

'Risk of Nuclear War Rising Amid Global Conflicts'

CONFLICTS raging around the world, including in Gaza, are heightening the possibility of a nuclear war, the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize warned, renewing calls for the abolition of nuclear weapons. "The international situation is getting progressively worse, and now wars are being waged as countries threaten the use of nuclear weapons," said Shigemitsu Tanaka, a survivor of the 1945 U.S. bombing

of Nagasaki and co-head of the Nihon Hidankyo group. "I fear that we as humankind are on the path to self-destruction. The only way to stop that is to abolish nuclear," he said. Nihon Hidankyo, the grassroots group of Japanese atomic bomb survivors, won the prize on Friday for its "efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons". In awarding the survivors, the Norwegian Nobel Committee highlighted the devastation



of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Japanese group's decades-long work to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Nagasaki was the second Japanese city that was hit by a US nuclear bomb on August 9, 1945, killing at least 74,000 people. Three days earlier, the US bombing of Hiroshima had killed 140,000 people. Hiroshima residents said on Saturday they hoped the world

never forgets the bombings of 1945 – now more than ever. Susumu Ogawa, 84, was five when the bomb all but obliterated Hiroshima 79 years ago, and many of his family members were among the tens of thousands killed. "My mother, my aunt, my grandfather, and my grandmother all died," Ogawa told the AFP news agency. "All nuclear weapons in the world have to be abandoned,"

Ogawa said. "We know the horror of nuclear weapons, because we know what happened in Hiroshima." What is happening now in the Middle East, with Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon and escalating tensions with Iran, saddens him. Russian President Vladimir Putin signalled in September that Moscow would consider responding with nuclear weapons if the | [More on P6](#)



Cabinet Rule Must To End President's Rule: OMAR

Anticipates Oath Ceremony on Wednesday

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference vice president and Chief Minister designate of J&K Omar Abdullah Saturday said that to end the president's rule, a cabinet rule is a must and that he was hopeful about the Oath ceremony on Wednesday. "Don't link technology with the government formation. We once tried to form a government through a fax machine, but couldn't," Omar said amid laughs.... He was responding to a query of reporters at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar as to why government formation was taking time in times of technology. "There is a need for a cabinet note to end president's

rule in J&K. Today was Dussehra holiday and I am hopeful that the process would be completed by Monday and we would take oath on Wednesday," Omar said. Omar yesterday (Friday) presented the letters of support to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan and also staked claim on the government formation. Omar watched the Legends League match with full excitement. Asked who were his favourite players, he said as far as yesterday's cricket, he liked Sunil Gavaskar and Ravi Shastri. "In present times, players like Irfan Pathan, Yousuf Pathan and Rohit Kohli in the Indian team | [More on P6](#)

Waiting For Return Of KPs: Dr Farooq

As the National Conference is set to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir, party chief Farooq Abdullah on Saturday said that he and his party await the return of Kashmiri Pandits, who were forced to leave their homes during the exodus of the early 1990s. On being asked by the media person about | [More on P6](#)

IT IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR LOCAL ATHLETES to gain exposure. Hopefully, in the future, we will see our youth participating in such high-level matches."

Wild Boars Present New Ecological Challenge in Kashmir

Agencies

Srinagar: Kashmir, known for its unique biodiversity is currently facing a new ecological challenge—the resurfacing of wild boars.

These animals have been frequently sighted in northern districts like Kupwara, Baramulla, and Bandipora over the past few years, causing severe crop damage and distress among local farmers. Recently, their appearance in Srinagar, particularly along the famous banks of Dal Lake, has sparked anger and concern among residents.

The wildlife department responded by tranquilising two stray wild boars near CD Hospital in the Dalgate area.

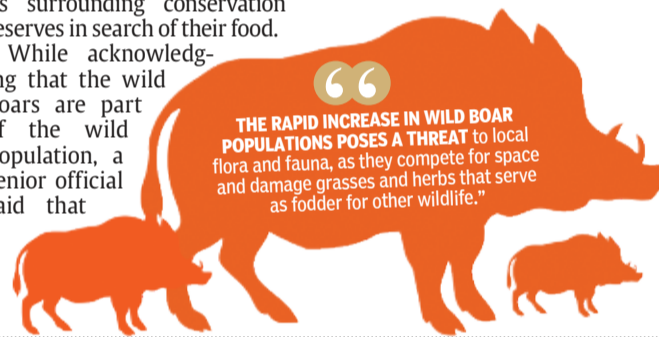
Wildlife officials in Jammu and Kashmir attribute the presence of wild boars in Srinagar and outside Dachigam National Park to the "easy

availability" of food outside their natural habitats. A wildlife official said the species has existed in the Dachigam area since the time of the Maharajas and often ventures outside the park during the fruit harvest season in search of food.

They said that during the fruit harvesting season, the species has been found usually roaming outside the peripheries of Dachigam National Park and its surrounding conservation reserves in search of their food. While acknowledging that the wild boars are part of the wild population, a senior official said that

their movement cannot be restricted. However, he said, measures have been implemented to deter them from leaving their habitat. "The main force driving them out is the easy availability of food. Wherever they find food, they will continue to move," the official explained.

The CCTV footage and pictures also showed the presence of wild boars near Asia's famous Tulip and Botanical Garden.



THE RAPID INCREASE IN WILD BOAR POPULATIONS POSES A THREAT to local flora and fauna, as they compete for space and damage grasses and herbs that serve as fodder for other wildlife."

Over 70% Of New MLAs In J&K Graduates

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: More than 70 per cent of the 90 MLAs elected to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly have declared their minimum educational qualification as graduates, including three who hold doctorate degrees.

According to data compiled by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), all three doctorate degree holders who emerged victorious in the recently-held Assembly polls belong to the BJP, which also has six graduates with professional degrees and four post-graduate MLAs.

The National Conference (NC), which emerged as the single-largest party in the polls with 42 seats, has 16 graduates with professional degrees and five post-graduates in their legislature party.

While eight MLAs from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have declared matriculation as their highest educational qualification, the number of such MLAs in the NC is just one. The BJP | [More on P6](#)

Rajnath Virtually Inaugurates 19 BRO Projects In J&K



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday virtually dedicated 19 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of Rs 2,236 crore to the nation.

Of these, 19 are in Jammu & Kashmir. In his address, Rajnath termed the projects as a testament to the Government's unwavering resolve to keep strengthening the border infrastructure and ensuring socio-economic progress of these areas.

Rajnath inaugurated the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)-built bridge in Jammu

& Kashmir border area of Gurez. A Defence Ministry statement said that Rajnath Singh inaugurated BRO's Kanthalwan Bridge in Gurez Valley of Bandipora district. "The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated BRO's newly constructed Kanthalwan Bridge in the Gurez Valley of North Kashmir's Bandipora district via video conferencing on Saturday," read the statement. The event was attended by senior officials, including the Commander of the 109 Infantry Brigade, the Commanding Officer of the Rana Battalion | [More on P6](#)

Economic Lifeline For Far-Flung Areas: LG

The Lieutenant Governor, J&K, Manoj Sinha expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh; BRO, BEACON, SAMPARK and everyone associated with the construction of the important roads and bridges in the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir. These infrastructures are strategically vital for both the Army and Civil Administration and will prove to be an economic lifeline for the people in far-flung areas, he said.

"In the last few years, the road infrastructure and connectivity in Jammu Kashmir, especially in areas of strategic importance have been transformed. This reflects the commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards inclusive and equitable | [More on P6](#)

JD-U Likely To Get Berth In J&K Assembly

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: The Janata Dal-United (JD-U) J&K unit is anticipated to get one of the five MLA berths in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly under the J&K Reorganization (amendment) Act-2023.

Confirming the development, JD-U J&K president GM Shaheen said since his party is in alliance with the Bhartiya Janata Party led National Democratic Alliance in the centre, they have been assured that one of the five LG nominees to the J&K Legislative Assembly will be from the JD-U J&K.

The likely nomination of a lawmaker, according to Shaheen, will aid the JD-U J&K unit get representation in the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

"We should wait for the formal confirmation as I have been informed | [More on P6](#)

'Contractual Staff Strike' J&K Hospitals Asked Not To Refer Patients To PGI

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh (PGIMER) on Friday suspended all elective surgeries and new elective admissions amid the ongoing strike called by the near-3,500 contractual workers at, including over 1,600 hospital attendants, demanding the release of long-pending arrears.

Patients scheduled for procedures were informed of postponements and hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh were asked not to refer patients to PGIMER during the strike.

The Hospital Attendants' Union had announced the decision to go on strike on Thursday. They were joined by the All Contract Workers Union, marking the sixth such strike in less than two years and third in 15 days under PGIMER director Dr Vivek Lal.

The hospital administration's failure to | [More on P6](#)



Devotees burn Ravana effigies on the eve of Dussehra In Srinagar. KO Photo by Abid Bhat.

Panchayat Elections On Hold New Govt's Approval Needed For OBC Reservation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Panchayat election in Jammu and Kashmir will be held only after the new government approves reservation recommendations to be made by Other Backward Classes (OBC) Commission. With approximately 6.5 million voters poised to shape the future of local governance, the commission is diligently working to finalise its report on reservation recommendations, which will be submitted to the government shortly.

Following the recent Lok Sabha and assembly elections, the State Election Commission ramped

up its efforts regarding panchayat elections, recognising the pivotal role that local bodies play in the development of rural areas.

To facilitate the electoral process, preparations are underway to upload the list of existing voters on the State Election Commission's website by the end of this month. This will enable voters to amend their records during a special summary process.

As already reported, the UT administration constituted a three-member OBC Commission led by retired judge Janak Raj Kotwal, alongside retired IAS officer Raj Kumar Bhagat and former Dean of SKUAST Jammu, | [More on P6](#)

Halt Youth Harassment: Er Rashid To LG



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Lok Sabha MP from the Baramulla Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid on Saturday met Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here and apprised him of the issues faced by people.

"Engineer Rashid briefed the LG about the demands of the people of north Kashmir. The Lok Sabha member also

urged the LG to revisit the cases of terminated government employees," a spokesman of Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) said in a statement here.

He also briefed the LG about the difficulties being faced by the people in getting police verifications.

Rashid demanded that harassment of youths and others in the name of verification by police be immediately stopped, the spokesman added.



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Death Risk Found To Rise Due To Adverse Effects On Health In Wake Of Extreme Rainfall Events

Press Trust Of India

Risk of death was found to rise in the wake of an extreme rainfall event, including death due to heart and lung conditions, according to a study. With climate change making short-term rainfall events more extreme and frequent, there is emerging evidence that suggests a compelling link between these events and their adverse effects on health, especially the spread of infectious diseases, researchers said based on a study of over 62,000 rainfall events across the globe. The study by the team, including research-

ers from the German Research Center for Environmental Health, provides a global perspective of how extreme rainfall events can impact health, they said. They looked at the data of daily deaths and rainfall from 645 locations from across 34 countries and regions, recorded from 1980 to 2020. A total of over 100 million deaths from any cause, and more than 31 million and 11.5 million deaths due to heart and lung conditions, respectively, were analysed. A day of extreme rainfall, that could likely recur over the following five years, was linked with an eight per cent increase in

deaths due to any cause over the 14 days following the extreme weather event. Such an event was also related with a five per cent increase in cardiovascular deaths and a nearly 30 per cent increase in lung-related mortality in the fortnight following the rainfall. "Daily rainfall intensity is associated with varying health effects, with extreme events linked to an increasing relative risk for all cause, cardiovascular, and respiratory mortality. The observed associations varied with local climate and urban infrastructure," the authors wrote in the study published in the British Medical Journal.

Acknowledging the limitations of the research, the team said the study was observational and thus, could not draw cause-and-effect conclusions. Further, locations analysed were largely in east Asia, Europe, and North America, they added. The findings, however, highlighted the need for coordinated public health strategies targeted at the health impacts of extreme rainfall, the authors said. "This is especially important considering the well established trend of increasing short term rainfall intensity as a result of climate change," they wrote.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Inayat Ahmad Mochi who was born on 04/05/2009 If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Feroz Ahmad Mochi
 F/o Inayat hmad Mochi
 R/o Nehama

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my daughter Mehak Manzoor who was born on 22/12/2009. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Kakapora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Manzoor Ahmad Sofi
 F/o Mehak Manzoor
 R/o Trich

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my passport bearing no T8994533 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 Regional passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Abdul Majid Ahangar
 R/o Baramulla

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1 'LIFE'S GOOD' Scholarship Program 2024

Description: LG Electronics India Private Limited invites applications from students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate courses at select colleges/institutes across India. Eligibility: Students must be pursuing undergraduate/postgraduate courses (any academic year) from select colleges/institutes across India. First-year students must have scored a minimum of 60% marks in their class 12th examinations, while students in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years must have achieved a minimum of 60% marks in the previous academic year. Preference will be given to meritorious students, female students and students with an annual family income of not more than INR 8 lakh. Selections are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Prizes & Rewards: For UG students - 50% of tuition fees or up to INR 1 lakh (whichever is lesser). For PG students - 50% of tuition fees or up to INR 2 lakh (whichever is lesser) For meritorious candidates with zero tuition fees and a family income of less than INR 8 lakh: UG students will receive INR 50,000 PG students will receive INR 1 lakh

- Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/LGGS2



Applicants must have secured at least 80% in CBSE board or 70% or above marks in other Boards in Class 12. A CGPA of at least 8.0 for second year students is a must. The annual family income of the applicants must not exceed INR 8 lakh. Prizes & Rewards: A scholarship amount of INR 50,000 for students with an AIR rank of less than 2500. A scholarship amount of INR 40,000 for students with an AIR rank between 2501 and 5,000. A scholarship amount of INR 30,000 for students with an AIR rank between 5,001 and 7500. A scholarship amount of INR 20,000 for students with an AIR rank above 7500. Additionally, a scholarship amount of INR 10,000 is awarded to students pursuing non-technical courses such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BBA, etc.

- Last Date to Apply: 31-12-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SDEFSL1

Scholarship Name 2 SDEF "Smt. Shyam Lata Garg" India Scholarships 2024-25

Description: An initiative of Swami Dayanand Education Foundation (SDEF) to provide financial assistance to students pursuing professional courses, including engineering, medical, architecture, etc., and other undergraduate programs. Eligibility: Indian students enrolled in professional courses such as engineering, medical, architecture, etc., or other undergraduate programs offered by government or private educational institutions.

Scholarship Name 3 Louis Dreyfus Agri-Scholars Program 2024-25

Description: An initiative by Louis Dreyfus Company India Private Limited aimed at providing financial assistance to underprivileged students pursuing undergraduate courses in agriculture.

- Last Date to Apply: 27-11-2024
- Application mode: Online

Scholarship Name 4 Western Digital Scholarship Program 2024-25

Description: A CSR initiative by Western Digital aimed at supporting and empowering PWD and transgender students pursuing STEM courses across India. Eligibility: PWD and transgender students pursuing graduation, postgraduation, and PhD programs in STEM-related fields are eligible to apply. Applicants must have secured a minimum of 50% marks in Class 12 or their previous semester or preceding class. Open to students across India. Children of employees of Western Digital and Buddy4Study are ineligible. Prizes & Rewards: Up to 75,000 scholarship

- Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DASPL1

applications only
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Scholarship Name 5 Colgate Keep India Smiling Scholarship 2024-25

Description: An initiative of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited to provide financial assistance and support to individuals who are deserving and meritorious but may lack the resources to pursue their dreams. Eligibility: Indian students who are currently enrolled in Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) (any year) or Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) courses in a recognised government or private institute. Applicants must have scored at least 65% marks in Class 12. Students must have an overall score of above 60% in their BDS to apply for MDS scholarship. The annual family income of the applicants from all sources must not exceed INR 8 lakh. Prizes & Rewards: Scholarship of INR 75,000


- Last Date to Apply: 31-10-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/CKISSP3

Scholarship Name 6 Nikon Scholarship Program 2024-25

Description: An initiative of Nikon India Private Limited to financially support students from disadvantaged sections of society to pursue photography-related courses. Eligibility: Open for Indian students who have completed Class 12 and are pursuing photography-related courses with a duration of three months or more. Annual family income (from all sources) should be less than INR 6 lakh. Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 1,00,000

- Last Date to Apply: 20-10-2024
- Application mode: Online applications only
- Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/NIKON12

SAD DEMISE



With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the demise of Syed Nisar Hussain, resident of House no. 540, Green Lane 3, sector 1, Sir Syedabad, bemia who left for the heavenly abode on 09 of October 2024. We request everyone to pray for the departed soul. Four days mourning shall be observed. Collective Fathi-hakani shall be held on Saturday at 10:30 am at Anjum Graveyard, HIG colony. Ladies are requested not to bring any fruit or juice with them.

Syed Tajamul Hussain (son)
 Dr Amin Abid (son in law)
 Dr Masroor Kanji (son in law)
 Contact no. 9858455415

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واہتگان کے ساتھ اطلاع دیتے ہیں۔۔۔ ہجرام 14 اکتوبر 2024 سوموار

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IGP Kashmir, DC Srinagar Greets People On Mahanavami, Dussehra

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the occasions of Mahanavami and Dussehra, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today extended his warm greetings to the people.

In his greetings, Dr Bilal said that the occasion of "Dussehra also known and celebrated as 'Vijayadashami,' is a symbol of the triumph of good over evil. He prayed that these auspicious days will bring happiness, peace and development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner all necessary preparations have already been done by the District Administration for smooth celebrations of Dussehra.

IGP Kashmir V K Birdi also greeted the people on the occasion of Dussehra, which was celebrated on Saturday.

"IGP Kashmir extends



IGP Kashmir extends Dussehra greetings to all! May this occasion bring peace, prosperity, and happiness into our lives, and inspire us to foster unity and harmony

Dussehra greetings to all! May this occasion bring peace, prosperity, and happiness into our lives, and inspire us to foster unity and harmony "J & K police wrote on its official X handle.

Dussehra is a major Hindu festival celebrated every year at the end of Durga Puja and Navratri.

Water Shortage Triggers Protest In Habakadal

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Habakadal area of Srinagar witnessed a protest today, with scores of female residents blocking the road and disrupting traffic movement flow.

Frustrated with the acute drinking water shortage, the demonstrators raised slogans against the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department, accusing the department of ignoring their repeated pleas.

The protest led to a massive traffic jam, causing inconvenience to commuters. However, the protesters remained resolute, demanding

immediate attention to the long-standing water crisis.

This is not the first time Habakadal has witnessed protests over water scarcity. Despite previous assurances, authorities have failed to address the issue, leaving residents to suffer.

"We have been facing this problem for years, and our voices have fallen on deaf ears," said one of the female protesters. Another protester said that: "With a new government being formed, we hope our newly elected representative, Shameema Firdous, will take note of this crisis and resolve it without delay." [KNT]

Annual 'Techvaganza' Fest Showcases Tech, Talent & Tradition At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two-day annual techno-cultural fest 'Techvaganza' concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday late evening. The mega event witnessed massive participation from students of various educational institutions from Kashmir Valley.

Techvaganza 2024 was organized by 'Student Gymkhana, and brought together students, tech enthusiasts, industry experts, and academia from all over the country to celebrate technology and innovation in a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere.

The concluding ceremony was attended by all Deans, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, DSW and Chairman of Techvaganza Prof. Abdul Liman, all HOD's, HOC's, faculty and administrative staff and other dignitaries were present during the second-day proceedings.

Dr. Malik Pervez Ahmad was the Convener, Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani as Coordinator, while Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran and Dr. Janani L were the Co-coordinators of the two-day event.

The theme for this year's Techvaganza was "Greener Innovation - Engineering a Sustainable World!". It focused on how engineering and technology can contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future.

In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, congratulated the organizers for their excellent work in successfully conducting the two-day program.

He emphasized that such events offer students a valuable platform to explore and showcase their talents and interests. "Whether it's in technology, arts, music, dance, or other fields, students have the opportunity to engage in activities, competitions, and workshops that align with their passions," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said during the 2-day Techvaganza that witnessed the massive participation of students from across Kashmir.

"Techvaganza offers a range of workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities that allow students to develop and enhance their skills. They provided a practical and experiential learning environment outside the traditional classroom setting," he said.

Dean Students Welfare and Chairperson of Student Gymkhana, Prof. Abdul Liman said that during the past two days, workshops, exhibitions, and cultural sessions allowed students to showcase their abilities and receive recognition for their accomplishments.

"Such fests celebrate the rich diversity of students from various backgrounds. They provide a platform for students to showcase their cultural heritage, traditions, and artistic expressions, he said.

The convener of the two-day fest, Dr. Malik Pervez Ahmad, stated that the 'Techvaganza' event successfully concluded on Friday at the campus. "We received positive feedback from the student community across the Valley," he added.

Techvaganza offers a range of workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities that allow students to develop and enhance their skills. They provided a practical and experiential learning environment outside the traditional classroom setting



PIC: Abid Bhat/KO

Dussehra Celebrated At SK Stadium Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Dussehra was celebrated with great enthusiasm across the valley including Srinagar on Saturday.

The main event took place at Srinagar's Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium, where a towering effigy of Ravana was set on fire. According to Hindu mythology, this marks the triumph of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana.

The celebration, according to KNO, saw participation from

various communities, including local Kashmiri Pandits, who continue to observe the festival despite being a minority in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, a Kashmiri Pandit resident said, "Celebrating Dussehra in the valley reminds us of our roots and shared traditions. It's a moment of unity and hope for all of us."

Another Kashmiri Pandit, Sanjay Kumar, said, "Dussehra in Kashmir holds special significance. It brings a sense of

community and togetherness, something we deeply cherish."

Adding to the event's significance, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah attended and extended his greetings to the people. He highlighted the role of festivals in fostering community bonds.

The celebration concluded with a spectacular display of fireworks lighting up the Srinagar sky, which marked the end of the festivities.

Dr Farooq Joins Dussehra Celebrations

Srinagar: National Conference chief Dr Farooq Abdullah today joined Kashmiri Pandits in the Dussehra festival at Srinagar, saying the new government in J&K will work for the rehabilitation and return of Kashmiri Pandits back to the Valley.

"I am happy to be part of this event today. I was an MP for five years but was never invited to these events. Today, I was invited and I am here," Dr Frooq told reporters on the sidelines of Dussehra festival in Srinagar.

The NC chief said the new dispensation will ensure rehabilitation and dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits back to their roots. "We will take all the Kashmiri Pandits, Dogras, Kashmiris, Jammuites, Buddhists and anyone living in J&K, on board and keep the flock together. We want KPs to return and live a dignified life again. I believe time has come when they should return," he said.

In a message to Jammu people, Dr Farooq said:

"People of Jammu should know that we are their enemies. We will take them along in our march towards good governance."

OBSESSIVE COMPULSIVE DISORDER

8 WEEK FREE GROUP THERAPY

I did wash my hand ... but... did I clean it enough? Wash it again? Is it clean now?

It's not just RECURRENT HANDWASHING AND CHECKING BUT UNSEEN PAIN distress associated with OCD

KASHMER Kashmir American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education & Research in collaboration with HPVT (Help Poor Voluntary Trust) is initiating a **free 8 weeks Group Therapy** for the individuals suffering with OCD by a team of counselling clinical psychologists led by leading consultant clinical psychologist of J&K.

If you or some one you know is experiencing symptoms of OCD, seeking professional help is crucial.

You do not have to fight your battles alone.

There is no need for referral, simply call us for registration.

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- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS	
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 0194230311	
RAILWAYS	
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259	
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243	
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029	
BIJHERA: 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	5: 11
ZUHR	12:17
ASR	4: 22
Magrib	6:04
ISHA	7: 23

HIJRI CALENDAR

09 Rabi-ul-Sani
1446

- 1213 - Battle at Steppes-Bishop Pierrepont & Louis II beat Henry I of Brabant
- 1501 - Maximilian of Austria & Louis XII sign Treaty of Trente
- 1760 - Russian and Austrian army evacuates Berlin
- 1943 - Italy declares war on former Axis partner Germany
- 1944 - US 1st army begins battle of Aachen, first German city captured during WWII
- 1960 - Opponents of Fidel Castro executed in Cuba
- 1964 - Voskhod 1 crew returns
- 1966 - 173 US aircraft bomb North Vietnam
- 1969 - 1st time 7 people in space
- 1972 - Aeroflot Il-62 crashes in large pond outside Moscow, 176 die
- 1973 - Jordan enters Yom Kippur war
- 1976 - A Bolivian Boeing 707 cargo jet crashes in Santa Cruz, Bolivia killing 100 (97, mostly children, killed on the ground).
- 1976 - First electron micrograph of an Ebola viral particle obtained by Dr. F.A. Murphy, working at the C.D.C.
- 1981 - Vice President Hosni Mubarak elected President of Egypt
- 1983 - Ameritech Mobile Communications (now Cingular) launched the first US cellular network in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1984 - STS 41-G mission; lands at Kennedy Space Center
- 1993 - Nobel prize for chemistry awarded to Kary Mullis & Michael Smith
- 1993 - Nobel prize for physics awarded to Russel Hulse & Joseph Taylor
- 2010 - The 2010 Copiapó mining accident in Copiapó, Chile comes to an end as all 33 miners arrive at the surface after surviving a record 69 days underground.
- 2012 - 15 people are killed by a market suicide bombing in Darra Adam Khel, Pakistan

From KO Archives

RSS Launches JK Trifurcation Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has formally launched its campaign for the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir coming out in the open, for the first time, in support of the division of the only Muslim majority state. Advocating Reorganisation of the state by what it perceives as isolation of the Muslim majority valley from rest of the state, the organisation (visualizes the move as a step towards early solution of the Kashmir problem).

According to a report earned by The Times of India today, the RSS has planned "mass action programme" and has floated an umbrella organisation - the Jammu and Kashmir Nationalist Front (JKNF) - and was 'subtly' promoting groups to organise mass agitations to get the state divided into Hindu Jammu, Muslim valley and Buddhist Ladakh. The Front held its first dharna in Jammu interestingly on Gandhi Jayanti.

In fact, according to the report, the RSS plan would not stop at the mere 'trifurcation' of the state. It favours further division of the Muslim dominated valley by carving out a separate homeland for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits. The movement envisages mobilisation of public opinion in the Muslim majority districts of Poonch, Rajouri and Doda, besides the Gujjar community against what it describes as 'Kashmiri hegemony'.

Quoting M G Vaidya, an RSS spokesman in New Delhi, the report said, Trifurcation doesn't mean surrender to the Two-Nation theory. The reorganisation is basically an administrative measure. The Sangh Parishad believes that Kashmiri extremism can be dealt with only by separating the valley from rest of the state and focusing on the insurgency operations in the Muslim majority valley, the report said.

While the RSS-backed JKNF was gaining ground, the report said, the BJP had, curiously, kept itself away so far. The recent dharna in Jammu was joined by even the mainstream parties like the Janata Dal (U) and Bhin Singh's Panther's party. Explaining the reasons, the co-convener of the JKNF, Yesh Bhasin, a former RSS Parishad and state BJP leader, told the newspaper, "The BJP is not openly supporting us since they are bound by the NDA's policies."

(Kashmir Observer, October 13, 2000)

Why Solidarity With Gaza and Lebanon Is Not Communal

Dr. Muhammad Sameer Shafi Siddiqui

Peaceful solidarity rallies were held throughout the Muslim world to commemorate the assassination of Syed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut. Nasrallah, the chief of Lebanon's Hezbollah had over time been perceived as one of the strongest non-state voices against Zionist hegemony in the Middle East and had been actively engaged in supporting the Palestinian cause, more so after the recent ongoing Israeli aggression against the hapless people of Gaza. As a matter of fact, Nasrallah's assassination has become a catalyst to broaden the contours of global support for the Palestinian nationhood, as he had been seen as the central point in the axis of resistance against the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Cutting across nationalities, people have voiced their serious concerns over the worst sort of humanitarian crisis being unfolded by Israel's relentless and brutal bombardment of the civilian locales in Gaza, with majority of the victims being women and children. Understandably, there has been a furor in the Muslim world against these wartime atrocities and the genocide being committed against the innocent people of Gaza.

In the backdrop of the entire foregoing, it is easy to comprehend why Indian Muslims too have been vocal in lending moral support to their Palestinian brethren by way of conducting peaceful rallies and seminars to vent their dissent against the unprecedented aggression of Israel. Similarly, the assassination of Syed Hassan Nasrallah provided a spurt in this show of support for Palestinians across the globe. He was looked upon as one of the prominent faces of resistance against Israel's illegitimate policies vis a vis Palestine and the Middle East. Hence, Indian Muslims too could not remain aloof by way of manifesting their catharsis for the unfolding events.

Yet, unfortunately, certain media outlets in our country have tried to sensationalise this show of moral support emerging from India for Palestinian people as communal and detrimental to the secular fabric of our society. For them it was, albeit wrongly portrayed and that too with malafide intentions, a sort of a clarion call by the Indian Muslims to unite as if for some ultra communal purposes.

In order to increase its TRP ratings, a specific news channel even levelled wild accusations upon the Muslim Ulema in India that they were using the Palestinian as well as the Nasrallah sentiment to warm up Indian Muslims for some imaginary communal flare up. How can legitimate and globally endorsed sentiments for the people of Gaza be constructed as vicious? Indian Muslims have always been a part and parcel of the syncretic and composite culture of the Indian society. Indian Muslims never misconstrued India's call to the Bangladeshi authorities to protect the life and honour of our Hindu brethren during the recent political turmoil there or the allocation of domicile certificates to the non-Muslim subjects of Pakistan, Afghanistan or Bangladesh to settle down in India as communal. Then why should Indian Muslim's moral support for their Palestinian



“It does not have to do anything with any sort of a localised communal build up detrimental to national unity and security, as has been wrongly projected by the aforementioned sensationalists

Muslim brethren be seen as rabidly communal by these corporate media houses?

It is also pertinent to mention and set the record straight that since the assassination of Hizbollah chief Syed Hassan Nasrallah, there have been joint Sunni-Shia rallies held to commemorate his martyrdom in Kashmir and elsewhere in India. The rationale behind this being that Nasrallah was a Shiite Muslim who is understood to have sacrificed his life for the Palestinians with the majority of them being Sunni Muslims. Therefore, this general sentiment of the Muslim Ummah to rise against the petty sectarian diatribe of Shia and Sunni in wake of the pan Zionist tendencies of the Israeli state to dislodge Palestinian Muslims from their home and hearth and in the aftermath of Nasrallah's assassination, got mirrored in the collective consciousness of Indian Muslims on the same lines as it did elsewhere across the world.

Therefore, the general sentiment of the Indian Muslims in wake of Nasrallah's assassination and the worst human catastrophe unfolding in Palestine, has more to do with the global influence of social media to affect the opinions worldwide. Moreover, with the sense of belongingness of Indian Muslims to the extended Muslim Ummah this sentiment is unsurprising. It does not have to do anything with any

sort of a localised communal build up detrimental to national unity and security, as has been wrongly projected by the aforementioned sensationalists.

In fact, it was this fellow feeling of the Indian Muslims for their Muslim brothers across the globe which had earlier got culminated in to the Khilafat movement; a movement whose charm and force was used by the great freedom fighters like Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and nonetheless by Mahatma Gandhi in service of India's national struggle for independence. This historical fact must therefore always be kept in view that the religious sense of Indian Muslims' belongingness to global Muslim civilisation never ever makes them oblivious of their responsibilities and of their duties towards the nation.

I was personally shocked when I found my own video being tailored out of context by a specific media channel to get it fitted to its communal diatribe and to its favourite pastime of Muslim bashing. The video pertains to a specific congregation which was held in Srinagar, nonetheless with the permission of authorities and wherein many religious and social figures had gathered to express their moral solidarity with the victims of Israeli air strikes in Gaza and Lebanon. It was a mixed gathering of Shia and Sunni Muslims and like other speakers I too urged upon the listeners to rise above the narrow sectarian di-

vides and pray for the deprived people of Palestine irrespective of their sectarian or religious affiliations. So as to foster a sense of unity among the Shia and Sunni communities I raised the slogan: "Shia Sunni bhai bhai" meaning Shias and Sunnis are brothers. This gesture of fostering a sense of brotherhood amongst the communities, was mischievously interpreted and portrayed by a private news channel as some sort of clarion call to the Muslims to unify for some ulterior communal agenda. In fact, it is the context of the gathering which always decides our choice of words and till the time our expression is not unparliamentary and till the time we don't use our freedoms of expression to hurt others' sentiments, constitutionally speaking nobody can snatch our rights of expression as such. If it would have been an occasion to address a pluralistic audience, then it would not have been out of place to raise slogans like "Hindu Muslim Sikh Isai. Aapas main hain bhai bhai." But the context of the aforesaid event demanded a speech and a slogan that could depict the brotherhood and love between the members of the two communities, Shia and Sunni who were present there during the occasion.

The media outlets wrongly portraying the sympathy of the Indian Muslims with their Muslim brethren in Palestine, Lebanon and elsewhere as anti national or communal presents a stark reminder of the mistrust with which certain fringe elements in the corporate media often see Muslims in India. If the terminology of Vasudeva Kutumbakam signifies a global society and still doesn't offend our sense of belongingness to our country of origin, then why should an Indian Muslim's empathy for the Millat (the global Muslim Civilisation) be looked down with suspicion by these fringe media outlets breeding hatred amongst the communities?

If the lofty ideals of Santana Dharma have the tendency of binding the diverse groups of Hindu society for good into a common bond of fellow feeling, then how do certain fringe but powerful elements in the media portray the invocations of certain Muslim Ulema to the diverse schools of thought in Islam to be bound by the fellow feelings of brotherhood and compassion for each other as some sort of a battle cry? In fact these acts of sensationalism and post truth tendencies mostly in the corporate media have of late been a prime factor in lowering the standards of professional ethics in journalism, which at times takes the shape of artificially created communal flare ups and mistrust in the society. This approach further leads to the exclusivist tendencies among the communities which often overrides our sense of 'Unity in Diversity'. In order to safeguard the core values of our composite culture, we must therefore be empathetic towards each other rather than being judgmental. If being judgmental is our compulsion, then at least we must be judging everyone judiciously.

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term in office is a legacy term marked by his 'coming of age' — taking bold decisions in foreign policies. Hardly has the dust settled down on Modi's controversial decision to visit Kiev as peacemaker even as the Ukraine war is only accelerating, Modi took the decision in the solitude of his mind apparently to call on Donald Trump during his brief 3-day visit to the US starting Saturday.

That, at least, is the signal from the silence of the lambs in the US State Department and our Mission in DC. Actually, the 'breaking news' came from the great man himself. The US media promptly flashed it.

Now that the cat is out of the bag, spin masters in Delhi are playing up PM's meeting with Trump. The ANI took an interview with the prominent New York-based entrepreneur and Trump's close aide Al Mason (who figures in Trump's inner circle) and Doordarshan promptly carried the news agency's entire 760-word report on its website, titled PM Modi, Trump Are Strong Leaders Who Respect Each Other, Says Former US President's Close Aide.

Despite the orchestrated campaign against Trump by mainstream US media, Delhi apparently keeps an open mind. Modi is on the same page as Hungarian PM Viktor Orban and Polish President Andrzej Duda, the flag carriers of right-wing conservative-nationalist ideology in European politics, who reject the neoconservative-globalist outlook that President Biden represents.

In the US political culture, it is not unusual that foreign dignitaries call on opposition politicians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accompanied by wife Sara, capped a weeklong US visit in late July by visiting Trump at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

Orban met Trump more than once during the past year. But then, Orban is highly critical of Biden and the Ukraine war and openly voices support for Trump's candidacy. Orban flew to Moscow and Kiev before meeting Trump in July.

Modi will be likewise meeting Trump. Ukraine crisis will almost certainly figure in their conversation.

Last week, at a meeting with the visiting Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in Moscow, Putin proposed yet another 'bilateral' with Modi when he visits Russia soon after his return from the US on the sidelines of the BRICS summit (October 22-24) in Kazan.

The last time Modi visited Russia in July and met with Putin, their first such meeting since the Ukraine war started in February 2022, US officials went ballistic. The US National Security adviser Jake Sullivan cautioned that strong ties with Russia were a "bad bet" for India.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said the US was concerned about India's relations with Russia. And Eric Garcetti, the US ambassador to India, publicly rebuked the Modi government that it could not take Washington's friendship with Delhi "for granted". Garcetti questioned the raison d'être of India's strategic autonomy.

Against such a complex backdrop, can it be a coincidence that the controversial

US-India: It's A Chicken And Egg Situation

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

“The last time Modi visited Russia in July and met with Putin, their first such meeting since the Ukraine war started in February 2022, US officials went ballistic. The US National Security adviser Jake Sullivan cautioned that strong ties with Russia were a “bad bet” for India.

Khalistani activist settled in the US, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has filed a civil lawsuit in the US Federal District Court in New York against the Government of India, Doval and senior Research & Analysis Wing officials and the 'Indian businessman' Nikhil Gupta (who was extradited to the US from Prague earlier this year) for their "unprecedented attempt to assassinate a US citizen on the US soil?"

Importantly, the lawsuit also says: "Mr. Pannun at this time has not named Narendra Modi as a defendant due to the immunity he now enjoys under US and international law as head of a foreign sovereign government. However, Mr. Pannun reserves his right to amend the complaint to include Narendra Modi as a defendant should his status as head of state change during the course of these proceedings."

The development has serious implications insofar as "it brings matters almost to the doorsteps of the Prime Minister whose work with the NSA [Doval] is intertwined and inextricable," to quote V Sudarshan, senior journalist who writes on national security affairs.

Pannun's lawsuit is carefully timed to coincide with Modi's visit. The US spy agencies and FBI actively keep in touch with Pannun and in all probability greenlighted his lawsuit. The US diplomacy has a history of blackmailing countries that pursue independent foreign policies.

By Monday, Modi will be back in India and the UN General Assembly's Summit of the Future, which occasioned his US trip, will start fading away as a distant memory. An international consensus on "how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future" will remain elusive in our Age of Geopolitics.

The remains of the day will be largely the fallout from Pannun's lawsuit. This

could be Doval's last visit to the US as he may soon become a fugitive from American law. That puts External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in a dual role in the high-level exchanges with Washington — doubling up also as India's security czar. The Americans won't mind it.

However, the transactional relationship as such acquires a new dynamic. Delhi's appeasement strategy may now translate as more mega arms deals with the US, generating substantial business and job creation in the American economy. It's a chicken-and-egg situation. Make no mistake, Americans will use it to pressure India.

The BRICS summit at Kazan becomes a trial run. At a press conference in Moscow on Monday, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that "alternative payment platforms are being developed within BRICS which allow countries to trade, invest, and conduct other economic transactions without being dependent on those who have decided to weaponise the US dollar and the euro." Lavrov added that the new payment system will not only be used to settle cross-border transactions, but will act as a complete financial set-up.

'De-dollarisation' is becoming a campaign issue in battleground states in the US elections. Trump said at a campaign rally in Wisconsin, "I hate when countries go off the dollar... I'll say, 'You leave the dollar, you're not doing business with the United States, because we're going to put 100% tariff on your goods'" (here). Washington will expect India to slow down the 'de-dollarisation' process on the BRICS platform.

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

NICHE PENMAN

Come! Join The Caravan Of Yore

Here it is... ONE STAAN MORE!

S.SARWAR.MALIK

Concluding my last write-up, that found space in these pages on 28 Sep 2024, I had very briefly spoken about an interesting milestone of the 16th Century; stating, that one king of Ladakh, namely Jamyung Namgyal, invaded Chigtan, around 1600, but it was the Askardo-chief, Ali Mir Sher Khan, who tasted Victory and King Jamyung was captured.

About the marriage of this Ladakhi/ Buddhist king with that of a Muslim princess, Ali Mir's daughter, Gyal Khatoon, (-gone down in history as the famous queen of Ladakh). Also talking about other elements of the story... What led to the marriage of Ali Mir's daughter, zi zi khatoon, with this Buddhist/ Ladakhi king Jamyung, (- whose first wife was Tsering Gyalmo)... the Vision that a Tiger jumps on her and enters her womb; whereafter the birth of a child, who in Ladakh's history, came to be known as Senge (lion) Namgyal, unsurpassed by successors, i mean, achievement-wise. [For me such things lend a somewhat necessary flavour to the story, and above all it is an interesting episode, caricatured by history.].

The Ladakhi's reconciled themselves to their Balti queen by recognizing in her an incarnation of Buddhist goddess- the white

Tara (-Dolma). Jamyung relieved his Buddhist subjects of taxation. From 1590-1615 Gyal Khatoon acted as regent. Some say that in 1594 AD, land for the first Leh- Mosque was allotted by her. Some years later we hear that Senge Namgyal turned to the Tsan kingdom of Tibet; in one more interesting piece of information that I would like to share is that writers say by destroying Guge and weakening Tsang, at a most crucial time, Senge Namgyal all unwittingly prepared the way for the final eclipse of Ladakh. From Kashmir and Baltistan the Moghuls entered pressure. Senge thus failed to foresee his real foes—Turko-Mongols from Central Asia, Balti's from Baltistan and also rulers of Kashmir. Around 1639 there were battles at Kharbu with Mughals.

On 25 Oct 1631 Father Francesco de Azevedo and Giovanni visited Ladakh and met King Senge-Namgyal; described him as " a man of tall stature...wore a string of skull bones around his neck".

At one point in history, that is around the late 15th century, two kingdoms existed in Ladakh; namely Leh-kingdom and Basgo kingdom. A man of calibre, namely Lachen- Bhagen, (1470-1500), founded the New Dynasty, after reuniting the aforementioned areas and took the surname of Namgyals (= victorious).

This Bhagen had two sons, Lha-Chen-Lhawang reNamgyal and Bkra-sis (Tashi) rnam-rgyal. Elder brother Lhawang had Three sons; Tsewang, Gonpo and Jamyang.

One Interesting piece of information: Leh, for the first time, became the royal residence at the beginning of the 16th Century. Prior to that Shey was the capital. The Present palace that we see today, above the Leh-city, didn't exist then. King Tashi Namgyal only built a fortified castle on the precipitous peak, called as tsemo. Tashi built the guardian temple (Gon-khang) above the Maitreya temple, on the peak after repelling a Turk invasion; built the Red sect Phyang Gumpa/ Monastery- 18 kms west of Leh; got the holy scriptures, (kangur & sTan-gur copied; erected many chortens; renovated Alchi chosker (-70 kms from Leh)--where his inscription exists. It was King Tashi who made the rule according to which every Buddhist family must send a male child to become a Lama.

In 1532 Turko-mongol expedition (- instigated and also partly led by the khan of kashgar, Sultan Sayeed Khan), was ' a holy war against Buddhist infidels'. King Tashi was killed. Mirza Haider Dughlat established himself at Shey, attacked Zanskaar in 1535.

Tsewang Namgyal died In 1555, he was

followed by his eldest son. In 1538 Ladakh was attacked by Sultan Sayeed Khan of kashgar. Enough of kings for today.

There existed a number of trade routes that connected Ladakh with Baltistan; e.g from Hanu to Skardu; kharul of Kargil to Skardu and from North Ladakh to Baltistan, along the Shyok river; just to name a few. Above all, dear reader, underline my next sentence: MEN OF THOSE TIMES WERE WELL CONSCIOUS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE SO ALL EYES WERE SET, ALMOST, DAILY, ON THE ROADS THAT LED TO CENTRAL ASIA.

It is said that out of the five main trade routes two main ones for caravans were Leh-Srinagar and Leh-kulu; and Major centres like Mandi Hoshiapur, Amritsar too were roped in; also Leh-yarkand (chinese- Turkistan), Leh-Lahasa, Leh-Shimla were much thronged places, besides Srinagar. Items of trade were: Dried Apricots, pashmina, goat-skin, rice, sugar, opium, almonds, saffron, silk carpets, silver jewellery, silk, rice, etc. Leh and Srinagar etc were big trade centres. Speaking of 1845 Alexander Cunningham saw 60 merchants from Kashmir readying for road journeys. In 1894, as per Godfrey-survey trade per year of Ladakh alone, was to the tune of sixty lac rupees. In 1950's nearly Six dozen Ladakhi traders,

including some Argoan traders traded with Tibet, alone. Ladakh had become a great Central Asian trade-player. Baltis visited Leh and Kargil. Very frequently. Dried Apricots is said to have been one of the main items for trade, propagation of its tree-stock is said to have been carried by the Guru padmasambhava.

Earlier in 7th & 8th centuries, the Tibetan army went to war through Zangskaar, Baltistan. Traders of Central Asia were called Hor; those of Chinese Turkistan as yarkandi's. As per Dr.A.H.Francke(1907) the famous fresco in Namgyal Tsemo of leh depicting a court scene clearly shows the influence of Central Asia, especially in terms of dress. During 1984-86, somewhere in Leh, the family head of a Ladakhi friend told me that the famous pass of Ladakh, Daulat Beg Oldee, got its name from a rich Yarkandi trader.//

[Large part of the material has been derived from his personal notes, besides the columnist book 'JEWEL IN THE LOTUS-Ladakh'.]

The author is a Srinagar based Penman, Columnist & Poet, who has been contributing non-political writeups to newspapers & literary journals, from over two decades

The Psychology of Fathering

Research has shown that parenting can be emotionally beneficial to men

Lawrence R. Samuel Ph.D.

Most of the body of research dedicated to fatherhood has understandably been focused on how children benefit from the presence of a male parent or guardian. More attention is gradually being paid to the value of fatherhood to men themselves, however. Not just kids benefit immensely from involved and engaged dads, but so do adults, studies have shown, something that holds true across economic lines. Research has demonstrated there to be a host of positive effects of parenting among men, with fathers finding the time spent with their children to be rewarding and fulfilling on many levels.

As any dad will tell you, fathers can learn a great deal from a child by spending both quality and quantity time with him or her, so much so that the former's perspective of the world is typically irrevocably altered. While much is known about kids' psychological gains when they receive paternal love, newer research is showing that fathers also benefit from the emotional bond they share with a child (grounded in oxytocin, the "love hormone").

The emotional benefits to be realized from fatherhood relate directly to the level of involvement in their kids' lives. In 1989, Marjory Roberts reported in Psychology Today the results of a recently conducted longitudinal study of more than 200 fathers showing that being a dad was a positive experience in a psychological sense, specifically by functioning as a means of developing greater empathy and compassion. The finding was consistent with Erik Erikson's theory of "generativity," which held that humans achieved full maturity only when they advanced the lives of children in some way.

The other good news in this study was that, contrary to popular belief, the careers of men did not suffer when they became fathers or stepped up their involvement. And, as many previous studies had showed, children benefitted greatly from having their dads around. Both boys and girls became more confident, mature, and autonomous adults with the presence of an engaged father, the study by psychologists Joseph Pleck, John Snarey, and Anthony Maier found, with the authors declaring fatherhood to clearly be a win-win experience. "The role of the father is just as important as the role of the mother," Snarey stated, something many dads likely suspected but were still happy to hear.

Richard Taylor, a retired philosophy professor, offered anecdotal evidence that supported such research. Taylor, who was 67 years old in 1987, had a 39-year-old son and a one-year-old baby, this almost four-decade gap between children allowing him to measure how much fatherhood had changed for him and other older dads. Taylor attended classes prior to his new son's birth and was present when it happened, things he had not experienced back in 1948 for his first child. He had admitted to being clueless about basic infant care for his new

son, something his much younger wife was surprised by, given that he was not a first-time father.

For Taylor, the experience of having a baby late in life was profound, something quite typical of older fathers (including myself). As a younger man, the professor was heavily invested in his career and social life but now he was, as he expressed it, "free to focus entirely on my wife and baby." Not having any competing interests, in addition to the wisdom gained from life, were fostering a new and different form of love between him and his baby son (named Aristotle) that Taylor could only describe as "fulfillment." The psychological benefits of receiving pure, unadulterated love from a child were well-documented, but at the time, relatively little had been written about the rewards of giving the same kind of love to that child; this was the thing that Taylor found to be such a transformative experience.

Neuroscientific research related to fatherhood backs up such stories. "When men morph into fathers, they experience a neural revival that benefits their children," Brian Mossop explained in Scientific American Mind in 2011, with both baby's and dad's brains forever altered in the days following birth. A biochemical bond is quickly established between fathers and their children, analogous to the one forged between mothers and their fetuses during pregnancy.

More specifically, dads' brains are hard-wired to respond to any threat to their infants' comfort and survival, just one way oxytocin affects early paternal behavior. Fathers' and babies' brains function symbiotically, neuroscientists are finding, each party benefiting in some way from the other's cognitive influence. Men even grow new, additional neurons after becoming fathers, studies have shown, nature's way of establishing an emotional connection that will pay off dividends throughout the child's life.

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If the idea of some kind of cognitive symbiosis taking place is not amazing enough, a father's brain will typically alter its hormonal outputs and neural activity depending on his particular parenting responsibilities. Dads' brains can switch back and forth between a network geared towards social bonding and vigilance and one designed for planning and thinking, according to a 2014 study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, changing its output based on the situation.

Nurture is certainly important in parenting but, as in an increasing number of other activities, it is nature that researchers are discovering predisposes an individual toward certain behavior. Being a "good" parent is thus heavily determined by the brain's wiring, this research suggests, making us rethink much of what we have assumed about the practice of fatherhood. Although fatherhood has been around as long as humans, we are clearly embarking on a new frontier of understanding it, with many exciting adventures no doubt looming for the future.

The article was originally published by Psychology Today

Two-day annual 'Techvaganza' fest showcases tech, talent, and tradition at NIT Srinagar

Laser shows, Drone soccer, magic show performances left the audience mesmerized

Srinagar, Oct 12: Two-day annual techno-cultural fest 'Techvaganza' concluded at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday late evening. The mega event witnessed massive participation from students of various educational institutions from Kashmir Valley.

Techvaganza 2024 was organized by 'Student Gymkhana, and brought together students, tech enthusiasts, industry experts, and academia from all over the country to celebrate technology and innovation in a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere.

The concluding ceremony was attended by all Deans, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, DSW and Chairman of Techvaganza Prof. Abdul Liman, all HOD's, HOC's, faculty and administrative staff, other dignitaries were present during the second-day proceedings.

Dr. Malik Pervez Ahmad was the Convener, Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani as Coordinator, while Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran and Dr. Janani L were the Co-coordinators of the two-day event.

The theme for this year's Techvaganza was "Greener Innovation - Engineering a Sustainable World!". It focused on how engineering and technology can contribute to a more sustainable and



environmentally friendly future.

In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. A Ravinder Nath, congratulated the organizers for their excellent work in successfully conducting the two-day program.

He emphasized that such events offer students a valuable platform to explore and showcase their talents and interests. "Whether it's in technology, arts, music, dance, or other fields, students have the opportunity to engage in activities, competitions, and workshops that align with their passions," Prof. A Ravinder Nath said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said during the 2-day Techvaganza that witnessed the

massive participation of students from across Kashmir.

"Techvaganza offered a range of workshops, seminars, and hands-on activities that allow students to develop and enhance their skills. They provided practical and experiential learning environment outside the traditional classroom setting," he said.

Dean Students Welfare and Chairperson of Student Gymkhana, Prof. Abdul Liman said that during the past two days, workshops, exhibitions, and cultural sessions allowed students to showcase their abilities and receive recognition for their accomplishments.

"Such fests celebrate the rich

diversity of students from various backgrounds. They provide a platform for students to showcase their cultural heritage, traditions, and artistic expressions, he said.

The convener of the two-day fest, Dr. Malik Pervez Ahmad, stated that the 'Techvaganza' event successfully concluded on Friday at the campus. "We received positive feedback from the student community across the Valley," he added.

Dr Parvez also highlighted that both faculty and students actively participated in the event, making it a collaborative and enriching experience.

"Faculty members and students also contributed by mentoring students and organizing various workshops, while students enthusiastically took part in a wide range of activities, from technical competitions to cultural performances, fostering a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere on campus," he said.

In her concluding message, coordinator of the event, Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani, expressed her appreciation for the success of the annual 'Techvaganza' fest, highlighting its celebration of innovation, creativity, and technological excellence.

Dr Iqra said that Techvaganza fest offered an exciting array of events that brought together students and faculty from diverse disciplines.

During the two-day event, students enthusiastically participated in activities like Remote Control Car Racing, Bombsquad, Structure Battles: Bridge Building, and the Treasure Hunt, all of which were met with great excitement and energy.

Technical events like the Civil Engineering Quizathon, Line Follower, Robo War Competition, and Aeromodelling showcased participants' engineering skills and creativity.

Workshops on Microcontrollers, Introduction to Drones, Solid Works, Machine Learning, and Python provided hands-on learning opportunities for attendees.

The fest also embraced themes of sustainability and innovation, with events focused on greener technologies, such as the EcoBuild Challenge, Electric Vehicles, Renewable Energy, and talks on AI and heritage preservation.

Creative competitions like Live Photography, Science Experiments, and essay writing underlined the fest's diverse range of activities. Gaming enthusiasts participated in Valorant, BGMI, Tekken 8, FIFA, and more, while cultural performances like the UV Dance Competition added to the vibrant atmosphere.

Leadership workshops, financial literacy talks, and expert sessions further enriched the experience, making Techvaganza a comprehensive celebration of technology, creativity, and innovation.

Later in the evening, the magic and laser show captivated the audience with stunning performances, leaving everyone in awe. Students from across the country indulged in a culinary journey at the Food Court, which featured a diverse range of cuisines, from the rich flavors of Kashmir to the vibrant dishes of Kerala.

The event also offered an array of attractions beyond food. Various stalls were set up, offering everything from fashion and cosmetics to trekking equipment. Fun stalls and gaming zones added to the festive atmosphere, drawing large crowds.

In addition to these, Drone Soccer and e-football competitions, along with the magical shows, kept attendees thoroughly engaged, offering a dynamic mix of excitement and innovation.

These attractions, combined with the vibrant performances and diverse activities, made the event a perfect blend of entertainment and cultural celebration, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Risk of Nuclear War

US and its allies allow Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia with long-range Western missiles.

"Why do people fight each other?... Hurting each other won't bring anything good," Ogawa said.

On Saturday, Japanese demonstrators rallied in support of Palestinians in Gaza, at the preserved Atomic Bomb Dome in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park.

Toshiyuki Mimaki, the co-chief of the group and a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, said on Friday that the situation for children in Gaza is similar to that of Japan at the end of World War II.

"In Gaza, bleeding children are being held [by their parents]. It's like in Japan 80 years ago," Mimaki told a news conference in Tokyo.

Cabinet Rule

play exciting cricket," he said. About today's match, Omar said that "the cricket match was exhilarating and the energy from the crowd was evident. Their enthusiasm lifted the game as they cheered for every play," he said. "It is a fantastic opportunity for our local athletes to gain exposure. Hopefully, in the future, we will see our youth participating in such high-level matches."

Omar said, "We need to work on our infrastructure—better stadiums, proper lighting, and modern facilities. Once we have that in place, we can push for more international events to be held here," he said in response to a query about the possibility of hosting IPL and other international matches in the valley. He hoped that J&K players should also play cricket matches like Legends League cricket.

Waiting For Return

the Kashmiri Pandits, Abdullah said "I hope that our brothers and sisters who have left from here come back home. Now the time has come, they should return to their homes. We do not think only about Kashmiri Pandits, but we also think about the people of Jammu."

He added that his party does not discriminate between Hindus and Muslims and that everyone should treat them equally. "There's a place for everyone in Kashmir," said Abdullah.

The National Conference chief also said that Kashmiri Pandits should return to Kashmir and take care of their homes and they will be welcomed with open arms. He also added that the NC government will make all the arrangements and initiatives for their return.

"I think their return is long due. They should have come back long back and live at their

homes. We should treat them well, they should also feel that the National Conference government is not their enemy. We are Indians and we want to take everyone along," Abdullah added.

The National Conference-Congress alliance on Friday staked claim to form the government in Jammu and Kashmir after they won 48 constituencies in the 90-seat assembly, said NC leader Omar Abdullah.

Jammu and Kashmir will get an elected government after a gap of 10 years.

The NC won 42 seats while the Congress won just six seats in the Jammu and Kashmir election 2024. BJP emerged as the second-largest party with 29 seats.

Dr Farooq was speaking to media men on the sidelines of Dussehra celebration at SK Stadium Srinagar.

"I am glad to be part of this event today. The event reminds us how truth won over evil when Ravan was defeated," Dr Farooq said. He, however, said it was for the first time in five years he was invited to participate in Dussehra event. "I was an MP for five years but was never invited. Today, they invited me and I am here," he said.

Wild Boars Present

rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods. In Chakloo village in Baramulla district, farmers faced repeated destruction of their crops, leading some to consider abandoning farming altogether.

Expert opinions

Wildlife researcher Parvez Yousuf said the presence of wild boars has ecological implications. He said these non-native species act as habitat suppressants for other animals in Dachigam National Park, which leads to imbalances in the ecosystem. "Comprehensive research is needed to evaluate the extent of their intrusion and the impact on native species," he said.

Parvez said the rapid increase in wild boar populations poses a threat to local flora and fauna, as they compete for space and damage grasses and herbs that serve as fodder for other wildlife.

With no official data available on the wild boar population in the valley, officials have announced a comprehensive study to assess the situation, which is currently underway. (KNO)

JD-U Likely To

that the J&K unit of JD-U will be nominated for one of the five seats in the upcoming assembly by the Lieutenant Governor," Sheen said.

As the J&K union territory is directly

administered by the centre, Shaheen claimed that the Jammu and Kashmir government will have less authority than those of the other Indian states.

Regarding the would-be chief minister Omar Abdullah's recent statement that it would be "foolishness" to anticipate the reintroduction of Article 370 under the same Central government that scrapped the former state's special status, he said it would be difficult for the new administration to last a year.

"Everyone knows who says what before and after elections, but since the J&K UT is directly under the control of the central government, the new government will have less power to act. They have to follow the center's orders," the JD-U leader said, adding, it would be difficult for the new government to last a year.

The addition of the five members to be nominated by the J&K Lieutenant Governor will bring the total strength of the J&K Legislative Assembly to 95.

Political parties have already expressed strong opposition to the nomination of five MLAs before the government formation in Jammu and Kashmir, labelling any such move as an assault on democracy and the fundamental principles of the Constitution.

"We oppose the nomination of five MLAs by the LG before the government formation in Jammu and Kashmir. Any such move is an assault on democracy, the people's mandate, and the fundamental principles of the Constitution," Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) senior vice-president and chief spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said his party would go to the Supreme Court if the BJP-led Centre went ahead to give powers to the LG for nominating the five members to the assembly.

Over 70% Of

has two MLAs who have not passed the Class-10 examination while there is one NC legislator in this category.

The BJP has four MLAs who have passed the Class-12 examination while the number of such legislators in the NC is six.

An overall analysis of the educational qualifications of the new Assembly members reveals that four MLAs have not passed the Class-10 examination while nine are matriculates. For a dozen MLAs, Class 12 is the highest educational qualification.

There are 16 graduates and 32 graduates with professional degrees who are members of the first Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while 12 members have completed post-graduate degrees. There are

three doctorate degree holders and two diploma holders in the House as well.

The ADR data also reveals that nine of the 90 MLAs have criminal cases against them, with eight of them facing serious charges that carry a punishment of five or more years in jail.

Five of these MLAs belong to the NC, with four of them facing serious charges, while two BJP MLAs also face serious criminal cases. The other two belong to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The number of MLAs facing criminal cases has gone up this time. Only five MLAs had criminal cases against them in the 87-member Assembly of the erstwhile state, including two who were facing serious charges.

Rajnath Virtually

in Bagtore and representatives from the BRO.

The Gurez bridge is one of the 75 infrastructure projects of BRO, built at an outlay of Rs 2,236 crore, inaugurated by the Defence Minister on Saturday, from the Headquarters, Trishakti Corps in West Bengal's Sukna.

The bridge, a critical infrastructure upgrade, is expected to ease the lives of Gurez's residents by enhancing accessibility to this remote border area, earning appreciation from local villagers and the Indian Army alike.

Economic Lifeline

development across Jammu Kashmir and ensuring 'last mile connectivity,'" the LG said.

The LG said the much-awaited road and bridge projects inaugurated today will have a positive impact on the border tourism, creation of new employment opportunities, bringing economic prosperity in the society and enhancing quality of life in forward areas. These projects will improve the operational capacity of the Indian Army and boost mobility and logistics support for the troops, he added. The LG also lauded the important contribution of Border Roads Organisation to the socio-economic transformation and national integration in the border areas.

The road and bridges of J&K inaugurated include Mohura Baaz road; Tutmarigali Kaiyan Bowl road; Gurai Bridge, Bandipora-Gurez road; Garjun Bridge Tutmarigali Base to Top; Niru Nar, Dawar-Niru-Baraub-Chakwali-Kaobal Gali road; Bishnah-Kaulpur-Khojpur road; Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Galhar-Sansari road; Swan bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Sanu bridge, Domel-Jindra-Kharta road; Naigarh bridge, Dul-Galhar road; Channani bridge, Domel-Jindra-Kharta road; Natoo bridge, Galhar-Sansari road; Kogra Bridge, Domel-Jindra-Kharta road; Biyalu bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Dersu bridge, Dhar-Udhampur road and Sewa-II

bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road.

J&K Hospitals

pay the arrears, approved by the Contract Advisory Labour Board, the protesting workers said had forced them to call the strike.

The unions' core demand is the release of unpaid arrears for hospital attendants, from the 46-crore budget approved by the Union ministry of health and family welfare in April. The budget had been earmarked to settle arrears for other contractual staff, including sanitary attendants, kitchen workers, and security guards. While the workers were paid through January 2024, hospital attendants were notably excluded from the payout, causing frustration and leading to the strike.

Union leaders had a few weeks ago warned the administration of potential action if the arrears were not settled by October 10.

Notably, PGI Chandigarh has remained a preferred destination for many patients from Kashmir.

New Govt's Approval

Prof Mohinder Singh. Their task is to evaluate the representation of OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir's total population, as well as to assess the reservation provisions in municipal corporations and other local bodies.

This groundbreaking initiative is aimed at implementing OBC reservation for the first time in both panchayat and local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The commission's findings will play a crucial role in determining whether adequate representation already exists in respective areas, which may influence the decision on the necessity of reservation.

The term of the current panchayats expired on January 9, 2024, leaving the development work to be managed by the Block Development Officers (BDOs). With 65,85,263 voters eligible to cast their ballots, the numbers may be updated with amendments before the elections, which are tentatively slated for November-December. The government will oversee the election process under the Panchayati Raj Act, with the State Election Commission committed to ensuring transparency throughout.

Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 4,291 panchayats, each led by a Sarpanch, with 33,597 Panch positions available for election. The distribution of panchayats varies across districts, with notable numbers in Udhampur (236), Ramban (143), Poonch (229), and various districts in the Kashmir division, including 21 in Srinagar and 402 in Baramulla.

State Election Commissioner BR Sharma confirmed that the Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections will take place once OBC reservation is finalised.

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OR SCAN

Leh Apex Body Calls For Solidarity Hunger Strike On October 13

Agencies

Leh: The Leh Apex Body has made a vehement appeal to the people of Ladakh to observe a hunger strike on October 13 in solidarity with Sonam Wangchuk and his team, who have been on hunger strike for the past 10 days at Delhi's Ladakh Bhavan.

Ladakh is demanding the implementation of a four-point agenda, which includes the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, statehood, a public service commission, and separate Lok Sabha seats for Leh and Kargil districts.

Chairman Leh Apex Body,

Tsering Dorjey Lakruk, addressed a press conference in Leh, expressing concern over the health problems faced by those on hunger strike in Delhi. He emphasized that Ladakh has been facing difficult times, while New Delhi remains oblivious to their sufferings.

Lakruk appealed to the people to join the hunger strike to pressure the Indian government to resume dialogue.

Sonam Wangchuk, a climate activist, began his indefinite hunger strike along with his supporters, demanding that the Centre resume talks on their demands. The protesters have not been approached by any government representative so far. (KNT)



World Arthritis Day: Experts Stress Urgent Need For Awareness, Prevention

Agencies

Srinagar: "Arthritis is a widespread condition affecting millions globally, leading to pain, stiffness and inflammation in the joints, which can severely diminish a person's quality of life and complicate daily activities," doctors said on World Arthritis Day.

According to healthcare professionals there are over 100 types of arthritis, with osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) being the most common.

Dr Mukhtar, an orthopaedician at DSHK, said various factors contribute to arthritis, including genetics, age, joint injuries, infections, obesity, immune system dysfunction and lifestyle choices. "Excess body weight places additional stress on weight-bearing joints such as the knees, hips, and spine, leading to accelerated cartilage wear," he said, adding that obesity is linked to increased inflammation,

which raises the risk of developing different forms of arthritis.

"Smoking and lack of physical activity are associated with a higher risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis," Dr Mukhtar said. "Smoking can trigger inflammatory responses in the body, while a sedentary lifestyle

and scheduling regular medical check-ups.

"Although arthritis is common, it can often be managed and even prevented through lifestyle changes," he said. "Staying active, maintaining a healthy weight, and seeking early medical care are crucial steps in reducing the risk of ar-

“Excess body weight places additional stress on weight-bearing joints such as the knees, hips, and spine, leading to accelerated cartilage wear

tributes to joint stiffness and muscle weakness."

Dr Mukhtar, a rheumatologist, said the best preventative measures for arthritis include maintaining a healthy weight, engaging in regular physical activity, avoiding joint injuries, following a balanced diet, refraining from smok-

ing and promoting joint health throughout life."

He urged individuals to seek timely medical intervention if they experience any symptoms of arthritis, as early diagnosis and treatment can help patients lead normal, fulfilling lives—(KNO)

Residents of Kenihama Demand Repair Of Water Pipe Leakage

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of the Kenihama area in Nowgam, Srinagar, have expressed frustration over ongoing issues with their water supply pipeline, which has been witnessing leakage for a long period.

Despite numerous complaints to the relevant authorities, residents claim no effective action has been taken to resolve the problem.

Locals said that officials have made empty promises without providing any tangible solutions.

They said the damaged pipeline has led to inconsistent and causing severe inconvenience for the community for over a month.

"We have been raising

this issue for a long time, but it seems our concerns are falling on deaf ears," said one resident, adding that there is an urgent need to restore the leaked pipeline.

Wahid, another local, said, "We have been contacting the local PHR lineman and other concerned officials for more than a month, but nothing has changed. We've reached out to the lineman, his superiors, and others in the PHE/Jal Shakti department, yet no repairs have been made."

When reporter attempted to contact the department for an update, officials said the issue would be resolved in a day or two. However, as days went by, further attempts to reach the department went unanswered, leaving residents increasingly frustrated—(KNO)

Sajad Lone Criticizes Separatist Leaders for 'Glorifying' Adversaries

Observer News Service

Srinagar: People's Conference (PC) Chief Sajad Gani Lone took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to launch a scathing critique against unnamed separatist leaders, accusing them of "glorifying" forces that were once responsible for the suffering and persecution of their colleagues.

In a strongly-worded post, Lone expressed disappointment over certain separatist leaders who, according to him, had seemingly forgotten the sacrifices and struggles of their peers.

He highlighted that some of these leaders never faced imprisonment or torture themselves but are now seen praising the very forces that had jailed, tortured, or even killed



their colleagues during Kashmir's long-standing conflict.

"Some so-called separatist leaders who never went to jail, never experienced torture seem to have forgotten the killings, torture, and jailing of their colleagues. They are actually glorifying the very forces that either killed their colleagues or tortured them or jailed them. What a shame. Such a short memory. Time has come to name and shame them," Lone tweeted.

FMG's Demand More Internship Seats In J&K

Agencies

Srinagar: Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) from Jammu & Kashmir who passed their exams in June 2024 are facing a critical shortage of internship seats in Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) across the union territory.

Several FMGs expressed their frustrations citing poor management by the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Council (JKMC) as a key factor in their predicament. Many are anxious about missing the opportunity to sit for the NEET PG exam in 2025.

The graduates said the Council's delayed responses and inadequate planning are jeopardising their careers and that they fear losing another year and a half. Despite the National Medical Commission (NMC) issuing clear guidelines earlier this year to accommodate students, the JKMC's slow and ineffective actions have

compounded our challenges, they said.

The council recently advised students to register in other states, but many of these states had already closed their registration weeks earlier, leaving FMG graduates confused and distressed.

"We cannot afford to waste more time due to administrative incompetence," one student said.

The FMGs are urging the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Council to act swiftly to rectify the situation or risk further damage to the reputation of medical education in the state.

The All India Students Union has formally written to the Health and Medical Education Department of J&K, calling for the urgent need for more internship seats. "Despite clearing the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE), approximately 120 doctors are currently unable to secure internship

placements. With only 20 seats confirmed by JKMC, the FMGs have been directed to seek internships in other states (as per JKMC notice no. JKMC/S/NOTICE/2024/4312 dated 28-09-2024)," the letter states.

The letter further notes that many states have already closed their registration and counselling deadlines, while others refuse placement to non-domicile FMGs, leaving these graduates with no viable options to complete their internships and delaying their careers.

"We respectfully request your intervention to increase the number of internship seats in J&K, either through placements in non-teaching hospitals or by raising the FMG intern quota as a one-time measure. This will allow these graduates to fulfill their mandatory internships and contribute to healthcare in the region," it concludes. (KNO)

South Kashmir Residents Demand Widening Of Shopian-Litter Road

Agencies

Shopian: Residents of various areas in south Kashmir are calling for the immediate widening of the crucial Shopian-Litter route, saying the frequent traffic jams have become a daily occurrence.

Locals said the narrowness of the road often leads to significant traffic congestion, affecting passengers, locals and travellers alike. They are urging the government to take prompt action to widen this important road to alleviate the suffering of commuters.

Younis Ahmad, a resident of Turkwangam, said, "The government has maintained this vital road well, but it connects hundreds of villages and experiences heavy traffic around the clock. Immediate widening is essential for the entire 22 kilometres from Litter to Shopian, as the narrowness often leads to accidents."

Sajad Ahmad, a local fruit grower, said this road links numerous villages to the SIDCO Lassipora industrial area near Turkwangam, resulting

in increased traffic, particularly during the apple harvest season. "With more people transporting apples to cold storage units, the route becomes especially congested in the evenings. It can take hours to travel the short distance of just two kilometres from Turkwangam to SIDCO due to the narrow road," he said.

According to residents, the continuous congestion on this vital route, used by people from various districts, often results in traffic jams and raises safety concerns. They have repeatedly brought these issues to the attention of higher authorities, but they feel that little has been done to address their concerns.

Residents are appealing to officials to take immediate action to widen the road to reduce traffic jams and minimise the risk of accidents.

Meanwhile, an official from the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department told KNO that a proposal for widening the road is currently under consideration by the government but has yet to be approved—(KNO)

'Committed To keep Gurez Pesticide Free'

Agencies

Srinagar: Vice Chancellor Sheri-Kashmir university of agriculture science and technology Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganie on Saturday in Gurez said that the government is committed to Keep Gurez valley pesticide free and promote sustainable farming in the region.

Speaking with the Kashmir News Observer (KNS), after inaugurating the Administrative cum laboratory building in Dawar Gurez, Ganie said that the department is working to cultivate the crops in Gurez naturally without using any pesticides.

He also inspects various stalls set up by local girls of Tulail and Gurez valley.

He also said that the KVK Gurez is the addition of 20 KVK's in the valley. "We are working to preserve forest medicines, nesh crops like potatoes and Black cum in which are famous in

Gurez without disturbing natural biodiversity."

"The building was constructed with a cost of 1.70 crore rupees in a short span of time to help farmers in these border areas."

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Hilal incharge KVK Gurez said that the department is working to teach farmers the scientific techniques about natural farming to increase production of crops.

He also highlights the achievements in the region done by the department which was praised by Ganie and local farmers.

Ganie added, the climate change has affected the production of crops across the country and added the department is making efforts to increase the production of these crops by using scientific techniques.

He was accompanied by Director SKUAST Professor Din Mohd Makhdoomi, SDPO Gurez, KVK Gurez incharge Dr Bilal and other senior officials from the department (KNS).

Anantnag Police Busts Major Interstate Drug Racket

Observer News Service

Anantnag: In a significant operation, Anantnag Police have dismantled a major interstate drug trafficking network, arresting three individuals involved in the illicit trade. Acting on credible intelligence about a consignment of narcotic drugs being transported from Delhi to Srinagar, Police established multiple checkpoints along the route. A vehicle was intercepted at Doonipora Sangam, leading to the arrest of three suspects.

The arrested individuals, identified as Monty Singh of Bulandshahar, UP, Ashish Bardawaj, and Rahul from Chhatarpur, New Delhi, were travelling in a Toyota car. Upon inspection, Police recovered 413 bottles of Codeine Phosphate (NRX), branded as Codril-T, concealed in the car's door panels.

The consignment was reportedly intended for delivery in Sopore and Srinagar. Following further investigations, multiple raids were conducted, resulting in the detention of a local smuggler from Sopore for questioning. Cooperation with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in New Delhi led to a raid at a warehouse in Noida's Sector 135, where a substantial quantity of Codeine was recovered.

Dussehra Celebrated With Communal Harmony In Rajouri

Observer News Service

Rajouri: The festival of Dussehra was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm in Rajouri marking the triumph of good over evil.

A large gathering of people from all walks of life assembled at the Ram Leela Ground to witness the grand celebration, which underscored the communal harmony.

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, who attended as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the importance of festivals in promoting unity, peace, and brotherhood among people. He said that Dussehra reminds us of the eternal victory of righteousness. It is a festival that not only celebrates our culture but also strengthens the bonds of communal harmony, he added.

DC Sharma commended the organizers for maintaining the cultural and traditional values of the festival.

A key highlight of the celebration was the traditional Ram Leela performance, depicting



scenes from the epic Ramayana, which was followed by the symbolic burning of the effigy of Ravana, signifying the defeat of evil. The performance captivated the audience, drawing loud applause and cheers.

People from all communities actively participated in the festival, a testament to Rajouri's deep-rooted tradition of unity and coexistence.

Adequate security and traffic arrangements were put in place by the district adminis-

tration to ensure a smooth and peaceful celebration. The police, under the supervision of SSP Rajouri, Randeep Kumar, played a pivotal role in managing the large crowd and ensuring that the event passed off without any untoward incidents.

The celebrations saw participation from senior officers of the district administration, representatives from various religious and social organizations, and a large number of locals

J&K Govt Reconstitutes Medical Council; Dr Salim Khan Named President

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government has reconstituted the J&K Medical Council and appointed a new six-member team.

According to a notification from the Health and Medical Education Department, Dr Shahzada Mohammad Salim Khan, a Professor of Community Medicine at GMC Srinagar, will serve as the president of the reconstituted council.

The notification, S.O. 508, states, "In exercise of powers conferred by Section 98 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and in partial modification of notification S.O. 362 of 2021 dated 20.10.2021, the Lieutenant Governor hereby directs that the table appended to the said notification shall be substituted."

The new council members include Dr Vishal R. Tandon, Professor of Pharmacology, GMC Jammu; Dr Mehnaz Sultan Khuroo, Professor of Pathology, GMC Srinagar; Dr Sandeep Dogra, Professor of Microbiology, GMC Jammu; Dr Asifa Nazir, Associate Professor of Microbiology, GMC Srinagar; and Dr Jyoti



In exercise of powers conferred by Section 98 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and in partial modification of notification S.O. 362 of 2021 dated 20.10.2021, the Lieutenant Governor hereby directs that the table appended to the said notification shall be substituted

Jyoti, Chief Medical Officer (I/C Divisional Nutrition Officer, Jammu)

The previous council consisted of four members: Dr Saleem Ul Rehman, Dr Iqbal Sofi, Dr Rajeshwar Sharma and Dr Chandlerle- kha—(KNO)

Omar Abdullah Attends 2024 LLC, Calls For Better Infra



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Soon-to-be J&K Chief Minister and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah visited Bakshi Stadium on Saturday to witness the 2024 Legends League Cricket match between Konark Suryas Odisha and Southern Super Stars.

His visit comes just days before his anticipated oath-taking ceremony as the new Chief Minister.

The atmosphere at the stadium was electric, with passionate cricket fans flocking to the stands, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for the sport in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the media during his visit, Abdullah shared his excitement and vision for the future of cricket in the region.

"It is great to see this kind of cricket in Srinagar, and the people are coming out with so much enthusiasm," Abdullah said.

"We have been waiting for such opportunities, and I am hopeful that our youth will soon be playing this level of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir."

Highlighting the need for developing a robust sporting infrastructure, Abdullah emphasized the importance of preparing the region to host high-profile matches in the future.

"Just like the IPL and other major cricket matches, we have to create good infrastructure for the sport here. We will work on that, and once ready, we will request the BCCI to bring such matches to Jammu and Kashmir," he said. (KINS)

Siraj Takes Over As Deputy Superintendent Of Police In Telangana



Agencies

HYDERABAD: Indian cricketer Mohammed Siraj has officially taken on the role of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Telangana.

The pacer expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for this honour as he reported to Telangana's Director General of Police (DGP) Jitender on Friday.

Siraj was accompanied by MP M Anil Kumar Yadav and Chairman and President of Telangana Minority Residential Educational Institutions Society (TGMREIS), Mohammed Faheemuddin Qureshi.

It was in July that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy announced a residential plot and a government job for Siraj when the latter called on him after India won the T20 World Cup.

Highlighting Siraj's achievements and his contribution to India's T20 World Cup victory, the Chief Minister had told the state Assembly recently that the Group-I job to the international cricketer will give him direct entry

to high-ranking positions such as Deputy Superintendent of Police if he chooses to join the police force.

He said that though Siraj was not educationally qualified for the Group-I job, the Cabinet has given him the exemption as part of its efforts to encourage sportspersons.

"For a Group-I job, the required educational qualification is a degree. Siraj has passed intermediate (12th class) but we have given the exemption to provide him the Group-I job," he said.

In August, the state government allotted a house site measuring 600 square yards to Siraj in Hyderabad's upscale Jubilee Hills. The state government issued an order allotting the land free of cost to the pacer at Road No 78, Jubilee Hills.

Earlier, the state Cabinet decided to allocate 600 square yards of house sites each in Hyderabad for shooter Esha Singh, two-time world boxing champion Nikhat Zareen and fast bowler Siraj. The state government also decided to provide Group-I jobs to Nikhat Zareen and Siraj.

There's Always An Element Of Attrition To India: Cummins



Agencies

Australia captain Pat Cummins is expecting the upcoming series against India to be a survival of the fittest as his team look to avenge consecutive losses on home soil when the two nations go head-to-head over five tests from late November.

The latest series begins in Perth on November 22 with the Australians attempting to overturn defeats to the Indians in 2018-19 and 2020-21, when India edged a four-Test series 2-1 with a three-wicket win in the final clash in Brisbane.

"The couple of home series I've played against India there's

always an element of attrition to them," said Cummins. "The last series came down to the last session at the Gabba on the last day of the last test match."

"That's a good thing to keep in mind. It is a long series, and it might be tightly held until the last game, so you've got to manage your resources throughout."

It is almost 10 years since the Australians last lifted the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and Cummins will go into the series well rested having missed his nation's recent white ball tour of England and Scotland.

The Australians will be without fast bowler Cameron Green due to back surgery and Cummins, who had injury issues ear-

lier in his career, is backing the 25-year-old to return to the team in the future.

"We want him bowling, Cam wants to be bowling, and he has a long career ahead of him," said Cummins.

"It's about trying to place Cam the cricketer in the best position he can be to have the career that he's hoping for. He's young, so I'm sure he'll be right in the long run."

Cummins' management of his own workload means the 31-year-old is hoping he can continue to captain Australia for longer than originally intended, having set 2025 as his intended cut-off when he was handed the role three years ago.

LG Flags Off IAF-UWM 'Vayu Veer Vijeta' Car Rally



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the "Vayu Veer Vijeta" car rally, organised by Indian Air Force in coordination with the veterans of Uttarakhand War Memorial.

Over 50 air warriors, who are undertaking an expedition from Thoise in Ladakh to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, covering a total of 7,000 kms, will raise awareness among the people about the history of IAF and inspire the youth.

The formal flag-off took place

from Thoise, which is one of the world's highest altitude air force stations at 3,068m above mean sea level.

Interacting with the Air Warriors at Raj Bhawan, the LG extended his felicitations and conveyed best wishes to all participants of the car rally.

The LG also lauded the significant role played by the IAF in times of war, rescue operations and natural calamities. Enroute Air Warriors will address the local youths in various universities and colleges and inspire them to join armed forces.

Open District Kulgam Kho-Kho Championship Ends

Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Open District Kulgam Kho-Kho Championship 2024-25 concluded at Nadwa Public School Zangulpora here on October 10. The two-day Kho-Kho Championship featured eleven teams from both boys and girls categories participate.

In boys section, Khelo India

Centre Kulgam got first position and New Age Model School Chowgam got second place. In girls section, Khelo India Centre Kulgam got first place and Aisha Ali Academy Kulgam got second place. At the closing ceremony, medals and merit certificates were distributed by Secretary DKKKA Mohd Ayoub Parry and Principal Nadwa Public School Zangulpora.

Brook Has Everything To Be England's Finest: Anderson

Agencies

MULTAN: England batter Harry Brook has all the attributes needed to overtake the country's highest run-scorer in test cricket, Joe Root, and former top order batter Kevin Pietersen, bowling great James Anderson said.

The 25-year-old Brook became the first England batter in 34 years to score a triple-century when his side thrashed Pakistan by an innings and 47 runs on the fifth day of their opening test of the three-match series in Multan on Friday.

Root, 33, made a double ton during the same test, placing him fifth on the all-time list with 12,664 runs.

"He's on the way to being in the top three that I've played with," Anderson said on the Tailenders podcast on Friday. "It's Root, Pietersen and him. He's definitely got all the attributes to overtake them."

"He's just got everything. Without trying to big him up too much because he's still really early in his test career, I do think that he's got the perfect amount of each of those two and that's what will make him the best that we've ever had."

Anderson, 42, retired in July



after finishing his 188th test and having taken 704 wickets in a career spanning 21 years, during which he became the third-highest wicket-taker in the format.

Having played with Root and Pietersen, Anderson believes Brook has the temperament and technique of the former.

"But he's got the shots of both Root and Pietersen. He can destroy an attack if he wants to, he can play a longer innings if he needs to," Anderson added.

"The thing that's really similar between Root and Brook is that they love batting. They literally couldn't care less what format it is. They just want to bat."

"They want to have fun doing it. As much as Brook's the younger player and will be learning loads from Rooty, I still think Rooty learns from him as well."

Southern Super Stars Enter 2024 Legends League Cricket Final

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hamilton Masakadza produced an all-round performance as Southern Super Stars entered the final of the 2024 Legends League Cricket on Saturday, defeating Konark Suryas Odisha by 7 wickets at Bakshi Stadium.

Bowling first, Southern Super Stars reduced the Konark Suryas Odisha to 8/4 in 3.5 overs. Richard Levi, Irfan Pathan and Yusuf Pathan strung some valuable partnerships. Levi made 22 from 25 balls, Yusuf Pathan made 43 from 21 balls, while skipper Irfan Pathan made 62 from 48 balls. At the end of 20 overs, Odisha made 148/8 in 20 overs.

For the Super Stars, Hamid Hassan (2/27), Abdur Razzak (2/19), Subodh Bhati (2/29) and Kedar Jadhav (2/33) took two wickets each in the innings.

With a target of 149 on the board, Shreevats Goswami and Hamilton Masakadza stabled the inning after an early setback. The duo added 82 runs for the second wicket with Masakadza scoring 67 runs from 49 balls. Pawan Negi remained unbeaten on 40* from 20 balls and helped



his team win the match. They chased down the target in 17.2 overs. For Odisha, Diwesh Pathania (1/22), Vinay Kumar (1/21) and KP Appanna (1/14) took one

wicket each in the innings. Konark Suryas Odisha will next face the winner of the eliminator match on October 14 (Monday).

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In our latest podcast, we present Irshad Mushtaq, founder of MI Securities. In addition, he is a financial expert who has helped countless individuals and businesses navigate complex financial landscapes. In this episode, we discussed different investment strategies, personal finance tips, and wealth building. The full video will be released soon on our YouTube channel. Subscribe Kashmir Observer channel for the latest updates.