



P3 CITY

CYBER POLICE SAVES RS 18 LACS LOST IN CYBER SCAM

Cyber Police Kashmir on Wednesday said it saved Rs 18 lacs which was lost in a fake investment scam, a police spokesman said. "Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone,

P5 THINK

THAT CRAZY STARVING MUSLIM!

When my Lithuanian classmate who sat next to me asked whether I wanted to have lunch one day, I explained to her that I was fasting as it was the month of Ramadan. She gave me a sarcastic smile and said, Well, you crazy people can starve all you want! On my way

P7 STATE

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS IN KASHMIR RECORD 95% DIP IN LAST 3 YRS

In the past three years the foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir Valley have dipped by almost 95.22 percent. However, among the domestic tourist



KO LENS MAN ABID BHAT captures a view of wild tulips grown in an open field in Pampore town of south Kashmir.

5TH RAMZAN

	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	6:58	4:45
FIQAH JAFARIYA	7:06	4:44

Quote!

Better to build a bridge than a wall

-Elton John

NEWS DIGEST

Militant Hideout Busted In Reasi

JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday seized a cache of ammunition and a grenade from a militant hideout during a cordon-and-search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. The hideout was uncovered in the Kot Budhan **More on P6**

Schools Bus Mows Down Minor Boy

SRINAGAR: A 5-year-old boy was killed after allegedly hit by a school bus in Dawoodpora Brah area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday, officials said. They said that a school bus of 'ST Lukes' was on way from Deethu **More on P6**

3 Butchers Booked For Violating FS&S Act

SRINAGAR: The Food Safety Department Pulwama on Wednesday booked three butchers for violating sanitary and hygienic requirements of Food Safety and Standards Act. The action against the erring butchers was taken during a special drive **More on P6**

Fire Damages Walnut Factory In Samba

JAMMU: A walnut processing plant was damaged in a massive fire in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said. The fire broke out at the factory in the Birpur industrial complex in Bari Brahmana around 2 am, they said. The officials said the factory suffered extensive damage in the fire, which was brought under control by **More on P6**

2 Militants Killed In Tral Encounter

'Both Were Involved In Sarpanch's Killing, Attack On CRPF Camp'



KO File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two local militants involved in the killing of a Sarpanch besides attack on Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp, were killed in an encounter with government forces in Tral area of Pulwama district, police said on Wednesday. Police carried out a raid in the Tral area of Awantipora on Wednesday on the basis of a specific input generated by Ganderbal police about the presence of militants, a police spokesperson said.

The search team of police, he said, came under heavy fire from militants when the former proceeded towards the suspected spot. The fire, he said, was returned effectively by the raiding team leading to an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, the spokesperson said one militant was neutralized and another was holed up. He said the operation was joined by the army's 42 RR and the personnel of CRPF 180 battalion. The joint team, **More on P6**

Night Patrolling Starts In Vulnerable Areas: IGP

Amid a spurt in militant attacks on government forces and non-locals, the government forces have started night patrolling in remote villages of the Kashmir Valley to prevent militant attacks on soft targets, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said Wednesday. According to a police spokesperson, **More on P6**

99 Security Men Killed Since Aug 2019: GoI

As many as 87 civilians and 99 security personnel have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, as compared to 177 civilians and 406 security personnel in the previous five years, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Rajya Sabha. The minister said the central government has a policy of **More on P6**

'Four KPs Among 34 Minority Members Killed Since 2019'

Four Kashmiri Pandits among 14 Hindus have been killed by militants in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. Rai also said that 34 people belonging to minority communities were killed by militants in Jammu and Kashmir in the last five years., including 11 in 2021. Replying

Businessmen In Many Districts Asked To Install CCTVs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir authorities have ordered business establishments, places of worship and markets in several districts to install CCTV cameras within 14 days, in a move aimed at deterring criminals and anti-social and anti-national elements. The orders were issued on Tuesday by the district magistrates of Bandipora, Srinagar, Doda, Anantnag, Budgam and Jammu. The orders will remain in force for 60 days but can be modified earlier or extended beyond the two-month period. Any contravention of the orders will attract legal action under section 188 of the India Penal Code, the officials warned, as they asked people



to inform the station house officers of their nearest police stations in case they notice any suspicious movement or activity in the CCTV system. "There exist a number of banking and financial/business establishments like banks/ATMs, jewellery shops, petrol pumps, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels, cinema halls, wine and **More on P6**

...Hawala Case

Police Issues Look-Out Notice For Ex Minister Babu Singh

Press Trust Of India

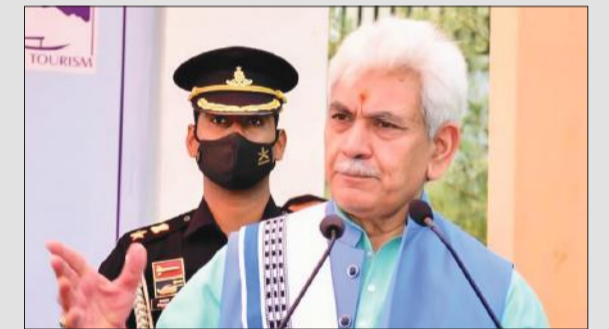
JAMMU: A lookout notice has been issued against former Jammu and Kashmir minister Babu Singh who has gone underground after his name figured as a suspect in a hawala transaction case here, officials said Wednesday. Singh's link to the case surfaced after the police Thursday arrested Mohammad Shareef Shah (64) and seized Rs 7 lakh of alleged hawala money from him. The seized cash was allegedly meant to support insurgency in the Jammu district, the police said. "We have issued a look-out notice for Babu Singh," a senior police officer told PTI, adding the notice was issued by the Jammu



senior superintendent of police. The J&K Police has also informed airport authorities at various places so that Singh does not flee the country, they said, adding the police are focusing on various areas in different states to track Singh down On Friday, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh **More on P6**

11000 Youth Secured Govt Jobs In Last 1 Year: LG

'Making Efforts To Ensure Every Person In Society Feels Connected To The Mainstream'



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that 11000 youth, especially girls from

common, poor & marginalized households have secured government jobs in the Union Territory, where the "new governance system believes in corruption-free, transparent, **More on P6**

J&K Has Received Rs 51000 Cr Investment Proposal: MHA

Press Trust Of India

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is on a development track, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityananda Rai said on Wednesday that the Union Territory has received an investment proposal of Rs 51,000 crore for industrial **More on P6**

PRIME MINISTER HAS ENDED the decades-old practice of discrimination in J&K by establishing a citizen friendly, accountable and responsible governance system post August 2019. We are making relentless efforts to ensure every person in the society feels connected to the mainstream."

HC Gives Six Weeks To Govt To Identify Illegal Immigrants

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has given six weeks to the government to identify immigrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh who are illegally staying in the Union Territory. A bench comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi passed the order on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate Hunar Gupta seeking deportation of such illegal immigrants. "We direct the secretary home, UT of J&K to consider the matter and to evolve a mechanism for the identification of all illegal immigrants and to prepare a list after identifying them. The said exercise may be carried out, most promptly, within

a period of six weeks, the bench said in its order last week. According to government data, over 13,700 foreigners, including Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals, are settled in Jammu and Samba districts of Jammu and Kashmir, where their population has increased by over 6,000 between 2008 and 2016. Over 200 Rohingyas, a Bengali-dialect speaking Muslim minority from Myanmar, are lodged in a holding centre at Kathua after they were found living illegally in Jammu city during a verification drive in March last year. Earlier, senior counsel Sunil Sethi, appearing for the petitioner, said though it is very easy to identify such illegal migrants, the government should come up with a complete mechanism for identifying them and submit **More on P6**

HAWAL ACID ATTACK

Survivor Grapples With Darkness After 11 Surgeries

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The hope of regaining eyesight is gradually fading for a young acid attack survivor even after the doctors in Chennai carried out eleven eye procedures and surgeries. The 24-year girl sustained severe burn injuries when a youth splashed acid on her face in Wantpora area of Hawal on February 1 this year. The incident sent shock waves among the people, especially the city residents, besides evoking sharp condemnations from people from all walks of the life. Initially, the girl was admitted to the SMHS hospital for treatment. However, due to severe damage to her eyes, she was taken by her family to Chennai's Sankara Nethralaya eye hospital for advanced treatment. Talking to Kashmir Observer, the victim's father said that



her left eye is more damaged and doctors are currently doing a procedure called "Stem cell/ buccal mucosal graft"-- a stem cell treatment to build the pressure in her eyes. He said over three skin grafting procedures have been done to reconstruct her face. "She has been kept under

further except monetary help of Rs. 1 lakh and four Air tickets when his daughter was shifted to Chennai from SMHS hospital. He further said Apni Party President, Altaf Bukhari bears the cost of every surgery rest they have to bear the expenses including accommodation, travel and food. "Junaid Azim Mattu also provided Rs 50000 initially," he said, adding that they have to spend over Rs 5000-6000 everyday on medicines and other expenses. After the brutal attack, the police arrested three persons, including the main accused whose marriage proposal was apparently refused by the girl. The accused Sajid Altaf Rather, Mohd Saleem Kumar are presently lodged in Central Jail, Srinagar, while the third accused--a juvenile has been lodged at the observation home in Harwan in the city outskirts.

Driver Injured In Blast Near Tulip Garden



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A tourist van driver was grievously injured in an unexplained explosion inside his vehicle at the parking lot of the Tulip Garden here Wednesday, officials said. The explosion took place when the driver of the van, bearing a registration number of the Jammu district, opened the rear door of the vehicle near the parking area, they said. They said the driver, whose identity **More on P6**



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WHO Says 99% Of World's Population Breathes Poor-Quality Air

Associated Press

Geneva- The UN health agency says nearly everybody in the world breathes air that doesn't meet its standards for air quality, calling for more action to reduce fossil-fuel use...



Nitrogen dioxide originates mainly from human-generated burning of fuel, such as through automobile traffic, and is most common in urban areas.

The World Health Organisation, about six months after tightening its guidelines on air quality, on Monday issued an update to its database on air quality that draws on information from a growing number of cities, towns, and villages across the globe now totaling over 6,000 municipalities.

as PM2.5 and PM10, for the first time has included ground measurements of nitrogen dioxide. The last version of the database was issued in 2018.

sources, such as transportation, power plants, agriculture, the burning of waste and industry as well as from natural sources like desert dust.

The findings highlight the sheer scale of the changes needed to combat air pollution, said Anumita Roychowdhury, an air pollution expert at Centre for Science and Environment...

از نیابت ریبر پورہ با اجلاس غلامحی الدین صاحب درخواست منجانب... تحصیل منٹن بڑھ حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

از نیابت دیگام با اجلاس نایب تحصیل دیگام... منضمون درخواست منجانب: عظمیٰ رشید اختر عبدالرشید لون ساکنہ گورہ تحصیل و ضلع اننت ناگ

از نیابت ہرہ شوہر با اجلاس ارشد احمد ملک... عنوان: منضمون درخواست منجانب: داخند بانو و فرقان احمد شیخ والدہ

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer, Shopian... whereas an application has been received from one Shahid Hussain Kumar S/o Bashir Ahamd Kumar R/o Bakahider Trenz Shopian

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NIT No: Fresh-01/EEP/RNB of 2022-23/46-56 Dated: 06/04/2022

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on an item rate basis/percentage age basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

Table with columns: S. No, Name of Work, Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs), Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees), EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR/ BG, Time of M.H of Account, Class of Contractor, AAA No.

Position of AAA: Accorded Position of funds: Available 1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

Table with columns: S. No, Date of Issue of Tender Notice, Period of downloading of bidding documents, Bid submission Start Date, Bid Submission End Date, Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document. 3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama.

PUBLIC NOTICE I have lost the Number Plate of my Vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03F 0003. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Aehtisham ud Din Wani S/o: Bashir Ahmad Wani R/o: New Airport Humhama Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Owais Majeed S/o Abdul Majeed Bhat R/o Shahpora Wathoor Chadoora Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Xylo Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.558/CC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04B -1750.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR NOTICE Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Marafat Ahmad Shah S/o: Mushtaq Ahmad Shah R/o: Khansahib Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Mohammad Ashraf Kutay S/o Abdul Gaffar Kutay R/o Khansahib as Transferee) for transfer of Sumo Maxi Cab Carriage route permit No.353/CC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04A -7901, as well as HPA cancellation with J&K Bank Lt B/u Khansahib also required.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore Tele-fax 01954222282 email: irrigationsprl@gmail.com

Cancellation Notice Cancellation Notice to e-NIT No: 29 of 2021-22 Dated: 28-03-2022 Due to some technical error the e-NIT No 29 of 2021-22 Dated: 28-03-2022 issued vide endorsement No: I&FC/ Sopore / NIT/7597-7623 Dated: 28-03-2022 is hereby cancelled.

Steep Price Rise Of Essential Commodities Hit Ramazan fervour: NC

Agencies

Srinagar: National Conference on Wednesday expressed dismay over the paucity of drinking water and electricity in Kashmir, saying the erratic supply of public utility services, and overcharging by shopkeepers and vendors is giving tough time to people during the on-going holy month of Ramazan.

This was said by JKNC General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar in a press statement released from the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

Expressing concern over the slack attitude of the administration in rendering its duties, Sagar said, "Administration has failed to take steps to ensure steady water and electricity supply to people. Concerned agencies have failed to address issues faced by people. Ideally all the line departments including PDD, PWD, FCSC and concerned corporations and municipalities should have been instructed to work in tandem. Contrarily, the administration has again failed to rise up to the occasion," he said.

Earlier, Sagar met scores of public delegations who had called on him here at the party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha from different parts of the valley. The visiting delegations gave a grim picture of public utility services provided to them. They said that the erratic water and electricity supply had dampened the festive spirit during the ongoing holy month. The visiting delegations also apprised the general secretary about the scarcity of ration particularly sugar, wheat, and rice at the FCSC stores.

The delegations specifically from Srinagar flagged the issue of unsatisfactory sanitation, unavailability of public transport, shortage of ration, and unsteady water and electricity supply with Sagar.

Police Conducts Surprise Frisking At Lal Chowk

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the CRPF conducted frisking at the city-center Lal Chowk area of Srinagar on Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses said that police and the CRPF conducted surprise frisking in Lal Chowk as part of the stepped-up vigil in Srinagar city in the wake of the recent spate of militant attacks and the killing of a trooper in Mausema market.

"Pedestrians were frisked while vehicles were also stopped and thoroughly checked. CRPF and police personnel were also seen checking the identity cards of pedestrians."

An official said that frisking operations have been intensified in Srinagar in the wake of militant presence.



Security Personnel examining the site after a cylinder blast took place in a tempo vehicle near Tulip garden on Wednesday, KO Photo Abid Bhat

CYBER FRAUD

Police Recovers 18 Lakh

Agencies

Srinagar: Cyber Police Kashmir on Wednesday said it saved Rs 18 lacs which was lost in a fake investment scam, a police spokesman said.

"Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar received a complaint from a resident of Bandipora stating therein that he had been duped, cheated for an amount of Rs 18lacs by the fraudsters in an online investment scam. The complainant received a link of a fake investment website on his cell number wherein

he was promised to get double monetary benefits," a statement issued.

"The victim fell prey and accessed the website where he got himself registered on said website by opening an e-wallet. After registration, the victim was made to transfer the hefty amount of Rs 18lacs in the said wallet through various UPI transactions. The victim after depositing the said amount was unable to get benefits and was also not able to withdraw his own amount from the said wallet. The complainant tried hard

to reach out on available contact details of said company but all in vain."

Accordingly, the complainant approached Cyber Police Kashmir Zone Srinagar for redressal of his grievance. Subsequently, the matter was taken up with bank authorities to ascertain the details of UPI transactions. During analysis of transactions, it came to fore that the said amount has been transferred through payment gateways into their PayTm Nodal Accounts. The strenuous and timely intervention

by the team of Cyber Police Kashmir Zone Srinagar, the payment of Rs 18lacs was put on hold and later on refunded the whole amount into the complainant's bank account, spokesman said.

Pertinently, it is a new trend for online influencers to convince gullible citizens about "double money return" schemes and make people feel bad about missing the "opportunity" of investing in instruments like crypto-currency, binary trading, crypto mining, online betting and gaming.

BPA Of LCMA Approves 35 Cases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority on Wednesday convened 119th meeting of the Building Permission Authority (BPA) under the chairmanship of Vice Chairman LC&MA, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat who is also the Chairman of BOCA at Miskeen Bagh.

During the meeting, the BPA decided 38 cases out of which 35 cases were approved, one case was deferred and two cases were rejected.

Other members of the Building Permission Authority including Chief Town Planner of Kashmir, Joint Commissioner (P) SMC, Secretary LCMA, Collector LCMA, Executive Engineer Lake Division 1st, 2nd LCMA, Tehsildar North, Enforcement Officers LCMA and representatives of Nazool, UEED, Tehsildar Khanyar, PHE and Law officer LCMA were present in the meeting.

In the meantime the Vice Chairman J&K LCMA asked the people residing in the local jurisdiction of LCMA to apply for proper building permission through an online portal before starting any construction

ity including Chief Town Planner of Kashmir, Joint Commissioner (P) SMC, Secretary LCMA, Collector LCMA, Executive Engineer Lake Division 1st, 2nd LCMA, Tehsildar North, Enforcement Officers LCMA and representatives of Nazool, UEED, Tehsildar Khanyar, PHE and Law officer LCMA were present in the meeting.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division Sopore
Tele-fax 01954222282 email: irrigationsprl@gmail.com

Cancellation Notice Cancellation Notice to e-NIT No: 30 of 2021-22 Dated: 30-03-2022

Due to some technical error the e-NIT No 30 of 2021-22 Dated: 30-03-2022 issued vide endorsement No: I&FC/ Sopore / NIT/7656-82 Dated: 30-03-2022 is hereby cancelled.

However, the cost of Tender document(s) deposited by the participants (contractor) who have uploaded their bids shall be accepted by the Division for respective work(s) only if they intend to participate again.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal-Shakti (IFC) Division
Sopore

NO: I&FC/ Sopore / NIT/120-46.
DATED: 05-04-2022.

DIPK-162/22

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Abdul Majeed Sheikh S/o: Lt Mohammad Maqbool Sheikh R/o: Rakhshalina Tengan Budgam (Transferor) of LMV M-800. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04B - 7239. Chasis number 49924 Engine no. 479903 Model 2012. In favour of Shri.. Mohammad Muzamil Khan S/o. Lal Mohammad Khan R/o Nundreshi Colony Srinagar (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Lasjan is also required.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.66 Dated 06/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

DIAL-EMMA

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

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

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 4: 45
ZUHR 12:34
ASR 5:07
Magrib 6:58
ISHA 8:22

HIJRI CALENDAR
05 Ramazan
1443

This Day In History

- 1946 - Syria's independence from France is officially recognised.
- 1953 - 1st west-to-east jet transatlantic nonstop flight
- 1954 - US President Dwight D. Eisenhower in news conference is first to voice fear of a "domino-effect" of communism in Indo-China
- 1956 - Spain relinquishes her protectorate in Morocco
- 1964 - IBM announces the System/360.
- 1967 - Israeli Syrian border fights
- 1969 - Supreme Court strikes down laws prohibiting private possession of obscene material
- 1978 - US President Jimmy Carter defers production of neutron bomb
- 1982 - Iran minister of Foreign affairs Ghotbzadeh arrested
- 1983 - Oldest human skeleton, aged 80,000 years, discovered in Egypt
- 1983 - STS-6 specialist Story Musgrave & Don Peterson 1st STS space-walk
- 1988 - Russia announces it will withdraw its troops from Afghanistan
- 1996 - Sri Lanka's Sanath Jayasuriya hits fastest ODI fifty off 17 balls v Paki stan, Singapore
- 1996 - Pakistan beat Sri Lanka to win Singer Cup in Singapore
- 1999 - The World Trade Organisation rules in favor of the United States in its long-running trade dispute with the European Union over bananas
- 2001 - Mars Odyssey is launched
- 2009 - Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is sentenced to 25 years in prison for ordering killings and kidnappings by security forces
- 2012 - 130 Pakistani Army soldiers are buried in an avalanche near the Siachen Glacier.
- 2013 - 15 people, including 9 children, are killed by an air strike on Aleppo by the Syrian Air Force.
- 2016 - Longest-ever captured python found on Penang in Malaysia (26ft/8m)
- 2017 - Truck driven into a department store in Stockholm, killing 4 in a terror attack.
- 2017 - US President Donald Trump orders missile strike on Syrian airfield after chemical weapons attack on Khan Sheikhoun.

From KO Archives

Blazing Start To Historic Bus

Militants Storm 'Passengers' Sanctuary, Tourist Reception Centre In Flames

Observer News Service

SSRINAGAR - With barely hours left for the Muzaffarabad bag to roll and despite unprecedented security measures, militants attacked the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), where the passengers have been lodged under heavy armed guard.

The front building of the complex was on fire within minutes of the initial shots ringing out at around 3:45 this afternoon.

A union of four militant groups that have issued threats against the bus service has claimed responsibility for the attack, which took place hardly 200 yards away from the venue the prime minister will flag off the bus service from.

An officer of the security forces said that militants had entered the building with guns blazing and later set it on fire.

Seven employees, including a woman, were injured in the heavy firing while the building which houses several government offices was being evacuated.

Security officers said that Muzaffarabad-bound passengers were safe as they had been lodged in a different wing of the complex.

They put the number of attackers at two and said the one of them was killed soon after the attack and the other in the subsequent action by security forces. Evacuation of the civilians from the building was carried out swiftly by the police as fire tenders went into action to control the blaze that spread from the attic to the lower floor within no time.

Reports said that the militants attacked from the main gate opening indiscriminate fire as they stormed into the complex.

The state police, BSF and CRPF immediately surrounded the site and launched the operation against the militants.

Among the injured were Roushan Ara of Hyderpora, Vakil Ahmad Pandith of Tangmarg, Basheer Ahmad of Wanabal.

Records or nearly score of government offices housed in the building have been lost in the fire. The losses in terms of property are expected to run into crores.

Even though the fire tenders and firemen desperately fought the flames, the building mainly constructed of timber was reduced to a burning hulk.

The building also housed an office of the State Road Transport Corporation, which has to operate the Indian sector of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.

The other offices that were located in the building, include the branches of Jammu and Kashmir Bank and the State Bank of India; an office of Tourism Development Corporation, Indian Airlines, post office, offices of fisheries and wild life departments, and the tourist police office.

(Kashmir Observer, 07 April, 2005)

از نیابت کنوز
مضمون درخواست : طارق احمد وانی ولد غلام نبی وانی ساکنہ علیپور رہبر ادرار سنگی اندراج نام نمبست DOB : رخصیت جن پر منتظر احمد وانی طارق احمد وانی ولد غلام نبی وانی ساکنہ علیپور رہبر ادرار سنگی اندراج نام نمبست DOB : جن پر منتظر احمد وانی

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدور میں دفتر بذرا کو ایک درخواست باہت دہنگی اندراج نام نمبست DOB موصول ہوئی ہے۔ پولیس ٹیشن کنوز چوکیدار علاقہ نے مسائل کے پھر کی پیدائش اندراج کی ہے۔ اب سال اسنے پھر کا نام گزار احمد وانی سے تبدیل کر کے منتظر احمد وانی رکھنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ اس شخص میں قبل از یہں DOB : جن پر منتظر احمد وانی 15/05/554 PSK/ مورخہ 21.2.2022 کو اجرائی گئی ہے۔ جس میں مسائل ل کے پھر کی تاریخ پیدائش 1.4.2022 درج ہے۔ اب سال اسنے پھر کے پھر کا نام جو اندراج ہوا ہے اس کی جائز منتظر احمد وانی رکھا جائے۔

اس نمبست ہر غاص و عام مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی غرض یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا غرض یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی غرض یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار کنوز
az k

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR
NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Haji Abdul Rashid Karnai S/o Abdul Khaliq Karnai R/o Barathana Qamarwari Srinagar as (Transferor) & Shri. Shakeel Ahmd Bhat S/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat R/o Tula Bagh Tulmulla Ganderbal .as Transferee) for transfer of Tipper Carriage route permit No.1039/GV/Budgam Budgam vehicle No. JK04B -0738 . as well as HPA endorsement with Sattwari Invest B/U Nehru Market Jammu

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .
No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 62 Dated 06/04/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir
NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Bilal Ahamd Najar S/o Mehraj ud din Najar R/o Lasjan Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Showkat Ahmad Alie S/o Guizar Ahmad Alie R/o Abban Shah Shala Teng Ghat Zainakote (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 6139/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01P- 5052. Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain

NO: JK/RTOK /310 Dated: 06/04/2022 fko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

India's Ukraine Policy

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said that India supports conducting an independent investigation with respect to the killings that took place in Bucha. Speaking on the situation in Ukraine in the parliament, Jaishankar said the conflict in Ukraine has had significant consequences for the global economy and for India's economy. "Like all countries, we too are assessing the implications and deciding what is best for our national interest," he further said. The foreign minister added that India has chosen the side of peace and it is for "an immediate end to violence." No solution, he said, can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of innocent lives.

This is the first time that India has clearly articulated its policy on Ukraine. Jaishankar said that "in this day and age, dialogue and diplomacy are the right answers to any dispute." On Tuesday, foreign minister spoke to United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken ahead of next week's India-US '2+2' dialogue. It was the second telephonic conversation between the two in a week and much of it was focussed on the ongoing war in Ukraine. The West is concerned about India's intention to buy more discounted crude oil from Russia.

Last week, the visiting US Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics Daleep Singh had cautioned that there will be consequences for countries actively attempting to "circumvent or backfill" American sanctions against Moscow. He also warned Indian leadership that Washington would not like to see a "rapid" acceleration in India's import of energy and other commodities from Russia.

Similarly, US President Joe Biden has also expressed his displeasure at India's position on the crisis in Ukraine, saying the world had launched a united front across Europe and the Pacific on the Russian attack on Ukraine with the "possible exception of India". He also described India's response to the Russian invasion as "somewhat shaky". Now the Ukraine crisis is likely to come up in the '2+2' dialogue between India and the U.S., slated to be held in Washington on April 11.

This is likely to pile up more pressure on India and force it to take a position against Russian invasion of Ukraine. And the foreign minister's speech in the parliament makes it clear that there is an attempt to make India's policy on Ukraine appear less ambivalent. Going forward, India and the nations across the world may re-adjust their policies depending on the likely outcome of the war. That said, India is within its rights to pursue an independent foreign policy which is in the best interest of the people of the country.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

In the middle: On India's role in Russia-Ukraine crisis

Forty days into the war in Ukraine, India's role appears to be more relevant than other countries may have expected, evident from the stream of dignitaries from overseas over the past two weeks. Most were from countries that are a part of the U.S. and EU-led sanctions regime against Russia. Their messages were three-pronged: asking India to change its vote at the UN, where it has abstained from all resolutions critical of Russia's invasion; to request that India not "accelerate" its purchases of Russian oil being offered at discount; and to discourage India from using the rupee-rouble national currency-based payment mechanisms that could subvert "backfilling sanctions". The messages got sharper and more public as it became clear that New Delhi would also host Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and officials from the West hoped to turn India's position to their side. However, the red carpet welcome he received, including a cordial meeting with the Prime Minister, appeared to make it clear that New Delhi is not amenable to the pressure. The External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, and the Finance Minister also reinforced the position of the Indian "national interest", given that European countries have yet to curtail oil intakes from Russia. It is likely that the U.S. will make another attempt to veer the Government off its chosen course when Mr. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visit Washington for the "2+2" meetings, where a possible waiver of CAATSA sanctions against India for the purchase of the Russian S-400 systems will also be discussed. The U.S. is also keen to squeeze Russia on the multilateral stage, with proposals to exclude it from the G-20 summit this year, and suspend it from the Human Rights Council.

While the Government cannot be faulted for its refusal to bow to external pressure, it must consider the importance of remaining flexible on what it stands both at the UN and in bilateral conversations is going to be, given the ground situation in Ukraine. Reports of gross human rights violations blamed on the Russian army could change the complexion of the war, and India's call for an independent inquiry into the allegations is an important intervention. In addition, the U.S. and the EU are likely to tighten economic sanctions, as the current restrictions have not made Russia reconsider its course. With Russia unlikely to relinquish areas of Eastern Ukraine, and its western rivals not likely to let up their counter-measures, New Delhi must realise that its value to the two sides will last while it remains uncommitted to either side. This will require having a keen eye on rapid developments in the theatre of war, an ear on what partners on both sides plan next, and the ability to keep its mind open on where India's responsibilities, as a global democracy, and a truly non-aligned power, lie.

The Hindu

Forest Rights Act & Biodiversity Act

Wise Link

FRA and BDA should work in tandem to strengthen forest governance in Jammu & Kashmir

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

There are several legislations in India enacted to strengthen forest governance. Some are very old dating back to British India and some have been enacted during the recent past.

Forest Department, Wildlife Department, Wildlife activists, Environmentalists or Tribal Rights activists have differing perceptions about forests and its conservation. The laws like Forest Conservation Act (FCA), Indian Forest Act 1927 (IFA), the Wildlife Protection Act (WLP), Biodiversity Act (BDA) and Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act also called Forest Rights Act -FRA 2006 takes care of various aspects of forest governance. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) was enacted to rectify the historical injustices done with tribals & forest dwellers. FRA is a very progressive legislation which has a potential to change the lives of millions of tribals and forest dwellers living in remote corners of forests in India.

As I have explained in my previous articles, the FRA vests a number of rights over forest lands with forest dependent Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs). The rights include the individual rights over forest lands (Individual Forest Rights-IFR), Community Forest Rights-CFR and the rights to protect and manage Community Forest Resources within traditional or customary boundaries of the village.

Misconception about FRA

The officials of the Forest Department are under a misconception that the Forest Rights Act -FRA will let people take control of forest land. This is the reason forest officers are directing their staff on the ground to ensure that there is no "encroachment" of forest land. The Forest Department is trying to fence every inch of forest land in Jammu & Kashmir thinking forest dwellers might claim their right over the forest land and the forest department will lose the authority over it.

I don't question the intentions of the forest officials but their actions have a negative impact on the ground. Last summer, this author had interaction with many tribals and forest dwellers at Yusmarg (Darwan Basti) who were not even allowed to grow vegetables around their huts (Kothas). The people living in Darwan Basti, Yusmarg told me that they feel more harassed after FRA rollout as the forest officials were harassing them. I had recorded videos of several old men and women in Darwan Basti meadow and uploaded them on social media. The officers of forest department on the other hand denied that they were harassing these forest dwellers. Some officers told me that under the garb of growing vegetables the migratory population changed the nature of forest land which is not allowed at all under Forest Conservation Act or Indian Forest Act 1927.

The forest dwellers in Darwan Basti told me they had better rights before the FRA rollout in J&K post article 370. The Darwan Basti at Yusmarg is inhabited by around 400 households who undertake seasonal migration during summer months from villages like Darwan, Chootinad, Chalyan and Nowgam villages. This has been their tradition for hundreds of years, they told me.

Forest conservation & FRA

The Forest Rights Act (FRA), if implemented with better intention can be used for forest conservation. What I have observed in the last 2 years is that forest officials are unaware of this provision in the FRA. Section 5 of the FRA 2006 empowers the gram sabha (village council) to protect the wildlife, forest, and biodiversity of the village and ensure that adjoining catchment areas, water sources, and other ecologically sensitive areas are adequately protected. But there is no awareness about this.

My colleagues and I are trying our bit in this direction by writing about FRA and using social media platforms to highlight the issue but that isn't enough.

However, the Govt has to play its role through the Forest Department, Tribal Affairs Department and involving universities and NGOs to create awareness about the Forest Rights Act. NGOs, research institutions, Forest Department, Tribal Affairs Department need to link FRA with conservation and protection of local biodiversity



and environment. There is an inbuilt mechanism in the FRA itself. The section 5 of Forest Rights Act 2006 reads :

Duties of holders of forest rights. The holders of any forest right, Gram Sabha and village level institutions in areas where there are holders of any forest right under this Act are empowered to-

- Protect the wildlife, forest and biodiversity.
- Ensure that adjoining catchments area, water sources and other ecologically sensitive areas are adequately protected.
- Ensure that the habitat of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers are preserved from any form of destructive practices affecting their cultural and natural heritage.
- Ensure that the decisions taken in the Gram Sabha to regulate access to community forest resources and stop any activity which adversely affects the wild animals, forest and the biodiversity are complied with.

FRA & BDA Need to be Linked

Last year, on April 10th 2021, five village panchayats in Sopore area of Baramulla district adopted a joint resolution by invoking section 5 of the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) for protection of the biodiversity of their respective villages. The village panchayats namely Tarzoo A, B, C, Darnambal and Rakhe Haigam passed a joint resolution for protection and conservation of a huge chunk of forest land (around 170 acres). This land was being used to dump municipal solid waste by Municipal Council Sopore with the support of district administration Sopore.

I had been personally in touch with these village panchayats for a long time and had been trying to guide and assist them in conservation of local biodiversity. After consulting some experts, we thought of using Section 5 of Forest Rights Act 2006 and invoking Biodiversity Act 2002 as well.

Through a joint resolution, the village panchayats of Tarzoo A, B & C and Dharnambal impressed upon the Government especially Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and Pollution Control Committee and Municipal Council, Sopore to stop unscientific garbage disposal in Ninglee Tarzoo area which was a severe threat to the environment and biodiversity in their area. The Member Secretary J&K Pollution Control Committee (PCC) acted swiftly and directed the Regional Director PCC Kashmir to initiate action.

The illegal garbage dumping site was not only causing a threat to the environment and wildlife but the land being encroached actually belonged to the forest department for which Municipal Council Sopore had not obtained any written permission. The forest officers were not acting as district administration was supporting the municipal council.

What the forest officers could not do for many years, the resolution under section 5 of FRA did in days.

The resolution adopted by gram sabha (deh majlis) had an impact and the forest department also came into action. The forest range Ninglee with the help of local people not only prevented Municipal Council (MC) Sopore from dumping its waste in the forest land, but they even

removed the encroachment by closing the approach road to the land. The Municipal Council Sopore then started using a small patch of state land which belongs to Panchayat. The locals are fighting to get that site also cleared and the district administration has sought some time until they find a suitable place to create a scientific landfill site for Sopore town. The fight is on but the locals have resolved that they would invoke FRA & BDA to get the area cleared of unscientific waste dumping. Infact the National Green Tribunal (NGT) had taken cognizance of my article published in a local daily few years back on this issue and then High Court Division Bench also intervened. The Tarzoo Ninglee residents also invoked the Biodiversity Act, 2002 to get the forest land cleared of municipal solid waste (MSW). The three biodiversity management committees of Tarzoo area jointly send a memorandum to several places and that also had an impact.

Community Control of Forests

The best practices about linking up of Forest Rights Act (FRA) and Biodiversity Act (BDA) can be best seen in Nayagrah district of Odisha. I had a chance to visit Ranpur block of Nayagrah district last year in November. The Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) constituted under FRA are so serious about forest and environment conservation that people can't even cut a tree in the forest village. The local communities have more control over forests than the forest department. The people around Ranpur forest area have already been working for conservation and protection of their forests and forest resources including the wildlife for last 24 years under the banner of Maa Maninag Jangal Suraksha Parishad (MMJSP) which is a confederation of around 132 community based forest protection groups in 132 villages. Arkito Sahu the Secretary of the Maa Maninag Jangal Suraksha Parishad has been putting his sincere and tireless efforts to organize the people in 132 villages for protection and conservation of forests. Vasundhara, a noted NGO based in Bhubaneswar has also been working around Ranpur area from 1995. This NGO has helped MMJSP with institutional support like the documentation of their work and to involve women in forest committees which has been a very tedious task.

It is very important to link up all the Forest Rights Act & Biodiversity Act to ensure sustainable environmental conservation practices which will in turn strengthen the forest governance in J&K. In this regard I had a detailed meeting with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests J&K (PCCF) Mr Mohit Gera recently. Mr Gera who is also the Head of Forest Force in J&K, assured me that sensitization workshops would be held on FRA & Biodiversity Act and the committees constituted at village or district level would be given proper training about these legislations.

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

Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat is a Srinagar based activist and columnist. He is an Anant Fellow for Climate Action



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Sri Lanka's Crisis

From shortage of food, fuel and medicine to long daily power cuts, to cancellation of exams due to lack of ink and paper, the problems affecting Sri Lanka are myriad. Huge piles of foreign debt, soaring inflation and depleting foreign currency reserves - the island nation is a textbook example of a country that could ever go wrong and get into all sorts of trouble for not diversifying its economy.

Sri Lanka's economy is funda-

mentally flawed. It is a kind of a country that has been spending far greater than what it actually earns. Its economy doesn't produce much wealth, but has the consumerist stomach of a rich and fertile nation. When the 2019 Easter bomb-blasts and two rounds of the pandemic literally dried up Sri Lanka's tourism, the country had no cash. On the top of it, the government's flawed policy of organic farming cropped its meagre agriculture too. When you borrow in such cease-

less instability, there is certainly a huge risk of you defaulting and running up more debts because you will have to borrow more to pay off previous debts. It is a vicious cycle.

And what has made the situation worse is the indiscriminate borrowing for vanity projects since 2009 when the Rajapaksa came to power on the back of war-triumphalism. In simple terms, Sri Lanka's present situation is a mounting crisis of balance payments that is similar to

what India would have landed itself in 1991. But thanks to the former and late Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who along with the then Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, re-couped the country's economy from the brink of a major collapse.

Ranganathan Sivakumar
siva19kumar@gmail.com

That Crazy Starving Muslim!

Raudah Mohd Yunus

When my Lithuanian classmate who sat next to me asked whether I wanted to have lunch one day, I explained to her that I was fasting as it was the month of Ramadan. She gave me a sarcastic smile and said, 'Well, you crazy people can starve all you want!'

On my way back home, I started thinking of how crazy or weird fasting could seem to some people, especially those whose lifestyle and culture are not familiar with this practice.

While trying to scrutinise my knowledge and trying to understand this further, I came to a painful realisation: I was not at all prepared to face a world that harbours so much ignorance about fasting.

Why had I been fasting all this while anyway? I had no solid answers.

So I studied, read, pondered and reflected.

I began confronting the truth.

Many Muslims do not really understand why they fast. If you pick any random Muslim on the street and ask, you might get one of the following answers:

1. That's What I've Been Told, From A Very Young Age.
2. People Around (Other Muslims) Fast, So Why Wouldn't I?
3. Hello, It's One Of The Five Pillars!
4. Its Ramadan, That's Why!
5. Without Fasting, There's No Eid. Bummer!
6. Just Fast And Stop Asking. If I Don't Fast, Everyone Will Call Me A Bad Muslim.

REASON NUMBER 1

Unfortunately, none of the above is true. These distorted ideas have been long propagated by some ignorant Muslim societies as a short cut to easily deal with those who question and avoid real discussions. Delving deeper into the subject, I discovered that God had answered my question 1400 years ago in Chapter 2 verse 183.

So the purposes of fasting were piety (God-consciousness) and righteousness. In simpler words, the objectives of fasting are first, to draw our hearts closer to God and second,

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So the purposes of fasting were piety (God-consciousness) and righteousness. In simpler words, the objectives of fasting are first, to draw our hearts closer to God and second, to instil virtue, goodness and morality in us

to instil virtue, goodness and morality in us.

How can fasting make us closer to God, or teach goodness? Can't we be religious and good without fasting? People who don't fast aren't necessarily bad, are they?

The real definition and practice of fasting extends beyond simply abstaining from food and drinks. Fasting also means self-restraint, from everything and anything that may displease God or go against the principles of decency. When we fast, we don't eat or drink except at the right time, we don't speak except for good words, we don't perform except for beneficial deeds and we do not allow our hearts to be occupied by anything except for God, righteousness and all that is constructive.

Physically, fasting makes us hungry. Hunger makes one weak and vulnerable. Being in this condition reminds us that as humans, we are never self-sufficient and without



continuous nourishment, we cannot survive.

Therefore, we are taught two things: that we are dependent on the constant need for a greater power, and how little gratitude we have shown all this while in the midst of enjoying the abundance of food. We eat and drink in abundance, but rarely thank the Provider. Often we waste, carelessly spend and spoil ourselves without any sense of guilt or responsibility, despite being aware that millions out there suffer from unimaginable hunger and poverty.

FASTING AND SCIENCE

Fasting has other advantages as well. Scientists have long promoted this practice as a way of keeping the body healthy and young. In fact, many doctors say that the less you eat, the longer you live, and that occasional fasting has immense health benefits. It is also a known fact that numerous chronic diseases are caused by over-eating and unhealthy dietary patterns.

But hey, I am not interested in science as a way of proving the importance of fasting. My previous encounters with similar issues have

taught me a good lesson the Quran is a book of signs, not science. Living in a world ruled by scientific advancements does not make us obliged to always validate God's rulings with science. If God's commands are compatible with some scientific theories, I would rather take that as a sign of His infinite wisdom, and that the laws of nature surely have no choice but to be subservient to their Creator.

However, if they seem incompatible with each other, be mindful that science and all its theories are never absolute. They change from time to time. Scientists may declare today that a certain drug is the most effective treatment for a certain disease, only to find out 10 years later that it actually causes the body more harm than good. Similarly, who can guarantee that all the quantum physics theories will remain as they are 50 years from now?

WORLD HUNGER AND POVERTY

When we fast, we are able to grasp the reality of hunger through firsthand experience. We feel the discomfort of a growling stomach and desperate craving for something delicious to pacify our tummies. We start

imagining all kinds of delicious foods as sunset approaches. Does that remind us of someone, or something?

I Flipped Through A Few Magazines And Discovered Some Shocking Facts:

1. Roughly, 925 Million People Are Afflicted By Hunger, Every Day.
2. The World Produces Enough Food For Seven Billion Of Its Inhabitants, But Hunger Is Still Widespread.
3. In 2010, It Was Estimated That 7.6 Million Children '20,000 A Day' Died From Hunger.
4. Poverty Is The Principal Cause Of Hunger.
5. The Number Of Hungry Grew In Africa Over The Period, From 175 Million To 239 Million, With Nearly 20 Million Added In The Last Few Years.
6. Developed Regions Also Saw The Number Of Hungry Rise, From 13 Million In 2004-2006 To 16 Million In 2010-2012.

I closed my eyes and thought of all the innocent children who remain hungry day after day, having nothing left but their imagination of a possibly bright future, the gullible babies

who are born underweight because the mothers have been undernourished, the toddlers who do not have enough to eat and succumb to simple, preventable diseases, men who starve in order to feed their wives and children and women who starve to make sure their babies are fed.

REASON NUMBER 2

Had I not fasted, I would not have understood the difficulty and pain of hunger. People may know some facts and feel sorry for the needy, but genuine solidarity with the less fortunate can only be realised through experiencing the same harsh conditions that they grapple with on a daily basis.

One will not truly understand what it means to be a Palestinian living under siege in Gaza, until he stays there and sees for himself the daily oppression taking place.

One cannot grasp the fear and horror of Syrian children living in trapped districts where bombshells are dropped every few hours, until he goes through similar events.

The same applies to hunger and poverty. Unless we carry part of the burden on our shoulders, we will never understand the grief and torment of starvation and we will not fully digest the meaning of empathy.

Therefore, that is how morality and virtue is instilled through fasting. From now on, the sight of a beggar will not annoy me, for the month of Ramadan has given me professional training on what hunger is all about, and how to treat the needy. This holy month has infused the spirit of compassion and empathy in my soul. I now see the have-nots as my beloved equals, not a financial or societal burden as taught in many textbooks.

Upon understanding this beautiful ritual of fasting and the reason it is prescribed, I feel at ease. It is true that knowledge and understanding gives you the confidence and eloquence to face the world, no matter how ruthless or sceptical it might be towards Ramadan and the concept of fasting. The next time someone labels me crazy for showing unity with the needy and hungry, I am more than ready with an answer. But before that, I will proudly say,

'Yes, I'm that crazy starving Muslim!'
-ABOUT ISLAM

COVID Fatigue

Natasha Yates

People are often surprised by how fatigued they are during a COVID infection.

Fatigue is more than being worn out or sleepy. It's an excessive tiredness that persists despite resting or good sleep. It's likely a result of our body's strong immune response to the virus.

But in some people the fatigue drags on even when the infection is gone. This can be debilitating and frustrating. Simply resting more makes no difference.

Here's what we know about post-COVID fatigue, and what can help.

FATIGUE OR TIREDNESS? WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The term fatigue can mean different things to different people. Some people mean their muscles are easily weakened. Walking to the mailbox feels like they have run a marathon. Others describe a generalised exhaustion, whether they are moving or not. People can experience physical, mental or emotional fatigue, or any combination of these.

The difference between tiredness and fatigue is this: tiredness can get better with enough rest, while fatigue persists even if someone is sleeping and resting more than ever.

HOW BIG A PROBLEM IS THIS?

Because there is no agreed definition of post-COVID fatigue, it is impossible to give exact numbers of how many people experience it.

Estimates vary considerably worldwide. One review of 21 studies found 13-33% of people were fatigued 16-20 weeks after their symptoms started. This is a worryingly widespread problem.

WHEN SHOULD I SEE MY GP?

There are many potential causes of fatigue. Even before the pandemic, fatigue was one of the most common reasons to see a GP.

Most serious causes can be ruled out when your GP asks about your symptoms and examines you. Sometimes your GP will investigate further, perhaps by ordering blood tests. Symptoms that should raise particular concern include fevers, unex-



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Early in the pandemic, we realised some patients had a cluster of debilitating symptoms that dragged on for months, which we now call long COVID. Some 85% of long COVID patients experience fatigue, making it one of the most common long COVID symptoms

plained weight loss, unusual bleeding or bruising, pain (anywhere) that wakes you from sleep, or drenching night sweats.

If your fatigue is getting worse rather than better, or you cannot care for yourself properly, you really should seek medical care.

IS IT LIKE LONG COVID?

Early in the pandemic, we realised some patients had a cluster of debilitating symptoms that dragged on for months, which we now call long COVID.

Some 85% of long COVID patients experience fatigue, making it one of the most common long COVID symptoms.

However, people with long COVID have a range of other symptoms, such as "brain fog", headaches and muscle aches. Patients with long COVID therefore experience more than fatigue, and sometimes don't have fatigue at all.

IS THIS LIKE CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME?

We knew about chronic fatigue

syndrome, otherwise known as myalgic encephalomyelitis, well before COVID.

This often develops after a viral infection (for instance after infection with Epstein-Barr virus). So, understandably, there has been concern around the coronavirus potentially triggering chronic fatigue syndrome.

There are striking similarities between chronic fatigue syndrome and long COVID. Both involve debilitating fatigue, brain fog and/or muscle aches.

But at this stage, researchers are still untangling any link between post-COVID fatigue, long COVID and chronic fatigue syndrome.

For now, we know many people will have post-COVID fatigue but thankfully do not go on to develop long COVID or chronic fatigue syndrome.

WHAT HELPS ME MANAGE MY FATIGUE?

Expect you or a loved one may develop post-COVID fatigue, regardless of how unwell you or they were during the actual infection.

Vaccines help reduce the risk of post-COVID fatigue by lowering the chance of catching COVID in the first place. Vaccinated people who do catch COVID are less likely to report fatigue and are less likely to develop long COVID.

However, vaccination is not 100% protective and there are plenty of

fully vaccinated people who go on to develop longer term fatigue.

The evidence for what helps you recover from post-COVID fatigue is in its infancy. However, a few things do help:

1. **PACE YOURSELF:** adjust the return to normal activities to your energy levels. Choose your priorities and focus on what you can do rather than what you can't
2. **RETURN TO EXERCISE GRADUALLY:** a gradual return to exercise may help your recovery, but you may need some support about how to manage or avoid fatigue afterwards. Some therapists – occupational therapists, physiotherapists and exercise physiologists – specialise in this. So ask your GP for a recommendation
3. **PRIORITISE SLEEP:** rather than feeling guilty about sleeping so much, remind yourself that while you sleep, your body conserves energy and heals. Disrupted sleep patterns are an unfortunate COVID symptom. Having a strict bedtime, while also resting when you feel tired during the day, is important
4. **EAT A RANGE OF NUTRITIOUS FOODS:** loss of smell, taste and appetite from COVID can make this tricky. However, try to view food as a way of fuelling your body with both energy and the micronutrients it needs to heal. Be careful not to spend a fortune on unproven "remedies" that often look good in small studies, but more robust research finds make little difference
5. **MONITOR YOUR FATIGUE:** keep a diary to monitor your fatigue, and look for a gradual improvement. You will have good days and bad days, but overall there should be a slow trajectory towards recovery. If you are going backwards, get input from a health professional, such as your GP.

The author is an Assistant Professor, General Practice, Bond University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

KOKERNAG SINKHOLE MYSTERY NDMA Holds Deliberations With Multiple Stakeholders

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Wednesday held a detailed meeting on the Kokernag Sinkhole event.

The meeting held through virtual mode, was attended by representatives from NDMA, Central Water Commission, Geological Survey of India, National Centre for Earth Sciences, Central Water and Power Research Stations, National Institute of Hydrology, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Relief Commissioner, J&K SDMA and District Administration Anantnag, Irrigation and Flood Control.

At the beginning, SDM Kokernag through a presentation put forth the background of the event. He said that the district administration has filled the sinkhole with naturally graded material and crates.

He said that a multi departmental team including representatives from Kashmir University, NIT Srinagar, Geology Department, Fisheries, Jal Shakti and Revenue department conducted a detailed study. Based on the preliminary study and tracer studies conducted through NIT Srinagar, it was inferred that the phenomenon occurred due to underlying karst topography.

He further said that 90 per cent of the water going into the sinkhole which is 16 kms from the sinkhole. The report of the committee was shared with the participants.

While the team has taken immediate preventive steps, a thorough discussion on the future course of action was held. All the participants in the meeting agreed that the response so far has been scientifically based and has been instrumental in preserving the site for future studies.

NDMA desired that proposal for centrally funded studies be sent to ensure that detailed geomorphology of the underlying karst topography can be understood and future interventions designed accordingly.

It is in place to mention that after the occurrence of the event, District Administration under the vigil of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag had taken immediate steps to prevent any tragedy at the spot including issuing of detailed news briefs to quell rumour mongering, imposing Section 144 to prevent any mishap and creating diversionary canals to safeguard the interests of agriculturists.

Preliminary studies including Proton Precession Magnetometer studies were conducted and the decision to fill the sinkhole was taken after due deliberation with all stakeholders.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals In Kashmir Record 95% Dip In Last 3 Yrs



Agencies

SRINAGAR: In the past three years the foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir Valley have dipped by almost 95.22 percent.

However, among the domestic tourist arrivals, the visitor entrance has increased nearly by 20 percent.

According to the official figures, in the past three years, the highest number of foreign tourist arrivals in Kashmir valley was recorded in the year 2019. In the year 2019, at least 33,779 foreign tourists and 53,175.3 domestic tourists had visited Kashmir valley.

In the following year 2020, there had a drastic fall among both foreign and domestic tourist arrivals by more than 89 percent and 93 percent respectively.

The official figures reveal that in this fiscal, a total of 3897 foreign and 37,370 domestic tourists had visited the valley.

Likewise, in the previous fiscal 2021, the arrival of foreign tourist arrivals in the Valley had dipped almost by 95.22 percent, however, the domestic tourist arrivals had increased by nearly 20 percent.

In this year only 1615 foreign and 6,641.99 domestic tourists had arrived in Kashmir.

The figures further reveal that in the ongoing fiscal, a total of 1,614.93 domestic and 484 foreign tourists had arrived here upto February end.

This information was revealed by the Deputy Director of tourism and planning department in a reply to Right to Information (RTI) application filed by the activists M M Shuja.

Earlier, in 2019, the then Deputy Director of tourism and planning in a RTI had said that in the year 2016, at least 12,745.96 had arrived in Kashmir and in 2017 only 11,960.67 domestic visitors had arrived here.

In the year 2016, a total of 24,516 foreign tourist arrivals in the State was recorded; in 2017 the arrival of foreign tourists increased by 29 percent recording 31,697 tourist arrivals.

Similarly, in the year 2018 at least 78,517.3 domestic arrivals were recorded by the department.

Likewise, the number of foreign tourist arrival in the year 2018 was 31,413 visitors—(KNO)

Govt Constitutes Panel To Form Scholarship Policy For Migratory Students

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a panel to formulate a special scholarship policy for over 34,000 students enrolled in seasonal educational centres in highland pastures during the annual migration for six months, an official spokesman said.

The panel will be headed by Special Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Mohammad Harun Malik, the spokesman said. He said the committee will also co-opt expert members in the panel and submit a report within one week.

According to Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary in Tribal Affairs Department, over 34,000 students have been enrolled in nearly 1,200 seasonal educational centres.

As per a survey conducted in 2021, a population of 6.12 lakh undertakes biannual migration to highland pastures as well as other UTs and states.

The department has initiated the process for formulating a special scholarship scheme focused on seasonal centres in view of low enrolment at primary level and to promote primary education, Choudhary said.

He said the revision of scholarship rates has been pending for more than a decade and there is a need to have a special scheme for migratory students.

He said the department is simultaneously working on revision of scholarship slabs for other pre-matric classes as well. Presently, boy and girl students in primary schools receive a meagre annual scholarship of Rs 450 and Rs 675, respectively.

The tribal affairs department had provided highest ever scholarship of Rs 31.12 crore for financial year 2021-22 ending March 2022 wherein maximum number of tribal students were covered.

The pre-matric budget of Rs 13.50 crore covered students of classes 1 to 8 while Rs 2.22 crore was awarded to classes 9 and 10 students and Rs 15.40 crore to graduate and post-matric students.

The scholarship budget has now been enhanced to a record Rs 45 crore to accommodate a special scholarship scheme for students enrolled in migratory seasonal educational centres and enhancement in other classes as well, the spokesman said.

Besides, steps are also being taken up this year to provide better facilities in the seasonal educational centres, he said.

GOVT JOB OR COMPENSATION Land Donors Lock 14 Schools In Ganderbal

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Land Donors Association locked over a dozen government schools on Wednesday in Hariganiwan Zone of Central Kashmir's Kangan town.

People who have donated land to the Education Department for the construction of school buildings are part of the Land Donors Association.

The Association alleged that despite donating land at different places, the donors were neither provided a job as promised nor were compensated.

Zonal Educational Officer, Hariganiwan Zone, Kangan, Muhammad Maqbool told a local news agency KNT that it is very unfortunate and will hit the students. "I am in touch with concerned people and hope the issue will be resolved amicably."

President Land Donors Association, Imtiyaz Ahmed said that they have locked 14 Schools in Hariganiwan Zone. These include 10 Primary and 4 Middle Schools.

The locked schools are located in Syed Basti, Tangpathri, Rezipati, Mudpora Rayil, Bramward Thune, Baba Mohalla Kuln, Giteh Kohd, Kachpathri, Kalaspatti, Rayil Khor, Chek Basti, Herpora Sufraw, Chopan Mohalla Hariganiwan and Nallah Pati Sufraw.

Imtiyaz Ahmed said that they had been repeatedly asking the department to address the grievances of land donors. "Last time, we staged a protest at Press Enclave Srinagar. We were assured then of a positive outcome, but nothing changed. Today we were compelled to lock down the schools. We don't need government jobs now," he said.

Earlier, land donors had locked two schools at Rezan and Ramwari in Kangan. The donors had later thrown the gates open for the students after being promised a job in the department.

Local sources said that after the schools were locked, teachers were forced to take classes in the open.

"Covid-19 has already hit the education sector, and now this new 'drama' is bound to affect the studies of poor children," said an elderly man.

In-Charge MS Of District Hospital Kulgam, Medical Officers Attached

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government on Wednesday attached Incharge Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam and in-charge medical officer (BMO) Pampore besides suspended two medical officers for alleged dereliction of duties.

As per separate orders, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed Zargar, Incharge Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam, has been attached with Director Health Services Jammu over alleged dereliction of duties.

"In view of dereliction of duties, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed Zargar, I/C Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Kulgam is hereby attached to the office of the Director, Health Services, Jammu with immediate effect," reads an order by Vivek Bharadwaj (IAS) Additional Chief Secretary Health & Medical Education Department. "Consequent upon his attachment, the Director, Health Services, Kashmir shall assign the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Kulgam to senior most/eligible doctor immediately."

Similarly, Dr. Asima Nazir, I/C Block Medical Officer, Pampore has been attached to the office of the Director, Health Services, Jammu with immediate effect. "Consequent upon her attachment, Director, Health Services, Kashmir shall assign the charge of the post of Block Medical Officer, Pampore to senior most/eligible doctor immediately."

Also, Dr. Mehmood Hussain Bajar, Medical officer looking after the charge of Medical Superintendent, Government Medical College, Rajouri placed under suspension with immediate effect "in view of dereliction of duties and pending enquiry into his conduct."

He has been suspended in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services, (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956. "During the period of suspension, the doctor shall remain attached in the office of the Director, Health Services, Jammu," a separate order by the Additional Chief Secretary reads. "The Director, Health Services, Jammu shall assign the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, Government Medical College, Rajouri to the senior most/eligible doctor immediately."

Meanwhile, Dr. Mushtaq Husain Shah, Medical Officer looking after the charge of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Poonch has been placed under suspension with immediate effect in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956. "During the period of suspension, the doctor shall remain attached with the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu," a separate order reads, adding, "Consequent upon his suspension, the Director, Health Services, Jammu shall assign the charge of the post of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital, Poonch to senior most/eligible doctor immediately." (GNS)

Man Killed Over Land Dispute In Pattan

Agencies

SRINAGAR: One person was killed and a woman was injured after two families clashed with each other on Wednesday over a land dispute at Gund-Ibrahim area of Pattan.

Officials said that a clash broke out between two families in Gund-Ibrahim area which took a violent turn, reported news agency KNO.

The people from both the groups allegedly attacked each other with axe during which one person, identified as Sanaullah Dar (56), suffered serious injuries.

The officials said that he was immediately rushed to a hospital for medical treatment but was declared dead by the doctors.

They said that the woman was also injured in the incident which led to a tense situation in the village.

Former Minister Calls On Lt Governor

JAMMU: Er Abdul Ghani Kohli, former Minister, J&K on Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at Raj Bhavan.

The former Minister accompanied by representatives of nomadic tribes discussed with the Lt Governor various matters pertaining to the welfare of nomadic people. They put forth the demands of facilities like transportation and offline permission options for smooth migration of nomads to high-altitude regions of the UT, besides establishing an Eklavya Model School at Kalakote, and other demands.

The Lt Governor while interacting with the delegation said that the UT Government is taking dedicated initiatives for the holistic welfare of all tribal people of J&K.

The Lt Governor assured them that the issues and demands raised by them would be looked into for their early redressal on merit.

J&K Logs 11 New Covid Cases, No Death

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 11 fresh Covid-19 cases while there was no death due to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Wednesday.

They said that there was no fresh case from Jammu while all 11 were from Kashmir Valley, take the overall tally to 453839-166273 in Jammu and 287566 in Kashmir.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 9 cases, Baramulla 0, Budgam 1, Pulwama 0, Kupwara 1, Anantnag 0, Bandipora 0, Ganderbal 0, Kulgam 0, Shopian 0, Jammu 0, Udhampur 0, Rajouri 0, Doda 0, Kathua 0, Samba 0, Kishtwar 0, Poonch 0, Ramban 0 and Reasi 0.

There was no death reported in the last 24 hours, they said. So far 4750 persons have succumbed to the virus-2327 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir.

Besides, they said, three Covid-19 patients recovered during the time and none was from Jammu and all were from the Valley. So far 448921 people have recovered, leaving the active case tally at 167-15 in Jammu and 152 in Kashmir.

The officials said there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 51 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said. They also informed that 15513 doses of covid-19 vaccine were administered during the time in J&K. (GNS)

Panchayati Raj System 'Scripting' Democratic Decentralization Of Governance In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The resolve of the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to return power to the people of J&K is reciprocated by the people of the UT to turn to democratic decentralisation to achieve better governance and development, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

To strengthen the grassroots democracy, he said, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) amended the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 for the first time in October 2020 and paved the way for the creation of District Development Councils (DDC).

"27 functions were transferred as per 73rd amendment in J&K, which was never made effective by previous governments.

The District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir provided self-rule and autonomy, and empowered leaders from the grassroots to take their own decisions as committed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to empower the people at the grassroots.

DDC Elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir were a part of a 3-tier system to strengthen democracy at the grassroots level which J&K has never witnessed in the past 70 years.

The Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), through which the self-government of villages is realized, have been entrusted with the task of "economic development, strengthening social justice and implementation of Central and State Government Schemes at the grassroots level.

The democratic exercise of free, fair and peaceful panchayat elections were held in the UT which led to the constitution of vibrant Panchayati Raj institutions. In a significant achievement, these panchayat elections recorded a substantial 74.1 per cent voter turnout. A total of 3650 sarpanches and 23660 panchs were elected to lay the foundation for the 3-tier Panchayati Raj system for the first time across J&K.

LG Reviews Developmental Schemes In Border Village Kalyanpur

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday visited the border village Kalyanpur of Marh area and reviewed the implementation of the developmental schemes during Block Diwas.

Terming Border village development as the main pillar of the Nation's development, the Lt Governor said, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, J&K UT is determined to remove the developmental imbalances and truly realize the limitless potential and possibilities of border areas.

Highlighting the reforms introduced to bridge the Rural-Urban gap, the Lt Governor said that an unprecedented Rs 600 Crore has been allocated in this financial year to strengthen border infrastructure, creation of modern agriculture and agro-based small-scale and village industries.

The Lt Governor reiterated the government's commitment to the goal of providing a better quality of life to the citizens living in far-flung areas by ensuring access to modern health care, education, roads, clean drinking water, skill training, self-employment opportunity for complete spatial and socio-economic transformation of border villages, making them vibrant centers of rural prosperity.

Our focus is on saturation of development schemes benefit, financial inclusion of women and holistic development of each village for inclusive growth, the Lt Governor added.

The Lt Governor urged the PRIs to actively participate in the formulation of the District Plans as per the needs of the local population.

For participatory development and effective empowerment of PRIs, the district plans are being finalized by representatives from all three-tiers of grass-root democracy, he said.

The Lt Governor said apart from various new projects, the long-pending works under Border Area Development Programme (BAP) have been completed. In the district capex, 1158 projects were completed in border villages, he added.

The Lt Governor called for adopting best practices and getting desired results on ground by implementing schemes through convergence mode.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also highlighted the impact of the governance reforms introduced in the last one and a half years.

The completion of more than 50,000 projects in the previous financial year as compared to around 9,200 projects in 2018-19 speaks volume about good governance in J&K, observed the Lt Governor.

On average, more than Rs one crore has been given to each panchayat for developmental works. Under Aapki Zameen Aap Ki Ni-grani in Jammu district, the land records of almost all the villages have been digitized and passbooks have also been issued, in three languages, in most of the tehsil.

In Jammu district, 16,810 new eligible beneficiaries have been added in March this year for pension schemes of the Social Welfare Department. Apart from this, beneficiaries have been linked with other schemes by organizing special panchayat level camps. Mission Youth and Jammu District Administration are facilitating youths in their border belts through Centre for District Youth Training & Empowerment where facilities are being provided to young boys and girls preparing for army, paramilitary forces and other competitive examinations, added the Lt Governor.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
STATE PROCUREMENT & SUPPLIER AGENCY (SPSA)
Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.
Head Office: House No. 21 Sector No.01, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. | Sub-Office: House No: 56, Santosh Villa, Rajbagh, Srinagar.
E-mail: ceomdspsa@gmail.com

No.-SPSA/RDD/Adv/01/2022/1369 Dated:- 06.04.2022

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited in online mode from eligible persons for the post of Ombudsperson under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for engagement in districts of UT J&K as per below mentioned details:-

S.no	Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Main eligibility	Remuneration
1	Ombudsperson	13	The applicant must be of eminent standing and impeccable integrity with at least 10 years of experience in Public Administration, Law, Academics, Social Work or Management. Experience of working with people or community organizations is a mandatory qualification.	The Ombudsperson shall be allowed compensation, in form of fee of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) per sitting with maximum upper limit of Rs. 20000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) per month.

The on-line application form, other details and the eligibility criteria under MGNREGA can be downloaded from our website www.jkpanchayat.in under advertised notice for Ombudsperson. The applications shall be accepted through on-line mode only from 11.04.2022 to 26.04.2022

Chief Executive Officer /MD
SPSA, RDD, J&K, Jammu.

DIPK-208/22

IOA President Narinder Batra Under CBI Scanner For 'Misuse' Of Hockey India Funds



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI has registered a preliminary enquiry against Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra for alleged misuse of Rs 35 lakh of Hockey India funds, officials said on Wednesday.

The central probe agency had received a complaint against Batra following which it started a preliminary enquiry, which is the first step to establish prima facie criminality, they said.

It was alleged in the complaint that Rs 35 lakh of Hockey India funds was used for personal benefits of Batra, the officials said.

A turf war between Batra and Hockey India surfaced recently after he sent a terse communication

to the sports federation, questioning the performance of the men's hockey team in tournaments.

After Batra's missive, Olympian and member of the 1975 World Cup-winning team Aslam Sher Khan questioned Batra over his interest in matters of Hockey India.

Khan said being the FIH (International Hockey Federation) chief, Batra's interference in Hockey India's operations is a clear case of 'conflict of interest'.

"Definitely, it is conflict of interest by Batra. He is the FIH president and being in that post, he can in no way interfere in the affairs of a national federation," said Khan, who has challenged in the Delhi High Court some irregular appointments in HI, including that of Batra as a 'life member'.

Indian Women's Football Team Beats Egypt 1-0



Press Trust of India

ZARQA (Jordan): Priyangka Devi scored the solitary goal as the Indian women's football team registered a 1-0 win over lower-ranked Egypt in the first friendly at the Prince Mohammed Stadium here on Wednesday.

It was Priyangka's first-ever goal for the Blue Tigresses against 95th-ranked Egypt.

The first half began with the Indian side pressing hard to seize the initiative. Captain Ashalata Devi tried to earn an early lead in the 18th minute via her shot from distance but Anju, who latched on to the ball, missed the chance.

Couple of minutes later, Manisha almost scored the first for the night through Dalima's pass from the right but was collected by the Egyptian custodian.

Before the opposition could settle into the game, a sudden strike by Priyangka in the 30th minute gave India the early lead,

and remained the only goal of the match.

Dalima managed to pass the ball to Priyangka after Manisha essayed a brilliant cross from the left and eventually, the young midfielder found the back of the net. The half time score therefore read 1-0 in favour of India.

The second half was played out on similar lines with India creating more chances, as head coach Thomas Dennerby made his first change at the restart, replacing forward Renu with Pyari Xaxa.

The prolific captain Engy Ahmed Sayed tried her luck from close range before the hour-mark, but Sowmiya stood tall to deny her confidently. Hayam Abdellatif had the final effort for Egypt in the dying minutes of the game but her effort landed safely into Sowmiya's gloves.

The match soon came to an end as India earned their first victory in Jordan.



RASIKH SALAM was on Wednesday picked in the playing XI by Kolkata Knight Riders in the ongoing IPL 2022. The Kashmir Valley cricketer was seen being congratulated by his KKR teammates before making his debut. The 21-year-old right arm pacer made an impressive showing during his first spell, bowling 3 overs and giving away a meagre 18 runs, without taking a wicket.

Efforts On To Make J&K Top Golfing Destination: LG

221 playfields to be constructed in all 20 districts this year
Construction/upgradation of 157 sports courts to be completed

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated Golf Training Academy for students here and said his endeavour is to make the union territory one of the top golfing destinations of the country in coming days.

The administration has already established a Golf Academy at Kashmir Golf Course, Srinagar, to popularize golf among youth and students.

"And, now within a year, the first batch of 100 children is starting their basic training at Jammu Tawi Golf Course and after 15 days, Phase-2 of this training will commence. More students from government established schools in different districts would be provided golf training, the Lt Governor said.

The newly inaugurated Golf Academy at Jammu Tawi Golf Course aims to train the students and youth and to support them to turn into professional golfers so that the youth of J&K is able to showcase their talent in the professional domain, an official spokesman said.

He said the academy will run a program of continuous education for the general public including kids, adults, and amateur golfers, besides certifying the individuals participating in the program.

It will also be a training centre for the national and state-level players, the spokesman said.

The Lt Governor said international level golf courses have been built all over Jammu and



Kashmir and it is our endeavour that UT emerges as one of the top golfing destinations of the country in the coming days.

Sinha said J&K is a powerhouse of sporting talent and the UT administration is committed to provide both opportunities and resources to advance coaching.

He said the Golf Academy started at Jammu Tawi Golf Course is a symbol of that spirit. "The UT administration is making efforts to make this game inclusive and accessible to common masses."

Further, the Sanasar Golf Course will also be revamped, he said.

Prime Minister has ended the decades-old practice of discrimination in J&K by establishing a citizen friendly, accountable and responsible governance system post August 2019. We are making relentless efforts to ensure every person in the society feels connected to the mainstream, the Lt Gov-

ernor said. He said in the last one year, appointments to 11,000 government posts have been made where youth, especially girls from common poor and marginalized households have secured government jobs on the basis of merit.

He said the new governance system believes in corruption-free, transparent, and inclusive growth. Developing sports infrastructure, organizing sports events in every nook and corner of UT, arranging the best coaches, continuously monitoring and fully utilizing the existing assets are the broad strategies that the UT administration has been working on for the last one and a half years to completely transform the sporting ecosystem in the J&K, Sinha said.

This year, he said 221 playfields will be constructed in all 20 districts, besides construction and upgradation of 157 sports courts will be completed.

Nathan Coulter-Nile Ruled Out Of IPL Due To Side Strain



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: In a big blow to Rajasthan Royals, Australian pace bowler Nathan Coulter-Nile was on Wednesday ruled out of the ongoing IPL, owing to a side strain he suffered during the team's first game against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The 34-year-old has returned home for rehabilitation.

"Unfortunately, I have the hard task of wishing him farewell," RR's head physio John Gloucester said in a video posted by the franchise on Twitter.

"It's always hard to lose

someone, particularly when it's through injury. And you know we were really looking forward to spending a lot of time with you (Coulter-Nile) throughout this tournament.

"Unfortunately, that's not going to be. But you are a big part of us. Anything you need from us, we are always here. We look forward to having you back with us, whenever that might be."

It was in the final over of the SRH innings when Coulter-Nile began to struggle in his follow-through and walked off the field on March 29. He was picked up by RR for Rs 2 crore in the IPL mega auction.

Tiger Woods Intends To Compete In Masters 2022



Agencies

AUGUSTA: US golfer Tiger Woods has said that he intends to play in the 2022 Masters tournament. "As of right now, I feel like I am going to play," the 46-year-old noted at a press conference at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, US on Wednesday (IST).

Woods, a five-time Masters champion and 15-time major winner, arrived in Augusta on Sunday for preparation and practice, tweeting that it's a "game-time decision" on whether he would compete, Xinhua reports.

"I will be heading up to Augusta today (April 3) to continue my preparation and practice. It will be a game-time decision on whether I compete," tweeted Woods.

Woods suffered traumatic injuries to his right leg in a car accident 14 months ago. But when asked at the press conference if he believed he could win this week, Woods said without hesitation, "I do!" The 86th Masters will be held from April 7 to 10. On Tuesday, the tournament also announced players' first-day groupings. Woods was assigned to Group 14. (IANS)

Diego Maradona's 'Hand Of God' Shirt Likely To Fetch USD 5.2 Million

Agencies

LONDON: It was the best of moments - or the worst of moments - in soccer history, and now sports fans with deep pockets can own a piece of it.

The shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the controversial 'Hand of God' goal against England in the 1986 World Cup is for sale for the first time.

Auctioneer Sotheby's said Wednesday that the jersey could fetch more than 4 million pounds (USD 5.2 million) in an online auction that opens April 20.

Brahm Wachter, Sotheby's head of streetwear and modern collectibles, said the shirt is "on a small list of the most important sports memorabilia items in the world."

"I'll never get to handle anything this good again," Wachter said.

"The moment is iconic in the history of sports."

Maradona scored two goals during the quarter-final game in Mexico City on June 22, 1986, just four years after Britain and Argentina had fought

a war over the Falkland Islands. The Argentine great's first goal was ruled a header, but the ball had bounced off Maradona's fist, out of sight of the referee.

Maradona said afterward that it had been scored "a little with the head of Maradona, and a little with the hand of God."

Maradona's second goal saw him dribble the ball past almost the entire English team before beating goalkeeper Peter Shilton. In 2002, it was voted "goal of the century" in a FIFA poll.

Wachter said the two goals "balance each other brilliantly" and reveal two facets of Maradona's character.

The first "was really cunning and did involve an element of luck," he said. "But then he scored a second goal, which was one of the most unbelievable - almost angelic - goals ever."

Argentina won the match 2-1 and went on to win the



World Cup. Maradona, considered by many to be the greatest player of all time, struggled with cocaine abuse and other excesses and died in November 2020 at age 60.

After the game Maradona swapped shirts with England midfielder Steve Hodge, who never sold it, until now. For the past 20 years, it has been on loan to England's National Football Museum in Manchester.

The blue shirt with stripes of lighter blue was a one-off, hastily assembled because the tops Argentina's team planned to wear were judged too heavy for the Mexico City

heat.

The Argentine Football Association patches were sewn on, and sparkly numbers, including Maradona's 10, were ironed onto the back shortly before the match.

Hodge said he had been a "proud owner" of a shirt that "has deep cultural meaning to the football world, the people of Argentina, and the people of England."

According to Wachter, Hodge had decided "that the time is just right" to sell.

Prices for sports memorabilia have soared in recent years. The shirt could beat a record for a piece of sportswear, held by a Babe Ruth New York Yankees jersey that sold for USD 5.64 million in 2019. A buyer paid USD 8.8 million for the manifesto that launched the modern Olympic movement, a record for a sports item.

The shirt will be on display in Sotheby's London showroom during the April 20-May 4 bidding period. (AP)

MATCHDAY: Europa League, Conference League Into Last Eight



Agencies

A look at what's happening in European soccer on Thursday:

EUROPA LEAGUE

Barcelona resumes its bid to win the one European trophy missing from its collection with a trip to Eintracht Frankfurt in the first leg of the Europa League quarterfinals. The Spanish club is playing for the first time in the Europa League and never won its precursor, the UEFA Cup, reaching

the semifinals on four occasions but not getting to a final. Rebuilding under recently hired coach Xavi Hernandez, Barcelona has relied on big away performances to get to the last eight, beating Napoli and Galatasaray on the road after first-leg draws at the Camp Nou. West Ham reached the quarterfinals of a European competition for the first time since 1981 after eliminating six-time champion Sevilla, and hosts Lyon. Also, Leipzig is at home against Atalanta and Rangers visits Braga.

EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Roma is looking for revenge. The Italian team was drawn against Bodø/Glimt, the Norwegian club that routed Roma 6-1 in the group stage for Jose Mourinho's biggest loss as a coach. Bodø/Glimt also earned a draw in the return match in Italy, and has eliminated Celtic and AZ Alkmaar in the knockout stage. Two Dutch teams - Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven - have advanced to the last eight and they play Slavia Prague and Leicester, respectively. The other game sees Marseille host PAOK Thessaloniki.