



LAND SINKING IN RAINWARI

Residents Demand Release Of Expert Committee Report

Agencies
SRINAGAR: The locals from Khwajapora, Rainawari Srinagar on Wednesday urged the authorities to publicize the report finalized by the expert committee to ascertain the details about land sinking and also suggest remedial measures. Speaking to the news agency—KNO, the locals from the area said they have requested the authorities to publicize the report prepared by the expert committee to ascertain the details and suggest remedial measures concerning their houses, which developed cracks on June 17. "Our houses developed cracks on June 17, and since then, we have been waiting for officials to release their version on it. Despite an expert committee being formed, which was supposed to present its report within a week, it has now been more than two

months, and no report has been issued," said Muneer, a local from the area. He added that they continuously visit officials regarding this matter of land sinking but are only being asked to run from pillar to post. "We have visited officials from the Srinagar administration many times, but we are only asked to meet different officials, and no information is being shared with us regarding the expert report," he said. In this regard, when KNO tried to contact ADC Srinagar Syed Ahmad Katariya, he said they had finished the report and submitted it to the Divisional Commissioner for further action. "We have completed the primary investigation and have submitted the expert committee report to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir. Once any guidelines are issued from there, we will forward them to the concerned parties," he said.



CS For Pacing Up Dal, Nigeen Lake Conservation Works



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held a meeting of Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to take appraisal of the progress made on works to develop the twin lakes of Dal and Nigeen here. Those who were present included Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; VC, LCMA; besides other concerned officers of the Department. Dulloo while having appraisal of the ongoing projects for beautification and conservation of Dal and Nigeen Lakes impressed upon the concerned to ensure further acceleration in the works initiated for conservation and development of the Dal and Nigeen lakes. He stressed on taking the tendering process to a logical conclusion so that the work on these illustrious projects would be taken in hand and completed within the specific time-frames.

of 70000 MT with supply of 2600 tons of waste supplied till now. Regarding other projects like installation of Musical fountains it was revealed that DPR has been prepared and administrative approval is currently sought from the finance department to float tenders. As far as the works like installation of high jet fountains and Ferris Wheel inside Dal Lake, establishment of Amusement Park near Shalimar Canal under PPP mode it was given out that the consultations with National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaB-

an estimated cost of Rs 8.71 crore are being set up in the Northern Foreshore area under CAPEX to enhance oxygenation of Dal waters and add beauty to the lake. The meeting also took appraisal of the status of the project Integrated Management Plan for conservation of Dal Nigeen Lake Ecosystem funded under PMDP. It was added that the RFP for PDMC was floated on 19th of June and the project is expected to be completed by 2027. The meeting was informed that 605 houseboats out of total tourism registered 888 in Dal lake are being connected through a floating Type of Sewerage Network at a cost of Rs 6.5 Cr.

Scattered Garbage Plagues Parimpora Fruit Market

Agencies
SRINAGAR: Valley's central fruit complex Parimpora in Srinagar is grappling with severe hygiene issues and scattered garbage, affecting the health of traders and visitors alike. Several fruit and vegetable traders voiced their concern and said the valley's central fruit Mandi complex was struggling in maintaining the basic hygiene and disposal of garbage. Highlighting the 'inadequacy' of the Horticulture department's efforts to maintain cleanliness, traders said nodal agency-- Horticulture department's planning department was not seriously maintaining the hygiene and disposal of garbage from the complex. "You see the hygiene level, the rotten smell is everywhere in the complex. The Horticulture department's planning department outsources its cleanliness but that contract has already ended," stated a senior member from fruit growers association. Both vegetable and fruit traders expressed their embarrassment, saying that when outside buyers and sellers visit the complex, they encounter piles of gar-

bage and the foul odor of decaying produce. "There is some agency lifting the garbage, but it is not up to the mark. We are paying good money for the cleanliness and hygiene of the complex," a fruit dealer lamented. In response, a senior officer from the Planning Department of Kashmir's Horticulture Department while speaking to KNO assured that measures are being taken to address the issue. The officer revealed that a tendering process is underway, and the problem should be resolved within the next two weeks. "As of now, there is a temporary arrangement for lifting garbage in the Fruit Complex Parimpora, with over 100 vehicles being used for the purpose," the officer stated. The senior officer added that due to some technical issues, they were not able to flout the tender but that the process will be done in the next few days. Fruit and vegetable traders said that the situation underscores the need for more effective waste management solutions to safeguard the health and well-being of those working and those visiting the valley's fruit complex.

BESIDES THE MEETING WAS INFORMED THAT 5 MORE CLUSTERS OF CASCADE AERATORS WITH 1300 NOZZLES/ FOUNTAINS at an estimated cost of Rs 8.71 crore are being set up in the Northern Foreshore area under CAPEX to enhance oxygenation of Dal waters and add beauty to the lake.

FID) are going on which are shortly making a visit to the city to finalize the Terms of Reference (ToR) for these projects. Besides the meeting was informed that 5 more clusters of cascade aerators with 1300 nozzles/fountains at

DC Srinagar Chairs DLIC Meet On HADP



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the Chairman of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) approved fresh 620 applications of various projects under HADP for establishment of Income Generating Units by progressive farmers/beneficiaries in Srinagar District. The fresh 620 cases approved today include 509 applications of Agriculture, 10 applications of Horticulture, 60 applications of

Animal Husbandry, 17 applications of Sericulture Department, 24 applications of sheep Husbandry. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of all the line Departments about the implementation of HADP in the District. The DC emphasized the importance of these projects in achieving sustainable Agricultural growth. He instructed all the line Departments to achieve physical and financial targets well in time. Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Za-hoor Ahmad Mir, GM DIC, Hamida Akhtar, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad, Chief Agriculture Officer, Manohar Lal, the meeting was attended by Officers of line Departments and other concerned.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT J&K
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT
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SELECTION LIST NOTIFICATION ITI URI
The Provisional Selection list (Round one) of the candidates who have submitted Online applications for seeking admission to various trades of this Institute viz Computer Operator & Programming Assistant (Normal & Self Finance), Stenographer & Secretarial Assistant, Sewing Technology, Plumber, Welder, Electrician (Normal) and Mechanic Motor Vehicle (PPP) for the session 2024-25-26 compiled by the IT Cell of J&K Board of Technical Education/Department of Skill Development is available on https://itiadmissions.jkdsd.in
The selection list is based on the marks obtained by the candidates in the minimum qualifying examination and various reservation guidelines of the Department of Skill Development The selected candidates of "Round one" are advised to complete all the admission formalities by 17-08-2024 along with the prescribed admission fee, the selected candidate will have to deposit the following documents in original at the time of admission.
1. Qualification & Marks certificate of the qualifying examination.
2. Domicile Certificate /Permanent Residence certificate.
3. Discharge certificate from the institution last attended.
4. Category Certificate (Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe /Ex-Serviceman/Physically Handicapped/Economically Weaker Sections) if applicable.
Apart from these documents a candidate has also to submit:(i)Affidavit from Judicial First class Magistrate as per prescribed format (ii) Attested copy of Aadhar card (iii)Three Passport size Photographs.
Important:
1. The selection list is based solely on the basis of information uploaded on the portal http://itiadmissions.jkdsd.org by the candidates.
2. Although due care has been taken to weed out any erroneous data structured on the submitted information and available documents, discrepancies in the selection list may have crept in owing to the poor graphic quality of the uploaded testimonials, delayed or non-submission of printed copies of documents by the applicants and unsuccessful attempts of communication with some candidates vis-avis clarification of their qualification credentials.
3. The selection list is unaltered and is as received from the IT Cell of J&K BOTE.
4. The validity of selection of a candidate is subject to the authentication of the requisite Original documents which will be scrutinized and verified thoroughly by a verification committee constituted for the purpose.
5. Any fraudulent and misleading attempt or submission of forged /scanned/fake document will invite instantaneous legal action.
6. Selection list is also available in the Trainings section of ITI Uri.
7. Selected candidates have the option of up-gradation to the preference of their choice and will have to submit an application on prescribed format to this effect in the Institute.
8. Candidates who fail to submit the requisite category certificate will forfeit any claim for consideration in the selection list and will instead be placed in General category of merit list.
9. All the courses are full time with a minimum compulsory attendance of Eighty percent (80%) required to appear in the final examination.
10. Candidates shall not be allowed to abandon the course midway except under certain medical conditions/special circumstances.
11. Candidature of Ex-trainees having completed their training course after August 2022 can be considered only in trades having poor response.
12. Any genuine grievance or objection may be submitted in writing to the undersigned or at itiuriadmissions2024@gmail.com before the closing date of operating the Round One selection list.
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PATTAN: 01954-293507
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153
HIGHWAY STATUS
Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Open)
Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR
02 Safar
1446
PRAYERS
FAJR 4:13
ZUHR 12:37
ASR 5:27
Magrib 7:30
ISHA 9:00

This Day In History
1220- Sweden is defeated by Estonian tribes in the Battle of Lihula
1303- Crete earthquake strikes with estimated magnitude of 8, triggering a major tsunami that damaged the Lighthouse of Alexandria and swept ships 2 miles inland in Egypt
1509- Emperor Krishnadeva Raya is crowned, marking the beginning of the regeneration of the Vijayanagara Empire in Southern India
1549- Henry II of France declares war on England and orders the siege of Boulogne
1567- Duke of Alva's army enters Brussels, Belgium
1570- Peace of Saint-Germain-and-Laye, more freedom for Huguenots
1576- Cornerstone laid for Tycho Brahe's observatory in Uraniborg, Denmark, when built becomes the world's most advanced research institution
1605- The city of Oulu, Finland, is founded by Charles IX of Sweden.
1647- The Irish Confederate Wars and Wars of the Three Kingdoms: Battle of Dungans Hill - English Parliamentary forces defeat Irish forces.
1700- Denmark & Sweden sign peace treaty
1703- Vienna-based newspaper Wienerisches Diarium (later called Wiener Zeitung) prints 1st edition; publishes daily for almost 320 years
1709- 1st known ascent in hot-air balloon, Bartolomeu de Gusmao (indoors)
1758- British troops occupy & plunder Cherbourg
1786- Jacques Balmat and Michel Paccard are 1st to climb to top of Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Western Europe
1814- Peace negotiations begin in Ghent, Belgium
1816- Bavaria joins Holy Alliance
1831- Battle of Hasselt - Dutch army drives out Belgians
1853- Russian fleet appears at Nagasaki, Japan
1854- Smith & Wesson patents metal bullet cartridges
1863- American Civil War: Tennessee's "military" Governor Andrew Johnson frees his personal slaves. Celebrated as a holiday by Tennessee African Americans (early 20th century)
1864- Comet C/1864 NI (Tempel) approaches within 0.0964 AU of Earth
1864- Union troops/fleet occupy Fort Gaines, Alabama
1868- Earthquake destroys the city of Arica, Chile
1876- Thomas Edison is granted the patent for Autographic Printing (US Patent 180,857)
1911- The millionth patent is filed in the United States Patent Office by Francis Holton for a tubeless vehicle tire.
1914- Montenegro declares war on Germany
1918- World War I: The Allies launch the Hundred Days Offensive, beginning with the Battle of Amiens where 500 tanks and 10 Allied divisions attacked German lines
1919- Treaty of Rawalpindi, British recognise Afghanistan's independence
1922- Pirates set record of 46 hits in a doubleheader (against Phillies)
1940- 31 German aircraft shot down over England
1944- US 15th Army corps occupation Le Mans
1945- US, USSR, Britain and France sign Treaty of London which sets down procedures for the Nuremberg war trials of Nazi leaders
1945- USSR declares war against Japan in WW II
1947- Pakistan's National Flag is approved.
1949- Bhutan, land of Dragon, becomes an independent monarchy
1983 - Military coup in Guatemala, Dictator and former General Efraim Rios Montt flees
1984 - Future 5-time America's Cup winner Russell Coutts of New Zealand wins the Finn Class sailing gold medal at the Los Angeles Olympics
1985 - Japan launches Planet A, a probe to Halley's comet
1986 - Altaf Hussain's address at Nishtar Park Karachi, announcing the establishment of the MQM political movement.
1988 - Angola, Cuba & South Africa sign cease fire treaty
1988 - Discovery of most distant galaxy (15 * 10 ^ 12 light yrs) announced
1988 - Russian troops begin pull out of Afghanistan after 9 year war
1988 - Ceasefire between Iran & Iraq takes effect after 8 years of war
1989 - US space shuttle STS-28 launched
1989 - New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange resigns after 5 years on a no confidence issue
1990 - Iraq annexes Kuwait as its 19th province

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

Thursday | 08-08-2024

Hold Assembly Polls

As the Election Commission embarks on a visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday to hold meetings with political parties to discuss the upcoming Assembly polls in the Union Territory, there is every reason to be hopeful. The EC has already expressed its commitment to adhere to the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for holding the polls. But the central government will have to take a final call on whether to go ahead with the exercise or not.

The spate of attacks, particularly in Jammu division, has intensified concerns though. But it cannot be a credible reason for deferring polls, for it is difficult to put a definite timeline on when the situation could return to normal. More so, when the troubled nature of the region makes the region perennially unpredictable.

Also, all elections since 1989 when militancy first broke out in the UT have been held amid spikes in violence. In 1996, Assembly elections were held amidst a runaway turmoil in the then state. And if any more evidence was needed it was provided by the recent parliament polls which were held in the UT without a single incident of violence.

People in the UT are excited about the prospect of elections as they anticipate it would lead to restoration of statehood. But it may not happen soon after the exercise. As far as making any political concessions on Kashmir is concerned, there seems hardly any possibility of a rethink in the union government. The centre has no immediate plan to restore statehood. This was also obvious from the recent grant of more powers to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The fresh amendments to the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019, which give more authority to the LG, signals that assembly elections in the region may be imminent. By increasing the Lieutenant Governor's control over the transfers and postings of all-India service officers like the IAS and IPS, as well as appointments of judicial officers, police, and law and order matters, the central government appears to be paving the way for a more centralized administration ahead of potential elections. These amendments indicate that the union government aims to safeguard its strategic changes in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring they remain intact irrespective of the political shifts that may follow upcoming assembly elections.

Meanwhile, people look forward to Assembly elections in the UT in the near future. J&K has not had an elected government since June 2018 when Governor's rule was imposed after the PDP-led coalition government lost its majority following the withdrawal of support by the BJP. The last five years have witnessed a drastic political makeover of the state-turned-union territory, so much so that in many aspects, the current J&K bears little resemblance to what it was pre-August 2019. Here is hoping that the changes culminate into restoration of democracy and subsequently into reinstatement of statehood.



Did you know?

In Volatile Market, SIP is the Way to Go

Irshad Mushtaq

In volatile markets, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) are key for enhancing portfolio value in mutual funds. Market downturns provide great opportunities to buy high-quality assets at lower prices. Stay focused on strong sectors like FMCG and pharma and health care, gold funds, telecommunication and manufacturing theme, during corrections. Keep a long-term perspective, practice discipline, and consult advisors for successful investing.

In the context of volatile markets, Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) stand out as an optimal strategy for enhancing portfolio value in mutual funds. When markets decline, investors gain the opportunity to acquire shares at lower prices, highlighting the importance of focusing on high-quality sectors during such periods. Despite the negative sentiment and discouragement that often accompany market downturns, these times actually present advantageous opportunities for increasing investments in shares, ETFs, and mutual funds through SIPs.

Historically, a lot of sectors like Pharma, technology such have performed well during market corrections, while industries like health-care, FMCG, defense, and gold usually demonstrate resilience during economic slowdowns.

Adopting a long-term perspective is crucial for wealth creation in the stock market. Investors should avoid short-term thinking, leveraging, overtrading, and speculation. Instead, disciplined investment practices, particularly staggered buying, are recommended to maximize returns. Given the unpredictability of market bottoms and peaks, sustained and informed investments are fundamental for recovery and eventual growth.

In summary, successful investing hinges on key elements including market education, patience, and a long-term vision. Consulting trusted advisors can also be beneficial. It is important to avoid overtrading and speculative actions and adopt a strategic, disciplined approach to investing in high-potential sectors.

Discipline, education, patience, and courage are vital for achieving favorable returns. Even if your portfolio experiences short-term declines of 5%, 10%, or 15%-20% remember that patience plays a significant role. Every market dip is an opportunity to accumulate quality assets, as purchasing shares, ETFs, and mutual funds at discounted prices is advantageous. Maintaining good behavior and a disciplined approach is critical in this process. SIPs offer an efficient way to invest consistently, leveraging the benefits of market volatility to enhance long-term portfolio value.

Learn from the insights of @IrshadMushtaq, writer, investor, entrepreneur & Founder of MI Securities! Connect for valuable financial advice at misecurities@bp.sharekhan.com

Why is Child Labour Still Prevalant in India?

Recently, the Centre wrote to Jammu and Kashmir apart from other states and Union Territories to strengthen the enforcement mechanism to prevent child labour and expedite the rescue and rehabilitation of the affected children



Rutba Riyaz

Child labour is inevitable in a country like India where over 40 per cent of the population lives in conditions of extreme poverty. The children have to supplement their parents' income or in some cases, they are the only wage earners in the family

Despite constitutional provisions against child labour, a large number of children continue to be exploited under hazardous work conditions. Poorly paid for long hours of work, they have to abandon their studies to support their family at an age when they are supposed to just play around and have fun. They are made to forego all the joys of childhood by a cruel and ruthless world.

Rural areas employ the largest number of child labour. In urban areas, they work in dhabas, tea-stalls and restaurants, and households. They are shamelessly exploited in the unorganized sector as domestic servants, hawkers, rag-pickers, paper vendors, agricultural labourers, and as workers in industrial concerns.

Some of the industries that employ children as labourers include match industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu; glass industry in Firozabad, brassware industry in Moradabad and the handmade carpet industry in Mirzapur-Bhadoi, precious stone polishing industry in Jaipur, Rajasthan; lock making industry in Aligarh; slate industry in Markapur, Andhra Pradesh, and slate industry in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh.

Sometimes, children are employed against a loan or debt or social obligation by the family of the child. Generally, they are forced to work assisting their families in the agricultural sector, brick kilns, and stone quarries. In urban areas, children of migrant workers mostly belonging to low caste groups such as dalits or marginalised tribal sections work in small production houses and factories. Bonded child labourers are particularly subjected to mental, physical and sexual abuse, sometimes even leading to death. In Orissa,

people sell daughters, eight to 10 years old, as maid servants to the creditor in order to clear their debt.

Child labour is inevitable in a country like India where over 40 per cent of the population lives in conditions of extreme poverty. The children have to supplement their parents' income or in some cases, they are the only wage earners in the family. Another reason is that vested interests deliberately create child labour to get cheap labour as a factory hand, a domestic servant or a shop assistant.

Children often work in dangerously polluted factories. They work for 9 to 10 hours at a stretch including night shifts. No wonder that a large number of child workers have sunken chests and thin bone frames which give them a fragile look. They are made to work in small rooms under inhuman conditions which include unhygienic surroundings. Most of these children come from extremely poor households. They are either school drop-outs or those who have not seen any school at all.

Child labourers run the risk of contracting various diseases. They are vulnerable to exploitation by all. There is no strict enforcement of laws against child labour, so, employers continue to circumvent the provisions of the law in the full knowledge that the child workers themselves will not dare to expose them.

The authorities should incorporate a provision for surprise checks and establish a separate vigilance cell. Employers should compulsorily take steps for the intellectual, vocational and educational well-being and upliftment of a child worker.

Recently, the Centre wrote to Jammu and Kashmir apart from other states and Union

Territories to strengthen the enforcement mechanism to prevent child labour and expedite the rescue and rehabilitation of the affected children.

In a letter, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said, "Strengthen the enforcement mechanism to prevent any violation of the Child and Adolescent Labour Protection Act, 1986. It is also requested to expedite the rescue and rehabilitation of the affected children, ensuring that they receive proper care and access to education, as outlined in the standard operating procedures."

Many drives have been conducted in J&K lately to curb the menace of child labour. In Jammu, 15 FIRs were lodged for child labour. An anti-child labour drive was also jointly conducted by Child Welfare Committee Kupwara, Child Line and District Child Protection Unit in Kupwara town recently.

We need policies which try to alleviate poverty and inequality as they can have a significant and decisive impact on economic conditions and social structures that have a bearing on child labour. Such initiatives may incorporate agrarian reforms, employment-generation programmes, use of improved technology among the poor, promotion of the informal sector and creation of cooperatives and social security schemes. Also required is effective enforcement machinery to punish the violators of laws. Labour-inspection and related services need to be strengthened.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author can be reached at rutbariyaz129@gmail.com



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The Heat Wave in Kashmir

SINCE years now, we have been joking and cursing summers in Kashmir. Every year is the same tale of rising temperatures. This year too, Kashmir is witnessing high temperatures and alien heat. However, what needs to

be done is to identify the cause of this rise.

We can't overlook the elephant in the room. Climate change is a reality and has been showing its presence through erratic weather patterns, unusual precipitation trends, melting

glaciers and rising temperatures.

Ours is an abundant ecosystem which needs to be nurtured. We must make proactive sustainable and environmental friendly choices. We cannot go on abusing the environment and expecting it to nurture us in re-

turn. How we treat the environment is how the environment will treat us. An onslaught on the health and life of the environment is also an onslaught on our health and life.

Shafiq Mehmood
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A Girl at the Library

Jan Saahi

It was a morning with a refreshing breeze and sunlight streaming through the trees, creating a serene atmosphere as I approached the library. The library was empty, and its walls seemed to stand as silent sentinels, encircling me in their stillness. As I found a spot and opened my book, I couldn't help but feel a sense of anticipation for the quiet focus that this space promised. Gradually, the library began to fill with students, each immersed in their own world of study. The room's silence was punctuated by the soft sounds of pens scratching paper and the occasional rustle of pages turning.

In the midst of this peaceful scene, a sudden burst of laughter broke the calm. My attention was drawn to a young girl who had just entered the library. She had a calm and serene presence, her face partially obscured but her eyes—deep and expressive—revealing a story of their own. She scanned the room, found an empty seat in a quiet corner, and settled in for her study session. Her small feet swung beneath the chair, and her eyes blinked at an uneven rhythm as she began her work.

The girl pulled out a math textbook and set up a lecture on her mobile phone. Her delicate hands, adorned with intricate henna designs, held her pen with a graceful precision. A bottle of water sat in front of her, and she leaned towards her books, fully immersed in her studies. Despite the long hours of focused work, she remained in the same position, showing remarkable endurance. It was evident that she had



been studying for hours, yet she continued without any sign of fatigue or frustration.

This sight made me reflect on the various challenges that students face in libraries. One major challenge is maintaining focus for extended periods. It's not uncommon for students to struggle with distractions, whether from their environment, personal thoughts, or the temptation of digital devices. The library, despite being a place of quiet, is not immune to these distractions. The girl's ability to stay concentrated for so long was impressive, especially given how easy it is to lose focus or become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of material to be studied.

Another challenge is the physical discomfort that comes with long study sessions. Sitting for hours can lead to back

pain, stiffness, or discomfort, which can be exacerbated by factors like heat waves or inadequate seating. The girl's dedication to her studies despite these potential discomforts highlighted her resilience and commitment. It's a reminder of how important it is to create a study environment that is as comfortable and conducive to learning as possible.

For young girls, balancing academic responsibilities with other life demands can add another layer of complexity. Many girls juggle school work with family responsibilities, extracurricular activities, and social commitments. The struggle to manage these various aspects of life can make it even harder to stay motivated and focused. The girl's perseverance in the library, despite these potential pressures,

MANY GIRLS JUGGLE SCHOOL WORK WITH FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND SOCIAL COMMITMENTS. THE STRUGGLE TO MANAGE THESE various aspects of life can make it even harder to stay motivated and focused. The girl's perseverance in the library, despite these potential pressures, was a powerful example of how determination and discipline can help overcome these challenges."

was a powerful example of how determination and discipline can help overcome these challenges.

Moreover, libraries play a critical role in this process. They offer a quiet space free from the usual distractions of home and provide access to a wealth of resources that can support students' learning. Making the most of this environment requires not only physical presence but also mental commitment. The girl's ability to stay focused and dedicated in the library exemplifies the positive impact that a well-utilized study space can have on academic performance.

Addressing these challenges involves both practical and mental strategies. On a practical level, finding a comfortable and quiet place to study, using tools like timers to manage study sessions, and taking regular breaks to avoid burnout can make a significant difference. Mentally, developing a strong sense of purpose, setting clear goals, and maintaining a positive attitude towards studying can help overcome procrastination and stay motivated.

In conclusion, the young girl's story serves as a powerful reminder of the dedication required to succeed in life. Her endurance in the library, despite the challenges of heat, discomfort, and potential distractions, is a testament to the importance of perseverance. It highlights the need for effective study habits and time management while also acknowledging the unique struggles faced by many students. For anyone struggling with procrastination or balancing multiple responsibilities, the lesson is clear: commitment to one's studies, no matter the obstacles, is essential for achieving future success and personal growth. Here I want to end this piece of write-up with inspiring lines of Dr Alamea Iqbal. I-e;

*Manzil se aagey badh kar manzil talash kar
Mil jaaye tujhko dariya, samandar talash kar
Har sheeha toot jata hai pathar ki chot se
Pathar hi toot jaaye woh sheeha talash kar*

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Who is Algeria's IMANE KHELIF and What are the Issues She's Facing?

Anne Tjønnndal

Imane Khelif will be competing for gold at the 2024 Paris Olympics, overcoming a furore that erupted around her and another boxer a few days earlier. Ugly issues of gender testing and testosterone levels once again raised their head in elite women's sport, as they did in the case of South African runner Caster Semenya. Khelif and Taiwanese boxer Lin Yu-ting failed a questionable gender test administered by the International Boxing Association (IBA) in 2023, but were declared fit for entry by the International Olympic Committee. Both are female and identify as such, yet one of Khelif's opponents fuelled a public outcry that Khelif had an unfair advantage, spurring false claims she is transgender. We asked sport sociologist and former boxer Anne Tjønnndal to explain what's going on.

What's the history of women's Olympic boxing – and what social issues has it faced?

Boxing was one of the last summer Olympic sports to include women athletes, with women's boxing being introduced to the Olympic programme for the London 2012 Games. In London, only three of ten weight categories were included for women: 51kg (flyweight), 60kg (lightweight) and 75kg (middleweight). In the same games, ten weight categories were included for male boxers. The marginalisation of women's boxing continued throughout the Rio 2016 Games, maintaining three weight categories for women and ten weight categories for men. Things started to change after Rio, with the Tokyo 2020 games including five weight categories for women and eight categories for men. In Paris, men compete in seven weight categories and women in six.

One of the biggest controversies of women's boxing at the Olympics took place before London 2012, when AIBA (Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur – now the IBA) suggested it be mandatory for women boxers to compete in skirts at the Olympics. The suggestion was met with resistance from women boxers globally, and while the issue remained

undecided as late as January 2012, in the spring of 2012 it was finally announced that women boxers would be allowed to choose between competing in a skirt or in shorts.

Today, the most pressing social issues for women's boxing at the Olympics relate to a lack of female representation in coaching and leadership, and a lack of research into the prevalence of harassment and sexual abuse of women in boxing.

Who is Imane Khelif and how did she come to be in the news?

Imane Khelif is a women's amateur boxer from Algeria. She won a silver medal in the 2022 World Championship and a gold medal in the 2022 African Championship. In the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games she reached the quarterfinals. Her amateur record stands at 52 fights (40 wins and 9 losses) at the time of writing.

In recent news, Khelif has become a victim of widespread misinformation and unfounded allegations regarding her gender. She has been falsely accused of being transgender, despite living her entire life as a woman and having a long-standing career in women's boxing. The controversy originated from the IBA's disqualification of Khelif from the 2023 World Championship. The IBA cited her failure to meet gender eligibility tests, but has not specified the nature of these tests, sparking rumours that Khelif is transgender and biologically male.

The situation escalated after Khelif won her opening Olympic fight in 46 seconds against Italian Angela Carini. This victory led to an increase in social media abuse directed at Khelif. Carini's comment after the fight, claiming she had never been punched so hard before, further fuelled the allegations. Although Carini later apologised to Khelif for her behaviour, the controversy was exacerbated when the IBA announced that Carini would receive prize money equivalent to that of gold medalists. The Italian Boxing Federation has since stated that it will not accept this money.

What is gender testing and where does testosterone testing fit in?

Almost all sports competitions are organised in sex categories: a women's category and a men's category. The segregation of men and women's competitions is a founding principle of ensuring fairness in elite sports due to the athletic differences between men and women.

Gender testing has been used in elite sports competitions since the 1920s, and was initially introduced to ensure that men could not disguise themselves as women to participate in women's

sports. Looking at the history of gender testing however, the "sex-markers" being tested have changed as medical knowledge has evolved over the decades. Several of the gender tests have since been proven medically inaccurate and ethically flawed.

Testosterone testing is commonly used in gender testing today. Women athletes who have "too much" testosterone are sometimes met with a demand for artificial regulation of their testosterone level. Even if their bodies naturally produce more testosterone compared to other women athletes. The demand for artificial regulation of testosterone levels concerns two groups of athletes in particular: transwomen and women with intersex variations (women with difference in sex development or DSD). There is currently no indication to suggest that Khelif or Yu-ting are affected by DSD, as the IBA has said it's unable to share information about their gender testing for legal reasons.

How much of this has to do with the feud between the IBA and the IOC?

The International Boxing Association (IBA) was previously the governing body of amateur (Olympic) boxing. But the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped it of its recognition due to persistent concerns over corruption and governance issues. For the Paris Olympics, a unit appointed by the IOC is organising the boxing competition. For the 2028 Games, a new organisation named World Boxing is expected to replace the IBA as the governing body of Olympic boxing.

The power struggles and tensions between the IBA and the IOC have raised questions about the IBA's motivations in addressing gender eligibility issues in Olympic boxing. Many believe that the IBA is using the situation of Khelif as a strategy to undermine the IOC and garner global support.

How does gender and power play out in women's boxing?

Historically, women have been marginalised as athletes, coaches, referees, and leaders in boxing. In most countries, boxing continues to be a male dominated sport, which often contributes to limiting women's opportunities. A pressing issue today is the lack of women's representation in coaching and leadership in women's boxing.

Regarding gender eligibility in elite sports, women from the global south are over-represented in cases where the gender of female athletes is questioned.

By arrangements with The Conversation

THE POWER STRUGGLES AND TENSIONS BETWEEN THE IBA AND THE IOC have raised questions about the IBA's motivations in addressing gender eligibility issues in Olympic boxing. Many believe that the IBA is using the situation of Khelif as a strategy to undermine the IOC and garner global support

US judge brands Google 'monopolist', but AI may bring about quicker change in internet search



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A federal judge has branded Google as a ruthless monopolist bent on suffocating its competitors. But how do you go about creating alternatives to a search engine that's synonymous with internet exploration?

It's a process that may take years to unfold as Google appeals the landmark decision issued Monday by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta.

And with that kind of time frame looming, the forces of technological upheaval may make the exercise moot.

The rise of artificial intelligence may reshape the landscape more quickly and profoundly than any judge ever could. The way consumers navigate the internet is more likely to be affected by advances in AI products — such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's own Gemini — before a nearly 4-year-old case brought by the U.S. Justice Department is finally resolved.

Even so, Mehta's 277-page ruling Monday creates challenges for Google that company founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin probably didn't envision when they set out to revolutionize internet search while attending Stanford University as graduate students. They eventually dropped out to start a Silicon Valley company in 1998 that adopted "Don't Be Evil" as a motto that also was meant to serve as its corporate conscience.

Page and Brin, who remain the controlling shareholders of Google's corporate parent Alpha-

bet Inc., also cast their cuddly startup as a crusader for technology that would be far better than the products coming out of Microsoft, the industry's reigning kingpin at the time. Microsoft's dominance of personal computer software and anticompetitive tactics during the 1990s spurred another Justice Department case that ended up hobbling Microsoft and helped make it easier for Google to build its lead in search and then expand into maps, cloud computing, email (Gmail), web browsers (Chrome) and video (YouTube).

Now, the script has been flipped, with Google facing potential legal constraints, while a resurgent Microsoft has been making early headway in AI with a major helping hand from its investment in OpenAI. In one of the most dramatic scenarios that most experts think is unlikely to happen, Google might be forced to break up its business similar to how AT&T — once known as "Ma Bell" — ended up spinning off its telephone subsidiaries into separate "Baby Bells" more than 40 years ago.

It will be left to Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who took over the company's leadership from Page in 2015, to minimize the distractions caused by the legal skirmishing still to come and remain focused on an industrywide pivot to AI technology that's expected to be as revolutionary as the mobile computing shift by Apple's introduction of the iPhone in 2007.

Hiroshima remembers atom bomb victims as 'global tragedies' unfold

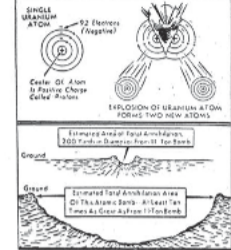
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ATOMIC POWER UNLEASHED ON JAPAN

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The Oregonian

Weather Report



Single Bomb Shatters Enemy City; Secret Weapon Made in Northwest



Quit or Be Destroyed, Truman Warns Tokyo; Shortening of War Seen

Fantastic Weapon's Wallop Like Volcano

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The Mayor of Hiroshima said on Tuesday (August 6, 2024) that wars in Ukraine and Gaza were deepening fear and distrust worldwide while observing the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing that devastated the Japanese city.

Kazumi Matsui made a sombre speech at a memorial event to commemorate the victims of the U.S. nuclear attack on August 6, 1945 that left around 1,40,000 people dead.

"Russia's protracted invasion of Ukraine and the worsening situation between Israel and Palestine are claiming the lives of countless innocent people and shattering normal life," he said.

"These global tragedies are deepening distrust and fear among nations, reinforcing the public assumption that to solve international problems we have to rely on military force, which we should be re-

jecting."

Days after the 1945 Hiroshima attack, a second U.S. nuclear bomb hit Nagasaki in southwest Japan, killing around 74,000 people. The two strikes led to the end of the Second World War, and to this day Japan remains the only country to be hit by atomic weapons in wartime.

During Tuesday's (August 6, 2024) ceremony, dignitaries including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida — all clad in black suits — bowed deeply and laid wreaths at the memorial cenotaph featuring the inscription "rest in peace".

Today, Hiroshima is a thriving metropolis of 1.2 million people, but the ruins of a domed building stand in the city centre as a stark reminder of the attack's horrors.

Not invited For the third year running, Russia and Belarus were not invited to the ceremony because of the Ukraine crisis. It

was the city's first peace memorial since Israel launched a military offensive on Gaza last year following an attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on the country.

The Israeli Ambassador attended the ceremony as usual, but according to local media, Hiroshima has never invited a Palestinian representative. "That an invitation was not extended to Palestine is shocking," the Permanent General Mission of Palestine to Japan said on social media platform X last month.

A city official said in June that Hiroshima had called for a "ceasefire as soon as possible and resolution through dialogue" in its invitation letter to Israel.

Israel's Ambassador has not, however, been invited to the Nagasaki peace ceremony this year. Nagasaki has said the decision was not politically motivated, but rather taken to avoid any unexpected trouble.

Israel lobby spends millions to unseat US lawmaker critical of Gaza war



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Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., and Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., speak during a news conference at the US Capitol, May 8, 2024, in Washington (Photo credit: AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

The pro-Israel lobby in the US is pouring millions into a campaign to unseat an African-American Congresswoman from Missouri, Cori Bush, as part of a broader effort to replace critics of Israel's war in Gaza with more Israel-friendly Democrats. The Washington Post reported on 6 August.

"It's because I called for a ceasefire in Gaza," Bush told a potential voter as she campaigned door-to-door in her district. "That's where all of this started."

Bush is facing a tight primary contest Tuesday against St Louis County Prosecutor and fellow African-American and Democrat Wesley Bell, who is supported by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the largest and most powerful pro-Israel group in the US.

Whoever wins the primary will run against the Republican party's candidate for the congressional seat in November.

Outside groups have already spent over \$15 million in Missouri's 1st Congressional district race, with 80 percent of the funds going toward ads opposing Bush and supporting her AIPAC-backed opponent.

In June, AIPAC and other pro-Israel groups spent \$17 million to help defeat another progressive African-American member of the US Congress who was critical of the Gaza war, Democrat Jamaal Bowman from New York.

The Washington Post adds that the National Black Empowerment Action Fund (NBEA), founded by AIPAC veteran Darius Jones, donated \$1 million to the campaign against Bush last week.

Most of the voters in Bush's district with whom the Washington Post spoke said they did not know that AIPAC and other Israel lobby groups were so involved in tipping the race.

"It's deceitful," Bush said in an interview. "If AIPAC and UDP decided to run [Bell] because they want someone who is going to say that they stand 100 percent with Israel... then say that in the commercials."

"What they want to do is show that if you go against them, then you are at risk," she added.

After the 2022 Congressional elections, AIPAC announced that 95 percent of its candidates won their races. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted decades ago that Israel controls the US government and public opinion. "We own the Senate, the Congress, and we have a record-strong Jewish lobby on our side. We have a strong influence over the general support. America won't force us into anything," he said.

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