn our responsibilities and



VOICE SHOULD GO LOUDER FROM THE HOLY PULPITS TO EDIFY AND EDUCATE PEOPLE of their responsibilities towards the environment. There are numerous references from the Quran and the Hadith to conserve the environment

duties towards our environment. The drastic change is not all about the prickly heat, but something beyond that. We may end up with a huge crisis. Alarm bells are ringing, but we are not ready to adopt an eco-friendly approach.

Excessive emission of greenhouse gasses is one of the ugliest reasons for the sultry weather. Fossil fuel consumption is very high in our fragile valley. Our roads bear a congested look with thousands of vehicles plying day in and day out. We take pride in driving a car, which is indeed, but, we have to learn and recognise the repercussions of excessive fossil fuel consumption. We stand at second place in terms of car ownership after Kerala. According to (NFHS) National family health survey 5, 23.7 percent households in Jammu and Kashmir have personal cars. One can imagine the soaring CO2 levels in the atmosphere. People at the helm should introduce clean fuels like CNG to mitigate the environmental crisis. Even odd-even is another option to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses. People should be encouraged to use fuelless bikes and cycles. Let's all pledge to contribute individually and collectively in the mitigation of global and local environmental crises.

The author is a Teacher and a Columnist. He can be reached at mushtaqhurra143@gmail.com

ON INNOVATION

What Makes People Creative

Muzamil Farooq

KNOWING what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example, the well-known 15th-century artist and scientist? He created beautiful paintings as well as nice blueprints for various types of innovations, such as aeroplanes, long before they were built. He is regarded as one of the greatest minds that ever lived. How about Thomas Edison? Among many of his novel inventions, he invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which were implemented in various products and found to be extremely useful. What about the well-known artist Salvador Dali? He was well-known not only for his beautiful surrealist paintings, but also for his sculptures and jewellery. What do these individuals have in common? What inspires these creative geniuses? Some argue that creative geniuses are slightly insane, and that it is the madness that drives them to be creative.

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of



knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come

up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed

on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward. There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of

creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them; we just do them. While this is beneficial because it is efficient, it works against you if you want to come up with a creative solution. Being creative may be difficult if you behave like a robot. When you use automatic scripts and schemas from your head, you stop thinking too soon before you find the best solution. You also make far too many assumptions about what is going on. In some ways, it's better to think like a child, like someone who hasn't learned all of these assumptions, all of these automatic scripts and schemas, a person who sees a box and thinks it's more than just a box.

It's a fortress. It's a ship. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements. Having enough knowledge, being intrinsically motivated, and having creative thinking skills are all necessary for being creative. Creativity is the generation of novel and useful ideas, while innovation is the successful implementation of these ideas within a company. In other words, every innovation begins with a creative idea, and with the mentioned three elements of creativity, the good news is that everyone has the ability to be creative.

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar

Could Gene Editing Add Power To A 100-Year-Old TB vaccine?

The Conversation

Tuberculosis dates back more than 9,000 years. It is the most infectious bacterial disease and in 2022, 10.6 million people fell ill with it. Of these, 23 per cent occurred in Africa.

The only vaccine against tuberculosis, the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, is more than 100 years old and is primarily effective for infants and young children.

Researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand School of Pathology have made a significant breakthrough in vaccine development by gene-editing the BCG to make it more effective.

Microbiologist Baveesh Kana, one of the lead researchers, explains to Nadine Dreyer from The Conversation Africa, the science behind this breakthrough and the potential it holds for other vaccines.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines primarily work by mimicking dangerous infectious agents. You want your immune system to recognise the vaccine as an "invader" and then mount an immune response to it. But you don't want the invasive agent to make you sick.

To understand how vaccines work, it helps to look at how the immune system works, because vaccines harness the natu-

ral activity of your immune system.

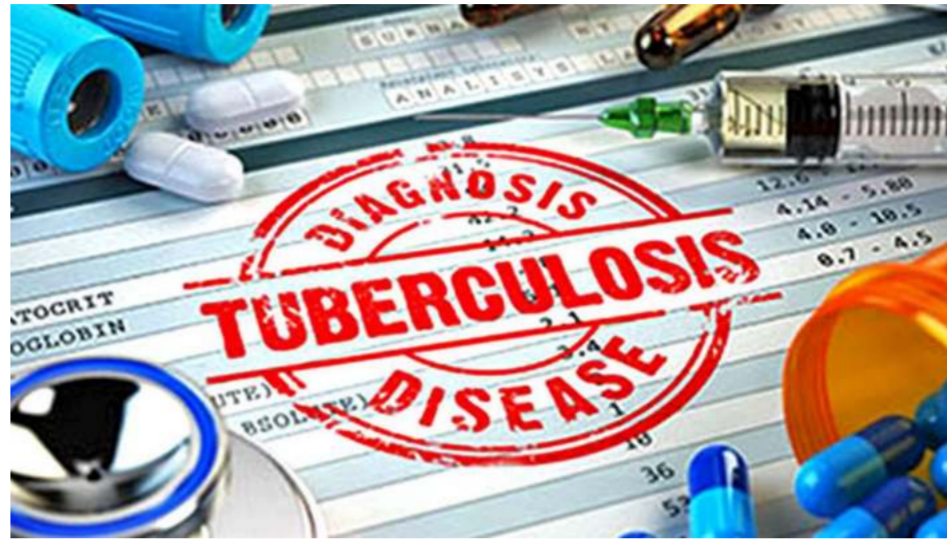
The immune system: There are about 100 trillion bacteria and viruses in the gastrointestinal tract. The proteins and sugars on the surface of bacteria, viruses or other disease-causing pathogens have different shapes to any of the ones in the human body. These markers are pathogen-associated molecular patterns, commonly known as PAMPs. Think of the spikes on coronavirus.

So, your immune system quickly recognises the invaders. And the body fights back with a complex chain of events involving many different types of white blood cells working together.

One type of white blood cell is able to make antibodies to fight the invaders. These antibodies can stick to the proteins or sugars on the bacteria's surface, and this kills the bacteria or disables them. They have to be exactly the right shape, a bit like a key fitting a door. These white blood cells are known as B-cells.

Producing antibodies of the right shape can take several days. By this time there could be billions of disease-causing bacteria in your body.

Once the right cells are activated, they quickly divide and turn into a production line, making masses of antibodies that stick to the invading agents and disable them. Eventually, your body gets rid of all the in-



vaders and you recover.

Antibodies remain in the blood, and some white blood cells may also become memory cells for specific bacteria in case they invade the body again. So with this stored arsenal of tools the immune system will respond quickly to future invasions.

Vaccines: Vaccines work in the same way as the immune system. They contain weakened or dead bacteria or viruses or

even just a few proteins or sugars from the surface. This is enough to convince the immune system that a real invader has entered the body.

So the same process takes place as when real bacteria or viruses invade our bodies, except you don't get ill afterwards. Vaccines are engineered to look like pathogens but are made in such a way that they do not make you sick.

When you do encounter the real agent, you have immunological memory, because your body has been exposed to something that looks very similar. And that immunological memory allows you to withstand the infection or even prevent establishment of full infection, or to manage the infection without getting too sick.

How did you go about modifying the TB vaccine?

TB vaccines are very challenging to develop. The bacterium that causes the disease is complex. It is also proficient at evading the human immune system, which is why there is only one vaccine that has been developed against the disease in 100 years.

Our laboratory does a lot of TB research and for a long time we've been interested in the cell wall of these bacteria. We noticed that the cell wall has a small chemical decoration on the surface and that chemical decoration allows the bacteria to hide an important marker (PAMP), called the NOD-1 ligand, from the immune system.

Both the tuberculosis and the live bacteria used in the BCG vaccine are able to hide the NOD-1 ligand from the immune system, making it harder for the body to detect them. We thought that modifying the BCG bacterium so it cannot hide this NOD-1 ligand might lead to a new, more effective vaccine.

Should You Stretch Before Exercise? After? Never? Here's What To Know

Associated Press

For many people of a certain age, high school gym class began with reaching for their toes. Then, over the years, we were told it was better to stretch after exercise.

It turns out, both those things can be true, but the differing advice has created some confusion.

Stretching can help make you more flexible, improve range of motion in your joints — and feel good. David Behm, who researches human kinetics at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, Canada, offers this advice on when to stretch and how to do it safely:

Warm up first

It's almost always good to stretch, but it's better if you warm up first, said Behm, author of "The Science and Physiology of Flexibility and Stretching".

He recommends a light aerobic activity such as jogging, walking or cycling for five or 10 minutes.

Follow that with some static stretching, the traditional way of reaching and holding a position (think back to that gym class). You can then do activity-specific dynamic stretching, in which you warm up the muscles with repetitive movements like leg lifts.

Behm says one minute is "the magic number" for how long to do static stretching



per muscle group without fatigue.

Expand your definition of 'stretching' Should you always stretch before exercising? If it's traditional stretching, not necessarily.

The better question, Behm says, is, "Should people increase their range of motion? Should people have better flexibility? And that is yes, because it helps prevent injuries. It helps with health. But you don't have to stretch to achieve that."

Resistance training, for instance, can be an effective form of stretching, he said. Doing a chest press increases range of motion in your deltoids and pecs, whether with barbells, dumbbells or machines, so there is no need to stretch beforehand. Just make sure to start with a small amount of weight to warm up and then add more to train.

"You probably don't have to do extra stretching unless you're a gymnast, a figure skater, or even a golfer who needs a great range of motion through that swing," Behm said.

Now do you need to stretch first if you're go-

ing for a leisurely run. Simply start with a slow jog to warm up and then increase the pace.

Don't do it if it hurts

After exercise, "light stretching is OK, as long as you don't reach a point where you're feeling pain", Behm said. Since your muscles will be warm by that point, overdoing it makes you more likely to injure yourself.

Foam rollers can help with muscle recovery and have been shown to increase range of motion as well as stretching.

Do some static stretching before sports

If you're playing a sport, Behm said, static stretching beforehand helps reduce muscle and tendon injury.

"If you're going to do an explosive movement, change of direction, agility, sprint, any of these explosive activities that involve your muscles and tendons," he said, "you're going to be stronger if you do static stretching".

People can especially get in trouble when they go back to a sport they used to play, whether it's tennis, surfing or any sort of team activity.

Also, stretch both sides equally. Lacking flexibility on one side also can lead to injury. Sounds simple. Why all the confusion?

Different studies over the years have either encouraged or discouraged stretching before exercise. Behm says that partly because some studies didn't reflect real-life conditions, or were designed with elite athletes in mind, not regular people.

Predicting Space Storms Can Now Be Possible, Reveals Study

IANs

Recent advancements in space weather forecasting may soon enable scientists to predict the speed and arrival time of coronal mass ejections (CMEs), commonly known as space storms, according to a study led by an Indian-origin researcher.

CMEs are bursts of gas and magnetic fields spewed into space from the solar atmosphere.

It typically takes several days to arrive at Earth and results in a shock wave causing a geomagnetic storm that may disrupt Earth's magnetosphere, compressing it on the day side and extending the night-side magnetic tail.

The team of Aberystwyth University in the UK has discovered that by analysing specific solar regions called "Active Regions," they can forecast CMEs more precisely — even before it has fully erupted from the Sun.

These regions have strong magnetic fields where CMEs originate.

They will present these findings at the Royal Astronomical Society's National Astronomy Meeting in Hull, UK.

By monitoring changes before, during, and after eruptions, they identified the critical height at which the magnetic field becomes unstable, leading to a CME.

"By measuring how the strength of the magnetic field decreases with height, we can determine this critical height," said lead researcher, Harshita Gandhi, a solar physicist at Aberystwyth.

Using the data, they combined it with a geometric model to track CME speed in three dimensions, essential for precise predictions.

"Our findings reveal a strong relationship between the critical height at CME onset and the true CME speed. This insight allows us to predict the CME's speed and, consequently, its arrival time on Earth, even before the CME has fully erupted," Gandhi said.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir

Estates Wing, Main Campus Shalimar – 190 025

Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT No. (33) of 2024-25

Dated:26.07.2024

For and on behalf of Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST(K), e-tenders (single-cover system) are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Civil Contractors whose cards are valid up to 31-03-2025 registered with State PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. departments for the following work:-

S. No	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender document	Time of completion
1.	Chain Link Fencing around the Permis of Research and Training Centre for Pollinators, Pollinizers and Pollination Management (RTCPPPM) under "Promotion of Beekeeping in UT of J&K" (HADP), Division of Entomology, FoH, at main Campus Shalimar, SKUAST-K.	8.01	16,020	C & D Class	250/-	25 Days

- a) Position of AAA: Accorded
- b) Position of T.S : Sanctioned
- c) Position of funds: Available

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

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	26.07.2024
2.	Date of start of downloading	26.07.2024
3.	Pre-bid meeting date	NA
4.	Bid submission start Date	26.07.2024
5.	Bid submission end date	05.08.2024 (18.00 PM)
6.	Date & Time of opening of Technical bid (online)	06.08.2024 (12.00 PM)
7.	Date of opening of Financial bid of qualifying bidders (online)	07.08.2024

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

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
SKUAST-Kashmir

No. Au/Estates/e-NIT(33)/319
DIPK-NB-1102/24
Dated: 29.07.2024

Srinagar MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

Ph. No. 0194-2458118 Email: lrwdsmc@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE INVITING E- TENDERS

NIET NO: 09 e-Tendering/2024-25 Dated:26-July-2024

For and on behalf of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money (CDR)	Time of Completion in days/ Weeks	Class of Contractor (Civil)	Technical Sanction/ Dated	Head of Account
1.	Development / Upgradation of Graveyard at Parenteng Malroo Mujkund	Rs. 42.29/-	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 84500/-	28 Days Strictly	AA/ BEE	05 OF Dated: 23-07-2024	CAPEX BUDGET 2024-25

• **Record of Administrative Approval:**
>Order No. 410 of 2024 Dated:-11.06.2024.

Other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

CRITICAL DATE SHEET

1	Publish date	26-07-2024
2	Document download date	26-07-2024 06:00 PM To 31-07-2024 06:00 PM
3	Bid submission/uploading date	26-07-2024 06:00 PM To 31-07-2024 06:00 PM
4	Bid Opening date	01-08-2024 02:30 PM
5	Submission of hard copy for successful bidder	02-08-2024 10:00 AM To 04:00 PM

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The Earnest Money (EMD) in respect of the advertised Cost of the work should be 2% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC.EMD2% of the successful bidder will be discharged when the bidder has signed the Agreement & furnished the required Performance Security
- The bidder shall have to furnish the performance security @5% in shape CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer LRWD SMC of the value of contract valid till DLP before issuance of LOA / LOI. In case of L-1 failing to provide performance security @5% for the works within 7 days after being notified, his bid shall be cancelled and work shall be executed through other sources U/R at the risk, cost and responsibility of L1.
- In case of Holidays/office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids. Bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The intending tenderer /bidder should attach sales tax clearance certificate with upto date Validation without which no tenders/bids will be entertained.
- The bid shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer LRWD, SMC at Old Funds office Building Karan Nagar near National School Municipal Park on 01-08-2024 02:30 PM.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Bank Receipt/ e- Challan pledged in favour of Chief Accounts Officer SMC in the Municipal Account No: 021601020000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch. Scanned copy of the same with mention of NIET No. & Serial no. to be uploaded along with all other documents. The bidder shall be barred / black list as per law for tender fee in form of Bank Receipt, tender fee receipt and other relevant documents including Bid Security (CDR/FDR) duly filled up, if found with any ambiguity or unattended, correction / overwriting for any work, such tender / bid shall be considered as invalid bid and shall be out rightly rejected and action U/R shall be initiated. The Bid shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the Bid due date.

DIPK-NB-1110/24
dated: 29-07-2024

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.
Dated: 26-July-2024.

No.SMC/EELRWD/843-852

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the District
Sheep Husbandry Officer Shopian

Email: - dshoshooian@gmail.com Technical Section

Subject: Establishment of sheep units and purchase of livestock thereof.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

It is for the information of all concerned that the Department of Sheep Husbandry Shopian intends to purchase female hoggets/ewes for establishment of units under ISDS (10 ewes unit participatory mode) and TSP (10 ewes +1 ram) for the year 2024-25. In this regard, "Expression of Interest" is invited from individuals, progressive farmers, cooperative societies & FPOs for supply of the livestock. The department has to establish nine (09) ISDS participatory sheep units (10 ewes) with the livestock cost of 1.00 lac each unit (i.e. Rs. 10000/ewe as an average) and 1 TSP sheep unit (10+1) with the livestock cost of 0.92 lacs (i.e. Rs. 8000/ewe as an average and Rs. 12000 for the ram). The livestock supplied shall have to meet the following technical parameters/terms and conditions-

- > Breed: Crossbred/Corriedale/Merino.
- > Age (1-1/2 years) Dentition (MT-ZT).
- > Body Weight: Average body weight of 10 ewes should be 250 Kgs or more and no ewe should be less than 25 Kgs and body weight of the ram should not be less than 35 Kgs.
- > Animals must have white body coat.
- > The animals to be supplied shall have to be examined by a team of Veterinarians for breed characteristics, body condition, size, stature, general health status and reproductive health status etc. before being approved.
- > The supplier shall have to supply full unit which includes 10 ewes/10 ewes + 1 Ram.
- > The person interested to supply the livestock shall have to submit an application form in the prescribed format which can be collected from the office of the undersigned on all working days during office hours.
- > The establishment of units is subject to availability of funds which may increase/decrease.

No. - DSHOS/Tech/2024-25/ 1293-99
DIPK-3739/24
Dated: - 29-07-2024

District Sheep Husbandry
Officer Shopian

Digitalisation In Finance Paving Way For Next-Generation Banking: RBI Guv

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking and improving access to financial services at affordable cost, said Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday.

In the foreword of the Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for 2023-24, the Governor also said the flagship Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionised the retail payment experience for end-users, making transactions faster and more convenient.

In the digital currency arena, the Reserve Bank is at the forefront with pilot runs of the e-rupee, the central bank digital currency (CBDC).

The digital lending ecosystem is becoming vibrant with initiatives such as Open Credit Enablement Network, Open Network for Digital Commerce and the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit.

He said fintechs are collaborating with banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) as lending service providers. They are also operating platforms to facilitate digital credit. BigTechs are backing payment apps and lending products as third-party service providers.

"Digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking; improving access to financial services at affordable costs; and enhancing the impact of direct benefit transfers by effective targeting of beneficiaries in a cost-efficient manner," Das said.



He noted that loans in the retail segment are being enabled by online payments and innovative credit assessment models with instant disbursements. Also, e-commerce is being boosted through embedded finance.

"All these innovations are making financial markets more efficient and integrated," the Governor said.

At the same time, Das said digitalisation also presents challenges related to cybersecurity, data privacy, data bias, vendor and third-party risks, and customer protection.

"Increased inter-connectivity may lead to systemic risks. Additionally, emerging technologies can introduce complex products and business models with risks that users may not fully understand, including the proliferation of fraudulent apps and mis-selling through dark patterns," he said.

Das further said digitalisation may induce human resource challenges in the financial sector, necessitating strategic investments in upskilling and reskilling.

Govt Estimates Centre's Debt To Rise To Rs 185 Lakh Crore In FY25

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government estimates its debt, including external borrowing, valued at current exchange rate and public account and other liabilities will increase to ₹185 lakh crore, or 56.8 per cent of the GDP, during the current fiscal year.

The total debt stood at ₹171.78 lakh crore, or 58.2 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), at the end of March 2024, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Monday.

As per the International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook, April 2024, India's Gross Domestic Product at current prices has already reached USD 3.57 trillion in 2023-24, he said.

Replying to another question, Chaudhary said the growth rate of the private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) at constant prices in 2022-23 and 2023-24 is 6.8 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, he said, quoting provisional GDP estimates for 2023-24 released by the National Statistical Office.

The growth rate of PFCE at current prices in 2022-23 and 2023-24 is 14.2 per cent and 8.5 per cent, respectively, he said, adding that the ratio of PFCE to the GDP at current prices in 2023-24 is 60.3 per cent.

In response to another question, Chaudhary said the normal net borrowing ceiling (NBC) of the states for 2021-



The total debt stood at 171.78 lakh crore, or 58.2 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), at the end of March 2024, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha on Monday.

22 was fixed at 4 per cent of gross state domestic product (GSDP) as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.

Of the normal NBC of 4 per cent of projected GSDP for 2021-22, the borrowing ceiling of 0.50 per cent of the projected GSDP was earmarked for the incremental capital expenditure incurred by states during 2021-22, for which, a target for capital ex-

penditure was fixed for each state, he said.

In another reply, he said the Union government under the head 'Special Assistance' under Demands for Grants 'Transfers to States' provide grants-in-aid to states for spill-over committed liabilities for which Budget provision is not made and for other need-based assistance to states.

Further, NITI Aayog, in its report titled 'Report on Developmental Support to the Successor State of Andhra Pradesh under Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act (APRA), 2014' dated December 1, 2015, has recommended "...a total assistance of ₹2,100 crore for the seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh at the rate of ₹300 crore per district.

Based on recommendations of NITI Aayog, he said the Department of Expenditure has released an amount of ₹1,750 crore so far under the APRA, 2014 for development of seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh.



Govt Says Airlines Sensitised To Exercise Moderation In Pricing Of Air Tickets

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Airlines have been advised to self-regulate as well as sensitised to exercise moderation in pricing of air tickets, the civil aviation ministry told the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

There have been persisting concerns over high airfares, especially during peak and festival seasons.

Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said the ministry holds consultation with airlines and the representatives are advised to self-regulate and keep passengers' interest in mind while fixing the airfares.

"Airlines have also been sensitised to exercise moderation in pricing and to keep passengers' interest in mind. The airlines have committed to ensure that airfares do not surge during events such as natural disasters, calamities, etc.," he said in a written reply.

Under current regulations, airfares are neither established nor regulated by the government after the repeal of the Air Corporation Act in March 1994.

"Globally, most countries have deregulated their aviation sector, i.e., removing gov-

ernment-imposed entry and price restrictions on airlines. Deregulation has led to increased competition between airline carriers, leading to decrease in airfare. As a result of deregulation, entry into the airlines industry for a potential new airline has become easier, resulting in many new airlines entering the market, thus increasing competition," the minister said.

He also added that the direct impact of deregulation is that a passenger in a lower income group can afford to travel by air.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has set up a Tariff Monitoring Unit (TMU) that monitors airfares on select domestic sectors on random basis by using airlines websites on monthly basis to ensure that the airlines do not charge airfares outside the range declared by them, Mohol said.

Given the complex dynamics of the Indian aviation industry, the minister said the government is playing the role of a facilitator by creating an enabling environment to support the growth of the sector.

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil aviation markets.

India's Digital Economy Poised To Constitute 1/5th Of GDP By 2026: RBI Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's digital economy is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026 from one-tenth at present, according to a Reserve Bank report released on Monday.

In the foreword of 'Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2023-24', Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised that digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking and improving access to financial services at affordable cost.

India is at the forefront of the digital revolution, the report said.

The country has embraced not just financial technology (FinTech) by speeding up digital payments but has also celebrated India Stack comprising biometric identification, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), mobile connectivity, digital lockers and consent-based data sharing.

The digital revolution is galvanising banking infrastructure and public finance management systems covering both direct benefit transfers and tax collections, the report said.

Vibrant e-markets are

springing up and expanding their reach.

"It is estimated that the digital economy currently accounts for a tenth of India's GDP; going by growth rates observed over the past decade, it is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026," the report said.

Several enabling forces have come together to energise this revolution.

Although internet penetration in India was at 55 per cent in 2023, the internet user base has grown by 199 million in the recent three years.

India's cost per gigabyte (GB) of data consumed is the lowest globally at an average of Rs 13.32 (USD 0.16) per GB. India also has one of the highest mobile data consumption in the world, with an average per-user per-month consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023.

In the foreword of the report, the RBI Governor also said the flagship UPI has revolutionised the retail payment experience for end-users, making transactions faster and more convenient.

In the digital currency arena, the Reserve Bank of India is at the forefront with pilot runs of the e-rupee, the central bank digital currency (CBDC).



Negotiating Teams To Restart India FTA Talks As Soon As Possible, Says UK

Press Trust Of India

LONDON: The process of getting negotiating teams back in the room will kick-start soon to deliver a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, the UK's newly elected Labour government announced on Monday as it set out its trading priorities.

Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds spelt out his department's approach to international trade deals, which he said will put economic growth at the heart of the negotiations to achieve high-quality pacts that give British businesses access to international markets and boost jobs.

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) said it also plans to publish a trade strategy which aligns with the government's industrial strategy, enhances economic security and supports net zero ambitions.

"Boosting trade abroad is essential to deliver a strong economy at home. That's why I've wasted no time taking stock of progress and getting ready to press on with trade talks with our international partners," said Reynolds.

"From the Gulf to India, our trade programme is ambitious and plays to the UK's strengths



to give British businesses access to some of the most exciting economies in the world. Our teams will be entering negotiating rooms as soon as possible, laser-focused on creating new opportunities for UK firms so they can support jobs across the country and deliver the growth we desperately need," he said.

India and the UK began negotiating an FTA in January 2022 under the then Conservative Party government and 13 rounds of negotiations have been completed since then to enhance the GBP 38.1 billion a year bilateral partnership, Reynolds has now set the tone for the new Labour government's plans to not only sign off on a deal, but

also to carry on the process from where it was left off in the fourteenth round of discussions amid general elections in both countries.

"India, with which the UK is negotiating a Free Trade Agreement and Bilateral Investment Treaty, is projected to be the world's third largest economy by 2027. A trade deal would give UK businesses better access to its burgeoning market of middle-class consumers, projected to grow to over a quarter of a billion consumers by 2050," notes the DBT.

The announcement follows Foreign Secretary David Lammy's visit to India last week to discuss economic and global security.

Gold Tumbles Rs 950; Silver Nosedives Rs 4,500 On Weak Demand

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Gold prices tumbled by Rs 950 to Rs 71,050 per 10 grams in the local market here on Monday due to weak demand from jewellers.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 72,000 per 10 grams in the previous session on Saturday.

Gold of 99.5 per cent purity also plunged Rs 1,650 to Rs 70,700 per 10 grams. On Saturday, it closed at Rs 72,350 per 10 grams.

Silver also declined Rs 4,500 to Rs 84,500 per kg on decreased offtake by coin makers and industrial units.

This marks the biggest single-day fall in silver prices in 2024. It ended at Rs 89,000 per kg in the previous session.

Traders said reduced demand from jewellers as well as retail buyers led to the fall in gold prices.

"Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget announced a customs duty cut from 15 per cent to 6 per cent, weighing on the domestic front.

"Post the cut in import duty, gold premiums in India jumped to their highest level in a decade," Manav Modi, Senior Analyst of Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

However, on the global front, Comex gold is trading at USD 2,438.50 per ounce, up by USD 10.60 per ounce.

Economics Graduate Among 3 Arrested For Defrauding Delhi Bank Of Rs 9.5 Lakh

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police has arrested three people who allegedly impersonated themselves as owner of a firm and defrauded ₹9.50 lakh, an officer on Monday said.

The accused have been identified as Amzad Hussain, 23, an MA Economics, who had been working as a data analyst in a reputed firm, and Mohammad Rizwan, 26, and Himanshu, 24, who used to work as delivery agents, he said.

Police have recovered seven mobile phones, 22 SIM cards, and 31 debit cards from their possession. "On July 24, an FIR was registered, when alleged persons fraudulently got transferred ₹9.50 lakh from a Corporate bank account in the name of Aman Motors (Hero Showroom) situated at Kartar Nagar in Usmanpur area," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey said.

The officer said that on inquiry, it was found that the bank manager was called by a person who impersonated himself as the owner of Aman Motors and said he urgently needed to transfer funds from his corporate Bank account to another account.

The bank manager, under the inducement and false representation, transferred ₹9.50 lakh to the bank account given to him.

'Collaborative Efforts Can Lead To Milestones In Farming Sector'

Observer News Service

BANDIPORA- The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Shakeel-ul Rehman Monday inaugurated the office of Apple Farmer Produce Organisation (FPO) at Aloosa, Bandipora.

The FPO has been sanctioned under Central Sector Scheme for the formation of 10,000 FPOs and is implemented and funded by NABARD.

The Apple FPO at Aloosa has 110 members and is involved in the business of apple production and marketing. The FPO is instrumental in providing better market linkage to apple growers in the region and supply of valuable inputs like fertilisers and pesticides.

The DC congratulated the FPO members for this endeavor and said that the cooperative and collaborative approach in the farming sector can lead to milestones.

While interacting with the management of the FPO, the DC stressed upon them to increase the number of shareholders in the FPO so that the maximum number of people can benefit. He further advised the FPO to diversify their business activities in other agriculture crops as well and keep close liaison with other allied departments like Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

The event was attended by Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, DDM NABARD Bandipora, SMS Agriculture and participants from CBBO, IGSSS and local farmers.

Sensex, Nifty Retreat From Record Highs To Close Flat

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit intra-day record high levels before closing almost flat on Monday due to profit-taking in FMCG and IT shares by cautious investors ahead of the key US Fed interest rate decision later this week.

The 30-share BSE Sensex closed higher by 23.12 points or 0.03 per cent at 81,355.84 -- its all-time closing high -- with 16 of its components advancing and 14 ending lower.

The index opened higher and jumped 575.71 points or 0.70 per cent to hit a new intra-day record peak of 81,908.43 in late morning deals following a decline in US bond yields. However, investors preferred to book profits at record high levels amid high volatility dragging the index lower to close flat.

The NSE Nifty ended marginally up 1.25 points or 0.01 per cent at an all-time closing high of 24,836.10. During the day, it surged 164.9 points or 0.66 per cent to hit a fresh lifetime peak of 24,999.75.

From the Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro rose the most by 2.77 per cent after it announced bagging new large orders worth Rs 2,500 crore to Rs 5,000 crore.

UltraTech Cement, which announced the acquisition of 32.72 per cent stake in India Cements from promoters and their associates for Rs 3,954 crore, closed up 1.42 per cent. India Cements closed lower by 0.65 per cent.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

4 Killed In 'Mysterious'

"Four people sustained critical injuries when a mysterious blast occurred in the Shair colony of Sopore town today afternoon. The injured were shifted to a nearby hospital where doctors declared three of the injured brought dead. The 4th injured person was shifted to SKIMS hospital in Srinagar, but he succumbed to injuries on the way," an official said.

Sopore SP Divya D confirmed the incident saying, "They were unloading the scrap when the blast happened... Unfortunately, four people died."

The deceased have been identified as Nazir Ahmed, Azam and Adil Mushtaq. All the victims were reported to be Sher Bagh residents. Police said the ages of the deceased are between 20 to 45 years.

A team of forensic experts rushed to the site of the explosion with no immediate information available regarding its exact nature and cause. Police have taken up the investigation.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the explosion may have been caused by an unknown explosive device hidden within the scrap.

A case has been registered at Police Station Amargarth for further investigation.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Sopore, Divya D, said the police are examining all possible angles to ascertain the cause of the explosion. She described the incident as unfortunate.

The explosion has left the entire area in shock, with a sense of grief and disbelief. Residents have been gathering at the homes of the deceased to offer condolences and support to the bereaved families.

'15 Terror Incidents

15 terror incidents in the Jammu region in the last 50 days, resulting in the loss of lives of 10 security personnel, including two officers, as well as nine pilgrims, and injuries to 58 others.

The security situation ahead of Independence Day was assessed at the meeting, which was attended by officials of various security and intelligence agencies, a Jammu and Kashmir Police spokesperson said.

"There is a necessity to reinforce border deployments and secure police and army establishments. There is also a need for offensive operations, alongside preventive measures in other districts," Additional Director General of Police (Jammu Zone) Anand Jain said.

He also stressed on establishing joint checkpoints at vulnerable locations and inter-district boundaries.

Terror incidents have been reported from six of the 10 districts of the Jammu region -- Rajouri, Poonch, Reasi, Kathua, Doda and Udhampur.

During the meeting, chaired by Jain, the officials called for deployment of reinforcements for the border, highway and hinterland security grids. They also stressed on formulation of comprehensive security plans.

The officials provided a detailed assessment of the current risks and potential threats in the region, and also discussed a coordinated approach to address security concerns.

Jain underscored the importance

of inter-agency cooperation to mitigate threats and concerns, as well as heightened vigil in border areas and the hinterland to prevent infiltration attempts.

He also asked officials to ensure the peaceful conduct of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

Stressing on the need to reinforce the border, highways and the hinterland security grids, he directed the formulation of comprehensive security plans to achieve desired results.

Kashmir Gets A

in coming days, there will be intermittent rains in the valley, with no chances of continuous or any major rainfall," said the Director MeT Kashmir.

He said that intermittent rain, occasional sunny weather and cloudy skies would be observed in Kashmir till the 6th of August.

After an improvement in weather conditions, MeT Director Kashmir hoped for more relief to people, especially farmers, from rising temperatures.

Falling of rain after a prolonged heat wave brought happiness on the faces of people, who have been praying for an end to the sweltering temperatures.

However, several areas in Srinagar were waterlogged following the rainfall, which commenced in the city around noon.

Gulmarg recorded a precipitation of 30.8 mm while Tral recorded 28.5 mm, the data shared by an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng reveals, adding that Amarnath holy cave shrine recorded a rainfall of 7.5mm while Chandanwari has recorded 12.5 mm rainfall.

Besides, the thundershowers across South and Central Kashmir and some parts of north Kashmir have brought the mercury down, which ended the prolonged heat wave in the Valley.

The maximum temperature in J&K recorded a massive dip of nearly 10 degree Celsius with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 27.7 degree Celsius.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has recorded a maximum temperature of 28.4 degree Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded a maximum temperature of 24.3 degree Celsius.

Kupwara was the hottest in Kashmir at 32.0 degree Celsius while Kokernag and Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 28.1 degree Celsius and 20.8 degree Celsius.

In Jammu division, the mercury settled at 33.0 degree Celsius while Banihal recorded 29.8 degree Celsius. Batote, Katra and Baderwah have recorded a maximum temperature of 28.3 degree Celsius, 30.1 degree Celsius and 29.2 degree Celsius respectively.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted generally cloudy weather conditions for the next two days with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Kashmir division and widespread places of Jammu division.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that in the first seven days of August,

generally cloudy with spells of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Kashmir division and most places of Jammu division.

In its advisory, the MeT stated that an intense showers for brief period with possibility of flash floods, cloud bursts, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones over vulnerable places of J&K with possibility of heavy rainfall at few places of Jammu division

On Sunday, Srinagar city recorded the hottest day in July since 1999 as the mercury rose to 36.2 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund and Kokernag towns in south Kashmir recorded their hottest day ever in July on Sunday.

Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 35.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday, surpassing the previous high of 34.5 degrees Celsius recorded on July 11, 1988.

In Kokernag, the mercury rose to 34.1 degrees Celsius against the previous high of 33.3 degrees Celsius recorded on July 3 this year.

Notably, the education department announced a two-day holiday on Monday and Tuesday for students up to primary level in view of the heatwave.

Over 4.65 Lakh

use the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district," officials said.

The 52-day yatra, which began on June 29 this year, will conclude on August 19.

The increased turnout this year can be attributed to improved logistical arrangements, enhanced security measures, and favorable weather conditions.

Nandita, a pilgrim, visiting Amarnath for the first time, said, "The real joy is in reaching Amarnath; it is rewarding after such a tiring journey. The arrangements are excellent."

"We have been treated well everywhere. Security personnel are courteous, making us feel comfortable. The medical facilities are also quite good. We have been planning this trip for a long time, and finally, this year it happened," she added.

Rajesh from Gurgaon, said that this is his second pilgrimage to Amarnath. "I love coming here; I don't attend any other pilgrimage. The facilities here are outstanding. People fear Kashmir, but they should definitely try to visit," he added.

Srinagar Records 2nd

recorded on July 21, 1988.

The forecast indicates generally cloudy weather with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers across Kashmir Division and widespread areas of Jammu Division from July 29-31. From August 1-4, similarly cloudy conditions with intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places in Kashmir and most areas in Jammu Division.

Intense showers are anticipated briefly, with the possibility of landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in vulnerable areas, and heavy rainfall expected in some places in Jammu

Division. A significant drop in daytime temperatures is expected starting July 29.

Farmers' Prayers

particularly affected paddy fields, where grain crops developed multi-colored marks due to water scarcity and heat stress.

Local farmers from Ganderbal expressed their relief and joy following the heavy rains. "After the rainfall today, we are now happy as the paddy fields and maize fields witnessed water," one of the farmers said, noting the crucial role of the fresh rainfall in reviving their crops.

Ghulam Ahmad, a seasoned farmer from Anantnag said the past few weeks had been extremely stressful for them. "We watched our fields wither and feared the worst. This rain has come as a blessing and has saved our crops," he said.

Mushtaq Dar, another farmer from Baramulla, emphasized the importance of timely rain, saying that "we rely heavily on natural irrigation. The canals were running dry, and we had no other means to water our fields. This rain has not only saved our current crops but also restored our hope for the season."

Pertinently, the Agriculture department had warned that without timely rainfall, the Agriculture sector in the valley would face substantial losses due to the critical water needs of the crops. (KNO)

Court Dismisses

Public Prosecutor Ashwani Khajuria representing the ED vehemently opposed the bail plea and said the applicant has indulged in serious offences of money laundering whereby he is the kingpin of the 'gang' indulging in the paper leakage of the government competitive exams against the monetary payments.

"Moreover, in the ongoing investigation under the PMLA, Yadav's monetary transactions have surfaced relating to smuggling out the paper, arranging the stay of the candidates in 'Karnal', adjustment of the payments received between himself and Anil Kumar (another key accused) and receipt of payments in the bank account of M/s New Global Fumigation Corporation, proprietor Yadav etc are being further investigated," Khajuria said.

"Besides, the investigation under PMLA is separate and independent and therefore, the proceedings before the trial Court in the CBI case has no effect on the PMLA investigation conducted by the respondent," he argued.

"Having heard and after consideration of material on record in its entirety and to the nature of the allegations and gravity of the accusation and also stage of investigation, to my mind investigating agency must be given sufficient time in conducting analysed and effective investigation," the judge said.

"This apprehension of ED finds force upon the submission made by the counsel that the applicant may influence the witnesses and give slip to law hence in light of supra, the present application deserves to be dismissed," she added.

"It is apt to note that the evil of money laundering is a curse and has its diverse effect on the society and its citizens, moreover money laundering is a serious threat not only to financial system of our country but also to global economy at large which is required to be dealt sternly," the court said.

It said therefore, in light of supra, given the grave and serious allegations against the petitioner, apart from ongoing investigation, this court is not inclined to grant privilege of bail to the applicant.

However, the applicant's case can be considered on its own merit without being prejudiced by this order at a later stage if there is a change in circumstances, it added.

Man Slapped

will not be tolerated and strict action will be taken against those found guilty of such offences," he added.

Qayoom also appealed to all residents to remain calm and cooperate with the police.

"Any information or suspicious activity should be reported to the nearest police station to aid in upholding law and order," he said.

Subjecting Non-IBPS

food is another man's poison," has come into play when Banking Associates of two species have been subjected to undergo same/common written test for qualification to be in the pool of Banking Associates for promotion wherein the petitioners have failed and have been left to feel duped by the fact that the test meant for Banking Associates under Fast Track/Merit channel came to be imposed upon them leaving them non-successful and, accordingly, seeing the prospect of being ousted from lifetime opportunity of promotion on the basis of their respective seniority and denying them opportunity of competing on the strength of the parameters as prescribed under clause 5.2."

The court noted that a Banking Associate, be it IBPS or non-IBPS, is required to have seven(7) years or more of regular service by reference to 31st March of the preceding year to be a first requirement for promotion consideration under Seniority-cum-Selectivity channel and further for non-IBPS Banking Associates qualifying eligibility screening written test (objective type) is an additional requirement upon qualifying which all non-IBPS Banking Associates with more than seven(7) years of service are then to be in the pool of the Banking Associates IBPS with seven(7) plus years of service to be considered for promotion.

Insofar as the Banking Associates having completed three years of service, be it IBPS or non-IBPS and who on the basis of the seniority are not eligible to join 75% pool of Banking Associates covered under Seniority-cum-Selectivity channel, are afforded an opportunity of jump/leap promotion upon their participation in a qualifying examination and thereupon to be comparatively assessed on merits on the selection parameters as provided under clause 5.2, the Court further noted.

".....by holding the action of the respondent No.1-the Bank in subjecting non IBPS Banking Associates eligible for consideration under Seniority cum Selectivity promotion channel, to a qualifying written test not meant for them under the Policy, as illegal, arbitrary and discriminatory, this Court directs the respondent No.1-the Bank to consider the petitioners and similarly placed non IBPS Banking Associates with seven (7) plus years of service for promotion as per assessment envisaged under clause 5.2 to the next post with or without subjecting them to a screening written test (objective type) at its discretion given the fact of number of available promotion posts more and the total number of Banking Associates, IBPS and non-IBPS, less," the Bench added.

J&K Battles Drug

of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in all districts of Jammu & Kashmir. More than 91.5 lakh people in UT of Jammu & Kashmir have been reached out including more than 6 lakh Youth under the Abhiyan, it added.

The Minister informed Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCA) supported by the Government is running in UT of Jammu & Kashmir to provide treatment for the drug victims and also to give services of preventive education, awareness generation, motivational counseling, detoxification/de-addiction, etc.

Community based Peer Led Intervention (CPLI) Centres supported by the Government are running in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to work with children below 18 to create awareness against drugs and teach life skills, it added.

Outreach and Drop In Centers (ODICs) supported by the Government are running in UT of Jammu & Kashmir to provide safe and secure space for treatment, rehabilitation, screening, assessment, counseling and to provide referral and linkage treatment and rehabilitation services for substance dependence, it reads.

The Minister informed 20 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Government hospitals is being implemented through All India Institute of Medical science (AIIMS), New Delhi, adding that District De-addiction Centres (DDACs) providing all three facilities of IRCA, ODIC and CPLI under one roof have been set up in UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

A toll-free helpline for de-addiction, 14446 is being maintained by the Government for providing primary counseling and immediate assistance to persons seeking help, it reads.

The Minister informed Navchetna Modules, teachers training modules have been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MOSJE) for sensitizing students (6th - 11th standard), teachers and parents on drug dependence, related coping strategies and life skills.

Participation of more than 16 thousand educational institutions of UT of Jammu & Kashmir under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) have ensured that the message of the Abhiyaan has reached to the children and youth of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, it added.(KNO)



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OR SCAN



Rohit, Kohli Among India Players To Train Ahead Of Sri Lanka ODIs

Press Trust of India

COLOMBO: India skipper Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and a few other players will start their training from Monday ahead of the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka starting August 2.

While the Indian T20I team under Suryakumar Yadav will play the third and final match on Tuesday in Pallekele, Rohit, Kohli and a few others like rookie Harshit Rana will train in Colombo after reaching the island nation's capital on Sunday. Rohit, Kohli and Kuldeep Yadav will hit the ground running nearly a month after they helped India win the T20 World Cup in the Americas for the second time.

The ODIs against Sri Lanka will also mark the return of Shreyas Iyer into the national side. It was in late 2023 that Iyer last played a limited-overs match for India, against South



Africa in December.

The squad also features Delhi all-rounder Rana, who was a member of the IPL-winning Kolkata Knight Riders' team

earlier this year.

These players will train under India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar in Colombo. Each of the three ODIs will

be played at the R Premadasa Stadium here. While the first match is on August 2, the second and third ODIs are on August 4 and 7 respectively.

CLINICAL INDIA EYE SERIES WHITEWASH AGAINST WOBBLY SRI LANKA IN THIRD T20I

There will be no let-up in intensity as a ruthless India, under the leadership of new coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Suryakumar Yadav, seek to exploit Sri Lanka's weaknesses and push for a series whitewash in the inconsequential third and final T20I here on Tuesday.

The fate of the series was decided after India swept aside Sri Lanka in the first two games, leaving the possibility of an embarrassing whitewash hanging over the hosts' heads.

India secured a seven-wicket victory on Sunday in a rain-shortened match in the second T20I, thwarting Sri Lanka's charge once again.

Despite the hosts' flying start, their fight fizzled out for the second consecutive game due to subpar batting.

Match starts at 7:00pm IST.

Short TAKES

India's Olympic Schedule For Tuesday



As the Olympics progress, India's athletes gear up for a crucial Tuesday. In shooting, Prithviraj Tondaiman will compete in the men's trap qualification at 12:30 pm, while Shreyasi Singh and Rajeshwari Kumari tackle the women's qualification at the same time. Later, Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh will face off against Korea in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Bronze Medal Match at 1 pm. The hockey team, competing in Men's Pool B, will play against Ireland at 4:45 pm. In archery, Ankita Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur will compete in the Women's Individual 1/32 Elimination Round at 5:15 pm and 5:30 pm, respectively. Dhiraj Bommadevara is set for the Men's Individual 1/32 Elimination Round at 10:45 pm.

Badminton and boxing are also on the schedule, with key matches including Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty in men's doubles at 5:30 pm, and Amit Panghal in the men's 51kg Round of 16 at 7:15 pm. The day's events culminate with Preeti Pawar boxing Yeni Marcela Arias at 1:20 am on July 31.

India To Host T20 Men's Asia Cup In 2025

India is set to host the 2025 men's Asia Cup cricket tournament in the T20 format, the Asian Cricket Council announced. This tournament will act as a pre-cursor to the T20 World Cup, which is scheduled to be held in India in 2026. The Asia Cup often serves as a dress rehearsal for the global event, mirroring the format in which the World Cup will be played. The 2023 edition took place under a 'Hybrid Model' hosted by Pakistan.

District Level Rugby Championship Starts At Bandipora

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Shakeel-ul-Rehman kicked off a District Level Rugby Championship at Government Higher Secondary School Nadihal on Monday.

The championship is being organized by Bandipora Rugby Association in collaboration with the School Education Department. A total of 34 teams under the age group of 14, 17 and 19 from various Education Zones are participating in the tournament that shall conclude on Wednesday, Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Dr. G M Pujoo, Chief Horticulture Officer, and Padma Shree Awardee Faisal Ali were also present on the occasion.

District Level Taekwondo Event Begins In Anantnag

The District Youth Services & Sports Office Anantnag hosted a District Level Taekwondo event on Monday, showcasing the exceptional skills and dedication of athletes from across the district. The event featured a series of boys' competitions, highlighting top talent in various age groups and weight divisions.

Raja Yaqoob, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Anantnag distributed medals and trophies to top performers in each category, recognizing their hard work and dedication.

2024 Paris Olympics Medals Tally

Team	1	2	3	00
1. 🇰🇷 South Korea	5	3	1	9
2. 🇯🇵 Japan	5	2	4	11
3. 🇨🇳 China	5	2	2	9
4. 🇫🇷 France	4	7	3	14
25. 🇮🇳 India	0	0	1	1

Players Will Fight To Be There: Dravid On Cricket's Debut At 2030 Olympics



Press Trust of India

PARIS: An ardent supporter of cricket's inclusion in the Olympics, former India head coach and batting legend Rahul Dravid says the "serious dressing room conversations" that he has heard indicate that players are going to "fight tooth and nail" to be there at the world's biggest sporting event.

Dravid was in the French capital on Sunday to attend a panel discussion on 'Cricket at the Olympics: Dawn of a New Era', celebrating the sport's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Games, at the recently inaugurated India House.

"I've already heard a few conversations in the dressing room. People are talking about the 2026 T20 World Cup, there is an ODI World Cup in 2027, and you hear people saying there is the Olympics in 2028," Dravid, who also caught up on some tennis action at the Games before coming for the event, said during the discussion.

"People are going to want to win that gold medal, stand on the podium, and be a part of the Games Village, a great sporting event, and interact with so many athletes.

"As you get closer, I have no doubt that teams will be preparing and checking out facilities. They

will take this seriously, and players will fight tooth and nail to be out there," he added.

The Test great had ICC CEO Geoff Allardice for company during the discussion at India House here.

"You grow up watching the Olympics, seeing Carl Lewis winning the gold medal, watching the great athletes perform. You always want to be part of great events like this. The environment, the energy -- it's a dream come true."

Dravid hoped that India would win both the men's and women's gold medals at the LA Games.

"The dream for me to have a fantastic cricket tournament, hopefully Indian men and women winning the gold which would be nice.

"Unfortunately, I won't be able to play, but I will make every effort to be in LA in some capacity or another. If not anything else, I will try to get a media job," joked Dravid, who ended his tenure as India head coach after the recent T20 World Cup triumph in the West Indies.

The men's and women's cricket competitions will run concurrently at the LA Olympics.

As far as Allardice is concerned, he said cricket will be one of the "star attractions" in LA four years from now.

Provincial Level U-14 Football Tourney Concludes In Budgam

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: The Inter District Provincial Level Football Tournament organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports reached its thrilling conclusion at Sports Stadium Charar-i-Shareef here. The tournament, for boys under the age of 14, showcased exceptional talent and sportsmanship from young football enthusiasts representing various districts within the Kashmir division.

In the first semi-final encounter, Baramulla emerged victorious with a convincing 4-0 win over Kulgam, who couldn't find the back of the net throughout the match. The second semi-final clash



between Kupwara and Bandipora saw a closely contested battle, with Bandipora securing a narrow 5-4 victory over their opponents.

The highly anticipated final match between Baramulla and Bandipora was fiercely competitive. However, adverse weather conditions and heavy rainfall led to the

match being called off, resulting in both teams being declared joint winners of the championship. The closing ceremony was marked by a presentation of mementos to both the winning and runner-up teams, acknowledging their outstanding performances throughout the tournament.

Baramulla Wins Provincial U-14 Handball Championship

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The Inter-District Provincial Level AAG Boys Handball Competition, organized by the Youth Services and Sports Department, J&K, culminated Monday, with Baramulla clinching the trophy in the IDPL Under-14 Boys category at Indoor Stadium Baramulla.

The event, held under the supervision of Mohammad Rashid Kohli, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Kashmir Province, was hosted by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Baramulla.

The competition featured two thrilling semifinal matches this morning. In the first semi-final, Baramulla faced Kupwara,



with Baramulla emerging victorious. The second semifinal saw Kulgam competing against Bandipora, with Bandipora securing the win.

The highly anticipated final match was held between Baramulla and Bandipora, with Baramulla clinching the trophy.

The closing ceremony was graced by Nazir Ahmad Bhat, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Baramulla, who served as the chief guest. The IDPL AAG Girls Handball Competition is scheduled to be held Tuesday at the same venue.

Vandalism Hits Communication Lines In France During 2024 Paris Olympics

AP

PARIS: The French government says multiple telecommunications lines have been hit by acts of vandalism, affecting fiber lines and fixed and mobile phone lines as cities around France are hosting events for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The scale of the impact is unclear, as is whether it has affected any Olympic activities. The vandalism came after a arson attacks hit train networks around France on Friday, hours before the Olympics opening ceremony.

Marina Ferrari, secretary of state in charge of digital affairs, posted on X that damage in several regions overnight Sunday to Monday affected telecommunications operators. She said that led to localized



impact on access to fiber lines and fixed and mobile telephone lines.

Paris 2024 Olympics organizers would not immediately comment.

A French police official said at least six of France's administrative departments were affected, which include the region around the Mediterranean

city of Marseille, hosting Olympic soccer and sailing competitions.

Telecom operators Bouygues and Free confirmed their services were

affected. French media reports said lines operated by provider SFR also were hit. The parent company of Free said its teams are mobilized to restore services.

A national investigation is underway into last week's train sabotage, which disrupted travel for nearly a million passengers in France as well as people in London and in other neighboring countries. Train traffic had largely resumed by Monday.

French media reported that an extreme-left activist was arrested at a rail facility on Sunday in the Seine-Maritime region of western France. But the Paris prosecutor's office said it was unconnected to what happened Friday and that no one has been arrested so far in the national investigation into the arson attacks.

Novak Djokovic Eases Past Error-Prone Rafael Nadal



Agencies

PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic overcame a brief bout of nerves in the second set to beat 14-times French Open champion Rafael Nadal 6-1, 6-4 at the Paris Olympics on Monday and move into the third round.

Djokovic, who has won 24 Grand Slam singles titles but is chasing an elusive Olympic gold, left nothing to chance, stretching the 38-year-old with punishing groundstrokes and perfect drop shots, making him look his age as he raced to a 6-1 4-0 lead.

Nadal, who had dominated at this venue like no other player, managed to claw his way back to level 4-4, much to the delight of the home crowd who were ready for a mouth-watering epic encounter between two of the greatest players to have graced the sport on their record-extending 60th encounter.

Despite his second set comeback, Nadal lacked precision and consistency at this level and could do nothing to stop the 37-year-old Djokovic from sealing victory on his first match point with an ace. (Reuters)



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