

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

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P3 CITY

SRINAGAR UNDER CANINE TERROR, RECORDS HIGHEST DOG BITE CASES IN KASHMIR

As authorities fail to put an end to dog menace in Kashmir, the number of dog bite cases in Kashmir have sent shivers among Kashmiris.

P7

MINDFUL FRIDAYS

PICKING SIDES, CHILDREN AND CHILD ABUSE

Family conflict is unavoidable. In two-parent families, exposure to hostile marital conflict is a risk factor for adolescent's development. One of the mechanisms through which marital conflict can negatively affect the development of a young child/adolescent is when the child/adolescent gets



P5 STATE

PEACE HAS STARTED TO BECOME A PERMANENT FEATURE IN KASHMIR: LT GEN PANDEY

The outgoing General officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey Thursday said that he had joined the strategic



Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm
- Winston Churchill

NEWS DIGEST

Magnitude 5 Earthquake Hits J&K

SRINAGAR: A moderate intensity earthquake measuring 5 on the Richter scale jolted Jammu and Kashmir Thursday, although no report of any casualty or damage to property has been received from anywhere so far. Officials of the disaster management authority said an earthquake measuring 5 on the

Cardiac Arrest Kills Police Officer

SRINAGAR: A police officer died on Thursday after suffering a cardiac arrest in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Mushtaq Ahmad, posted at the District Police Line (DPL) Budgam, experienced intense pain during the wee

Jammu Logs 7 Covid Cases, Kashmir None

SRINAGAR: The Jammu division of the Union Territory on Thursday reported seven fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no new cases of the infection were detected in the Valley. According to officials, seven new cases of Covid-19 were registered in the winter capital on Thursday, taking

Army Major Falls Off Cliff, Dies

SRINAGAR: An Army officer on Thursday died after falling off a cliff in the border area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Major Ragunath of 3 Para suffered critical injuries when he slipped from a cliff during routine patrolling from Rock Post to Jani Post in Sukhdar area of Uri, a local news agency KDC reported Thursday. The report

J&K'S NEW POLITICAL MAP

Panel Recommends Six More Seats For Jammu, One For Kashmir

Suggest Two Nominated Members From Kashmiri Migrant Community To The Legislative Assembly



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Redrawing the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir, a three-member Delimitation Commission on Thursday earmarked 47 assembly seats for Kashmir division and 43 for Jammu in its final order submitted just a day before its two-year tenure was to end.

A gazette notification was issued after the panel, headed by

The panel has redrawn the Anantnag parliamentary constituency in Kashmir by adding the Rajouri and Poonch assembly seats that fall in Jammu region"

retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, signed

the final order giving Jammu six additional seats and one more to Kashmir.

Before the restructuring, which takes the total number of assembly seats in the union territory to 90, Jammu had 37 assembly constituencies and Kashmir 46.

The Commission, also comprising Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and Jammu and Kashmir Election Commissioner K K Sharma as

TANGMARG HAS BEEN RENAMED GULMARG, Zoonimar is Zadibal, Sonwar is now Lal Chowk, Padder is Padder-Nagseni, Kathua North is Jasrota, Kathua South is Kathua, Khour is Chhamb, Mahore is Gulabgarh and Darhal is Budhal.

Govt Overhauls Administration 47 Bureaucrats, Including 20 IAS Officers Shifted In 24 Hours

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a major overhaul in the civil administration, the Jammu and Kashmir government ordered transfers and postings of 47 bureaucrats, including 20 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers in the last 24 hours.

According to the order issued late on Wednesday night, the divisional commissioner of Jammu and six deputy commissioners (DCs) are among those transferred with immediate effect.

Barely 10 months after his posting as additional chief secretary (ACS),

Finance, 1989-batch IAS officer Atal Dulloo was posted as ACS, Agriculture Production Department.

Vivek Bhardwaj, a 1990-batch IAS officer was posted as ACS, Finance with additional charge of administrative secretary of Industries and Commerce Department, and chairman of the Board of Professional Entrance Examination (BOPEE).

Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Alok Kumar, the principal secretary of the Youth Service and Sports Department, has been given the additional charge of administrative secretary, Civil Aviation Department

Akshay Labroo To Hold Charge Of Dir Information



Akshay Labroo, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of 2018 batch (Tripura cadre), has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary in the Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat and has also been assigned charge of the post of

Nine Senior Police Officers Shifted

The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered transfer of nine police officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect. According to an order issued by the Home department, Imtiaz Ismail Parry, IPS (RR:2009), SSP Crime Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Commandant IRP 8th Battalion. Amritpal Singh, IPS (RR:2014), SP Shopian, has been

Man Slapped With PSA In Ramban, Sent To Jail

JAMMU: A man, who was arrested in 2017 in connection with an attack on a security forces camp in the Banihal area of Ramban district, was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) on Thursday after he was found to be in contact with some suspect individuals in Kashmir Valley, officials said.

Mohammad Ibrahim Gujjar was slapped with the PSA after

Article- 370 Revocation

'Tremendous Improvement' In Situation Since 2019: Army

A Telling Blow Has Been Dealt To The Militancy Network In J&K: Lt Gen Dwivedi

Press Trust Of India

Udhampur: Asserting that the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir has seen a tremendous



improvement and stabilisation since August 2019, a top

Army commander said the union territory is regaining its past glory and peace through sacrifices of the security forces and people.

He said security forces have killed 180 militants in 2021 and arrested 495 overground workers (OGWs), thereby giving a telling blow to the militancy network in Jammu and Kashmir. More on P10

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Youth Now Active Partners In Peace Building: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Terming the Youth Clubs as a vital support in the Union Territory's development journey, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Thursday that the youth's commitment to social service and national integration provides the foundation of a developed Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha said that the Youth Clubs provide an opportunity for the young generation to contribute to society and achieve self-growth.

"Young people are our greatest hope and through Youth Clubs, they are not only generating awareness



about various employment and self-employment schemes of the government but also uniting young men and women of the UT of

Jammu & Kashmir to pursue their dreams. As energetic and vibrant partners of Panchayats and district administration, these clubs

are ensuring governance effectively reaches to the grass root," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson on Thursday.

"Youth's commitment to social service, national integration provides the foundation of developed J&K. These Clubs are unique not only by virtue of their composition but also in providing leadership in different sectors and entrepreneurship commitment. More than 74,000 members have become a beacon of hope for thousands of others. Youth are now active partners, active participants in the processes of building a peaceful and

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Venue : **CURE FIRST CLINIC**
Iqbal Shopping Complex, Opp. Iqbal Park, Srinagar
Saturday 7th May, 2022
Timings : 10:00 am to 04:00 pm
Sunday 8th May, 2022
Timings : 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
For Appointment :
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Senior Consultant - Orthopaedics
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Fellowship Trained in Knee & Hip Replacement
Venue : **KIDNEY HOSPITAL**
Sonwar, Srinagar, Kashmir
Saturday 7th May, 2022
Timings : 10:00 am to 04:00 pm
Sunday 8th May, 2022
Timings : 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
For Appointment :
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Study Shows Loneliness Increases Risk Of Being Unemployed In Future

ANI

According to new research, people who experience loneliness have a higher risk of unemployment in the future. People who often feel lonely are much more likely to lose their jobs later in their lives.

The findings of the research were published in the journal 'BMC Public Health', a team led by researchers at the University of Exeter.

Previous research has established that being unemployed can cause loneliness, however, the new study is the first to directly explore whether the opposite also applies across the working-age population.

Their analysis also confirmed previous findings that the reverse is true - people who were unemployed were more likely to experience loneliness later.

Lead author Nia Morrish, of the University of Exeter, said: "Loneliness is an incredibly important societal problem, which is often thought about in terms of the impact on mental health and wellbeing only."

"Our findings indicate that there may also be wider implications, which could have negative impacts on individuals and the economy. We need to explore this further, and it could lay the foundations for employers or policymakers to tackle loneliness with a view to keeping more people in work."

Paper co-author Dr Ruben Mujica-Mota, Associate Professor of Health Economics in the University of Leeds' School of Medicine, said: "While previous research has shown that unemployment can cause loneliness, ours is the first study to identify those lonely people of any working age are at greater risk of becoming unemployed."

"Our findings show that these two issues can interact and create a self-fulfilling, negative cycle. There is a need for greater recognition of the wider societal impacts of loneliness in the working-age population."

Longitudinal Study. The team analysed responses from the participants during 2017-2019, then from 2018-2020, controlling for factors including age, gender, ethnicity, education, marital status, household composition, number of own children in the household and region.

Senior author Professor Antonieta Medina-Lara said: "Loneliness is an incredibly important societal problem, which is often thought about in terms of the impact on mental health and wellbeing only."

"Our findings indicate that there may also be wider implications, which could have negative impacts on individuals and the economy. We need to explore this further, and it could lay the foundations for employers or policymakers to tackle loneliness with a view to keeping more people in work."

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Given the persisting and potentially scarring effects of both loneliness and unemployment on health and the economy, prevention of both experiences is key. Decreased loneliness could mitigate unemployment, and employment abate loneliness, which may, in turn, relate positively to other factors including health and quality of life

از نیات انت ناگ با اجلاس ایگزیکٹو مجسٹریٹ درجہ اول
مضمون درخواست منجانب:- رومانہ رشید، بنیش رشید، عامر رشید، آذان رشید، آذان رشید، عبدالرشید
تجما ساکنہ نگینہ بگرام شاہ انت ناگ۔
بغرض حصول OSC/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ۔

اشتہار ہر ادا گاہی ہر خاص و عام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدی میں سالکان نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول

OSCO/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بڈا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے۔ پڑاوی حالت سے

رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سالکان کا کنڈیشنل افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام والدیت	پیش	عمر
1	عبدالرشید تجما ولد عبدالسلام تجما	رہنما ملازم	61 سال
2	مہماہ ممتازہ زوجہ عبدالرشید تجما	گھریلو کام	56 سال
3	رومانہ رشید دختر عبدالرشید تجما	زیر تعلیم	33 سال
4	بنیش رشید دختر عبدالرشید تجما	زیر تعلیم	28 سال
5	عامر رشید ولد عبدالرشید تجما	زیر تعلیم	27 سال
6	آذان رشید ولد عبدالرشید تجما	زیر تعلیم	16 سال

اسکے علاوہ او کوئی افراد کنڈیشن میں موجود نہیں ہے۔ سالکان کے کنڈیشن میں ایک رہنما ملازم موجود ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے اندر اندر دوران دفتر کی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ معیاد کوئی کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

ناپ تحصیلدار۔ rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Route Permit of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK14A-9284. Now I am applying 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 Udhampur within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Hussain Naseem
S/O Haji Mohd Yousuf
R/O Vill Shajroo Teh Mahore Distt Reasi Jammu
rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the Number Plate of my vehicle Bearing registration No: JK03D-0153. Now I am applying 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. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Showkat Ahmad Bhat
S/o: Gh Qadir Bhat
R/o:- Bangidar Anantnag
rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC, RP and Fitness of my vehicle Bearing registration No: JK03A-9181. Now I am applying 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. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Younis Bhat
S/o: Gh Nabi Bhat
R/o:- Janglatmandi
rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my vehicle (Passion Pro) Bearing registration No: JK180570. Now I am applying 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 KULGAM within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Ashraf
R/o Kulgam
rna

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Passport from Delhi to Srinagar. 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 Passport Kendra Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Hilal Ahmad Teli S/O Abdul Ahad Teli
R/O Bamurda Budgam
Cell; 9541069809
bmg

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سامخا ارتحال۔

یہ خبر انتہائی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ ہماری والدہ محترمہ آمنہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم بشیر احمد وانی (سوگامی) بروز جمعرات مورخہ 5 مئی 2022ء بمطابق 3 ماہ شوال 1443 ہجری رحلت فرما گئی۔ مرحوم کی تدفین مقبرہ متصل مسجد ابراہیم حیدر پورہ میں انجام دی گئی۔ اجتماع فاتح خوانی منکرہ منقرہ کے جابے مقام پر سوموار مورخہ 9 مئی 2022ء بمطابق 7 ماہ شوال 1443 صبح ساڈھ دس بجے انجام دی جائے گی۔ اس کے بعد مجلس ایٹال وٹوال ہمارے آبائی گھر واقعہ راجباغ متصل پوسٹ آفس راجباغ میں منعقد ہوگی۔

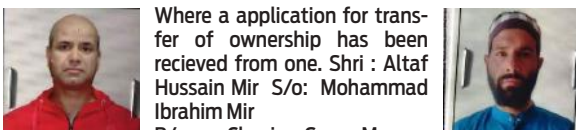
سوگواران:-

ناصر اسلم وانی (سوگامی) فرزند، ڈاکٹر خالد بشیر وانی (سوگامی)، ڈاکٹر فیصل بشیر وانی سوگامی و دیگر سوگواران۔

INF

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Altaf Hussain Mir S/o: Mohammad Ibrahim Mir

R/o: Chayira Gune Magam Budgam (Transferor) of LMV

Grand i 10. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04F - 5133. Chasis number 49449 Engine no. 54626 Model 2020. in favour of Shri.. Shabir Ahmad Dar S/o. Mohammad Yousuf Dar R/o Biminipora Shopian (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Amira Kadal Srinagar.

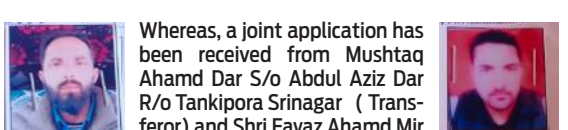
Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.771 Dated 05/05/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Mushtaq Ahamd Dar S/o Abdul Aziz Dar R/o Tankipora Srinagar (Transferor) and Shri Fayaz Ahamd Mir S/o Abdul Hamid Mir R/o Gratbal

Nawakadal Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 562/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01AN- 7851.

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled 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 Manzoor TPT Namely Mr Mohd Yousuf

NOJK-RTOK 1840
Dated: 03/05/2017
pko

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT Office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 15 OF 2022-23 Dated: 02-05-2022

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Baramulla invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/ Firms/Companies/ of all classes registered in JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other state Government for below mentioned works at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Baramulla of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the work	Estimated cost in lacs	Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Validity Period	Time of completion of work (in days)
1	Laying & Fitting of Delivery and Distribution Mains consisting of GMS Tubes and Ductile Iron Pipes of different Nominal Bores along with pipe fittings and control valves. Construction of Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs), Slow Sand Filtration Plants. Execution of ancillary civil works like Spring Covers, Boundary walls, Protection Works etc. at various Water Supply schemes of PHE Division Baramulla of Kashmir Province of UT of J&K, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.	500/-	02% of the estimated cost	90 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document.

Position of funds: Approved Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The tender inviting authority is Superintending Engineer Hyd Circle Sopore/Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Baramulla. The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM)

Critical Dates

i	Publish Date	02-05-2022 at 18.00hrs
ii	Document download/ sale start date	02-05-2022 at 18.00 hrs
iii	Clarification Start date	04-05-2022 from 10:00 PM
iv	Clarification End date	05-05-2022 Upto 4:00 PM
v	Bid submission start date	06-05-2022 from 10:00 AM
vi	Bid submission end date	18-05-2022 upto 4:00 P.M
vii	Date and time of bid opening	19-05-2022 at 4:00 P.M.

Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in

The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.

No. PHE/BlA/CC/ 897-907

Date 02.05.2022

DIPK-1491/22

ANNEXURE I SCHEME WISE LIST OF WORKS

S.No	Name of Water Supply Scheme	Description of work	Jal Shakti (PHE) Division	Estimated cost (in Lacs)	Time of completion (Days)	Class of Contractor
1	WSS Chanderhama	Laying Fitting of Pipes, Chain link fencing, Chowkidar Quarter, Sluice Chamber and other allied works for WSS Chanderhama under JJM	Baramulla	130.71	365 days	AAY
2	WSS Delina	Laying fitting of pipes, slow sand filtration plant, 0.75 lac gallons SR, chain link fencing, chowkidar quarter and sluice chamber for WSS Delina under JJM		121.28	365 days	AAY
3	WSS Fresthar	Laying fitting of pipes, 0.50 lac glns SR, sluice chamber, chain link fencing and chowkidar quarter for WSS Fresthar under JJM		113.66	365 days	AAY
4	WSS Nagbal (Dardi Hajin)	Retrofitting of W.S.Scheme Nagbal (Dardi Hajin) by way of :- Laying and fitting of Main /Submain /Distribution System at various spots, Constt. of intake chamber, Constt. of intake channel and Constt. of support pillars cum anchor blocks at different spots (for providing 100% EHTC) under JJM		35.96	60 days	AAY/BEE
5	WSS Kandi Nowgam	Laying fitting of pipes, constt of 0.05 lac glns SR with sluice chamber, replacement/P/L of filter media to SSFP and chain link fencing for WSS Kandi Nowgam under JJM		24.60	45 days	BEE/CEE
6	WSS Rajpora Thandkasi	Laying fitting of pipes and Raising of wall of existing PST at Doree Nowgam incuding providing fixing of hand railing of 02 No PST's for WSS Rajpora Thandkasi under JJM		18.86	45 days	BEE/CEE
7	WSS Singhpora	Laying fitting of pipes for WSS Singhpora under JJM		16.48	30 days	BEE/CEE

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
PHE Division Baramulla

NC Provincial President Nasir Sogami Bereaved

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The mother of National Conference Provincial President and ex-MLA Amira Kadal Nasir Sogami passed away on Thursday.

Mtr. Aamina Bashir, as per a family source, passed away

after a prolonged illness at her Srinagar residence. Namaz-e-Janaza of the deceased was offered at 8:30 PM at Joggers’ Park Rajbagh and she was laid to rest at the graveyard adjoining Masjid-e-Ibrahim (AS) at Hyderpora.

Writer and Social Activist Nazir ‘Johar’ Lone Passes Away

Agencies

Srinagar: Nazir Ahmad Lone, famous in literary circles as Nazir Johar passed away after protracted illness here on Thursday afternoon. He was 65.

Lone, as per family sources, was not keeping well for a considerable time now and breathed his last at Friends Colony, Om-pura in Srinagar this afternoon.

“He was staying at his Srinagar residence for the last twenty days after receiving treatment at a Delhi-based hospital last month”, they said, adding his health deteriorated significantly today afternoon and he passed away soon after.

Lone, who retired as Assistant Director CAPD, was best known for his writing skills and among his many writings include his famous books ‘Lolab Jahaan Hai’, ‘Baatei Hai , Baaton Ka Kya’ and ‘Aur Bhi Gham Hai’. He was also known for his social activism in and outside his native

district Kupwara. Notably, Nazir Ahmad Lone is brother of ex-MLA Lolab Mush-taq Ahmad Lone, and father of former MLC Qaiser Jamsheed Lone and incumbent DDC Member Nasir Lone. He is survived by his wife besides two sons and two daughters. The Namaz-e-Janaza (funeral prayers) to the deceased are likely to be offered on May 6 at his ancestral graveyard at Sogam Lolab at 12:40 PM, a family source said.

Incidentally, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah mistook the death of Nazir Ahmad Lone for party colleague and Member of Parliament Mohammad Akbar Lone, and posted a tweet announcing it. However minutes later, he withdrew his Twitter post and said, ‘I owe a great apology to Lone Sb. He is recovering well. My father misunderstood the news & in turn I made a mistake with my tweet. My sincere apologies to Lone Sb & his family.’ (GNS)



Srinagar Under Canine Terror, Records Highest Dog Bite Cases In Kashmir

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: As authorities fail to put an end to dog menace in Kashmir, the number of dog bite cases in Kashmir have sent shivers among Kash-miris.

The presence of dogs on every nook and corner of the city has left the city dwellers up in arms against authorities for having failed to end the menace.

Kashmir recorded 5,629 bite victims, mostly dog bites, reported to the Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar’s Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital in the last one year, official figures reveal.

An official from ARC SMHS said from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, as many as 5,629 bite cases were reported to ARC

SMHS and most of them were from Srinagar.

Giving details, he said that 259 cases were reported in April 2021, 360 in May, 489 in June, 652 in July, 450 in August, 576 in September, 520 in October, 470 in November, 408 in December, 454 in January 2022, 394 in February and 597 in March.

Among the 5,629 cases, 4,264 were from Srinagar, indicating the gravity of the situation in the city.

In the last one decade, a total of 59,282 cases of bite have been reported to ARC SMHS.

In Kashmir, thousands of people become victims of animal bites, especially dog bites, and some of them develop rabies.

The only way to prevent a rabies death is vac-

cination of an animal bite victim. In Kashmir, the burden and characteristics of dog bites are not routinely captured by the health system in place

While ordinary people have a tough time walking around the city streets, authorities say they are doing their bit to put an end to the dog menace.

Experts suggest a dog sterilization programme to reduce the dog population but Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has failed to establish adequate dog sterilization units in Srinagar to combat the challenge of dog menace.

Dr Tawheed Ahmed Veterinary Officer, Srinagar Municipal Corporation said sterilization of dogs is being done at Shuhama Sterilization

centre.

“Around twenty surgeries are being performed at the Shuhama Centre daily” he said.

He said that another dog sterilization centre is being made operational at Tengpora Bypass and work is nearing completion.

“We are accelerating the dog sterilization programme, the centre at Tengpora is almost eighty percent complete”

“Once completed we can perform 50 to 60 surgeries per day at the centre”, he said.

“The center at most will take one month to complete”.

He pinned hope, once the dog sterilization programme is complete, dog populace will stabilize and eventually decline.

Event On “Cavitation-Aided Process Intensification” Concludes At NIT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A two-day lecture series on "Cavitation-aided process intensification, by physical, chemical, and biological means" concluded Thursday at

technology are being discussed.

"It is a proud moment for us to host eminent luminaries on the campus. It shall be an interface between academia and industries," he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof. Syed



National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The event was organized by the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers Student (IICHe-) Chapter and Prof. Vijayanand S. Moholkar, a HAG professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering and adjunct faculty at School of Energy Science and Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati was the key speaker for the event.

Prof. Moholkar delivered his lectures on the Cavitation-aided Process of Intensification, by physical, chemical, and biological means.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said such lectures are aimed to provide a vibrant platform to students. During these sessions, path-breaking research ideas in science and

Kaiser Bukhari said this lecture series will benefit students and help them to explore more options in the field of science and technology.

"Such lectures help students to believe in themselves and empower their confidence. It is always essential for students to stay motivated and have faith in themselves," Prof. Bukhari said.

The inaugural ceremony was hosted by the Convener of the program Dr. M A Rather, Associate professor at the Chemical Engineering Department and student coordinator of IICHe NIT Srinagar, Ms. Khubaan Lateef.

They talked about how these lectures are beneficial for the students as well as the teachers. He also thanked Prof. Vijayanand for taking out time from his busy schedule and making the lecture series possible.

Beautification Of City Under Smart City Projects Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The detailed review of Smart City projects was taken by the advisor to Government of J&K on Smart Cities and Chairman Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation on Thursday.

For the upgradation and improvement of Srinagar City, a meeting under the chairmanship of

Advisor to Government of J&K on Smart Cities and Chairman Sabarmati Riverfront development Corporation Keshav Verma was held to review and discuss various projects taken up under Smart

City mission

CEO Smart City Ltd, Athar Amir khan, IAS briefed about various projects including Srinagar River Front Development, Water transport, Ghat improvement Upgradation of Batamaloo CBD(Central Business District) including traditional souq market and craft exhibition centre.

He further informed that the overall upgradation of Shehri Khaas including streetscape building facades, rationalisation/undergrounding of overhead electric cables is on the cards.

Upgradation and im-

provement of MA Road, Residency Road, Lal chowk precincts, Food Street, Flea market, Ghan-ta Ghar and the public space around was also discussed in the meeting. It was informed that under grounding of electrical utilities on Residency road and Compact substations walkways has been planned.

The Dal improvement projects in which water front development around Dal Lake including construction of pedestrian walkways and cycling infrastructure was also discussed.

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Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing & Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) Ltd

Horticulture Department, Jammu & Kashmir Government
Opposite Presentation Convent School,Rajbagh, Srinagar-190008, J&K

No: JKHPMC/MD/22/888
Dt: 05/05/2022

Subject: Date Extension Corrigendum-2 w.r.t RFP No. JKHPMC/MD/22/232 dt: 11-02-2022

In view of the several requests received from the prospective Implementing Agencies in respect of the “RFP” for “Selection of Implementing Agencies for Implementing Different Verticals in Shopian District, Jammu and Kashmir for Apple Crop under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP) of National Horticulture Board (NHB), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Gol”, the Last Date for the Submission of proposals is extended by a spell of One (01) month and as such the Last date for the Submission of Proposals along with the DPR would be up to 08-06-2022.

DIPK-NB-646/22

Sd/-
Managing Director
JKHPMC Ltd

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

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



HIGHWAY STATUS

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



**HIJRI
CALENDAR**
04 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	4: 07
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5:23
Magrib	7:21
ISHA	8: 50

This Day In History

- 1933- Mohandas Gandhi begins a 21-day fast in protest against British oppression in India.
- 1945- V-E Day; WWII ends in Europe after Germany signs an unconditional surrender
- 1960- USSR & Cuba resume diplomatic relations
- 1961- 1st practical sea water conversion plant-Freeport, Texas
- 1967- Muhammad Ali is indicted for refusing induction in US Army
- 1980- World Health Organization announced smallpox had been eradicated
- 1989- US space shuttle STS-30 lands
- 2008- Dmitry Medvedev appoints Vladimir Putin as Russian Prime Minister
- 2013- 33 people are killed after an overloaded bus falls into a river in Himachal Pradesh, India
- 2013- Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi receives a four year prison sentence for fraud

From KO Archives

Patient Stable As Controversy About ‘Needless’ Surgery Lingers On

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Even as the patient who was operated upon at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) for removal of suspected stones is stable, the controversy surrounding the surgery lingers on. While the doctors are almost unanimous there was no negligence in the matter, the patient’s relatives are sore at the way an un-necessary surgery was forced on her.

According to reports, Aaliya Liaquat w/o Liaquat Hussein of Court road here was operated upon Saturday for suspected stones in her kidneys though repeated X-rays taken on the fateful day did not show any de nite presence of the calculus. Her relatives alleged the surgery was not warranted after the X—rays were negative.

The surgery evoked instant protest from the relatives of patient, mother of an 8-month old baby. They alleged the head of concerned department, Dr’ Baldev Singh, had insisted to have the surgery performed. They accused the doctor of having threatened them following a tiff a few days earlier.

In a communication to Kashmir Observer, Dr Singh denied he had conducted the operation and described the report, circulated by CNS news agency, as baseless and aimed at maligning his image. He said, “The fact is that I had advised an X-ray for the patient before any surgical intervention but a consultant urologist conducted the said surgery with my knowledge”. Later on, he said, “on the request of Director SKIMS I helped the concerned urologist in closing the patient and stent was put for effective drainage”.

Talking to Observer News Service, Dr Singh denied there was any negligence on the part of doctors. “These things can happen in the medical profession”, he said, adding the surgery was done with the written consent of a close relative of the Patient. He said the patient was admitted by Dr Tajamul the consultant who was not required to seek any directive from him. Denying that he has threatened the patients’ relative, Dr. Singh Said he might have told them to leave the ward during the morning round.

When contacted Dr. Tajamul Fazili told Observer News Service that patients was admitted by Dr. Singh. The X-rays of the obese patient had shown stones at the OPD stage and admitted accordingly. On Saturday he said the first two X-rays revealed thre were no stones. A third one was taken with double exposure which showed a shadow coinciding with the X-ray taken at the ‘OPD stage’. Dr Fazili said, “Most probably it was a friable (soft) stone which got crushed and passed down the ureter during the surgical manipulation.” He said a small stent was kept inside to ensure safe passage of any small bit.

Dr Fazili said ‘Saturday was utilised as an additional theatre day to make good for the hartal days. “We were convinced the patient did have stones. But when I could not locate it, I sought help from Dr Singh”, he said.

The director of the Institute, Prof Me’raj-ud-din, said there was nothing abnormal about the surgery nor was there any negligence on the part of doctors. ‘The stone must have been friable going down the ureter and the gravel coming out of its own”, he said. He ruled out any enquiry into the episode.

Joining the issue, a close relative of the patient, pleading anonymity, told Observer News Service the surgery was absolutely uncalled for the moment the doctors knew there was no stone. The written consent had been given when she was brought to operation theatre in the morning. However, she was turned back from there and

asked to get in her X—ray done. After that an anesthesia was given to her for the second time and the surgery conducted despite the relatives’ pleas against it and without seeking a fresh consent from them. The relative said the patient had suffered heavy blood loss which could have proved fatal. The relative alleged Dr Singh had visited the ward against asking them to return the X-rays which were lying with them.

Meanwhile, according to Dr Singh the patient was stable.

Kashmir Observer, May 6, 2000

World's Covid Deaths Nearly 3 Times More Than Reported, WHO's Data Shows

GENEVA: The Covid-19 pandemic killed 13.3 to 16.6 million people in 2020 and 2021, the WHO estimated Thursday -- up to triple the number of deaths attributed directly to the disease.

The World Health Organization's long-awaited estimate of the total number of deaths caused by the pandemic -- including lives lost to its knock-on effects -- finally puts a number on the broader impact of the crisis.

"New estimates from the World Health Organization show that the full death count associated directly or indirectly with the Covid-19 pandemic between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021 was approximately 14.9 million (range 13.3 million to 16.6 million)," the UN health agency said in a statement.

The figure calculates what is termed as excess mortality due to the Covid-19 crisis, which has upended much of the planet for more than two years.

"These sobering data not only point to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger health information systems," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Deaths due to impact

Excess mortality is calculated as the difference between the number of deaths that have occurred and the number that would have been expected in the absence of the pandemic, based on data from earlier years.

Excess mortality includes deaths associated with Covid-19 directly, due to the disease, and indirectly due to the pandemic's impact on health systems and society.

The WHO declared Covid an international public health emergency on January 30, 2020, after cases of the new coronavirus spread beyond China.

Countries around the world reported 5.42 million Covid-19 deaths to the WHO in 2020 and 2021 -- a figure that today stands at 6.24 million,

including deaths in 2022.

The Geneva-based organisation has long said the true number of deaths would be far higher than just the recorded fatalities put down to Covid infections.

Deaths linked indirectly to the pandemic are attributable to other conditions for which people were unable to access treatment because health systems were overburdened by the crisis.

The WHO said that most of the excess deaths -- 84 percent -- were concentrated in southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Indeed, 10 countries alone accounted for 68 percent of all excess deaths. High-income countries accounted for 15 percent of the excess deaths; upper-middle-income nations 28 percent; lower-middle-income states 53 percent; and low-income countries four percent.

The global death count was higher for men than for women -- 57 percent male, 43 percent female -- and higher among older adults.

Understanding the crisis

"Measurement of excess mortality is an essential component to understand the impact of the pandemic," said Samira Asma, the WHO's assistant director-general for data, analytics and delivery.

She said changes in mortality trends give decision-makers the information needed to guide practices that can reduce death rates and prevent future crises.

"These new estimates use the best available data and have been produced using a robust methodology and a completely transparent approach."

The WHO said the 14.9-million figure was produced by leading world experts who developed a methodology to generate estimates where data is lacking.

Many countries do not have the capacity for reliable mortality surveillance and therefore do not generate the data needed to work out excess mortality rates -- but can do so using the publicly available methodology.

India Has Max Covid Deaths, Says WHO; Incorrect, Says Gol



Agenceis

New Delhi: India on Thursday strongly objected to the use of mathematical models by the World Health Organization (WHO) for projecting excess mortality estimates linked to the coronavirus pandemic in view of the availability of authentic data, saying validity and robustness of the models used and methodology of data collection are questionable.

In a report released on Thursday, the WHO estimated that nearly 15 million people were killed either by the coronavirus or by its impact on overwhelmed health systems in the past two years, more than double the official death count of 6 million. Most of the fatalities were in Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas.

According to the report, there were 4.7 million Covid deaths in India -- 10 times the official figures and almost a third of Covid deaths globally.

India likely to raise the issue at the World Health Assembly and required multilateral forums, sources said.

India has been consistently objecting to the methodology

adopted by the WHO to project excess mortality estimates based on mathematical models, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

"Despite India's objection to the process, methodology and outcome of this modelling exercise, WHO has released the excess mortality estimates without adequately addressing India's concerns," the statement said.

India had also informed the WHO that in view of the availability of authentic data published through Civil Registration System (CRS) by the Registrar General of India (RGI), mathematical models should not be used for projecting excess mortality numbers for India.

Registration of births and deaths in India is extremely robust and is governed by decades old statutory legal framework, i.e. "Births & Deaths Registration Act, 1969". The civil registration data as well as sample registration data released annually by the RGI has been used by a large number of researchers, policy makers and scientists both domestically and globally, the ministry said.

The RGI is over a century old statutory organisation and is assisted by chief registrars of states

and union territories and about three lakh registrars and sub-registrars across the country.

Based on reports submitted by states and UTs, national reports are published annually by the RGI. The national report for the year 2019 was published in June 2021 and for the year 2020 on May 3, 2022. These reports are in public domain.

"India firmly believes that such robust and accurate data generated through Legal Framework of a Member State must be respected, accepted and used by WHO rather than relying on less than accurate mathematical projection based on non-official sources of data," the statement stated.

India had pointed out the inconsistencies in the criteria and assumption used by the WHO to classify countries into Tier I and II as well as questioned the very basis for placing India into Tier II countries, for which a mathematical modelling estimate is used.

India had also underlined the fact that given the accuracy of the mortality data collected through an effective and robust statutory system, India doesn't deserve to be placed in Tier II countries, the statement said.

45% People Who Died In 2020 Didn't Receive Any Medical Care: Data

Agenceis

New Delhi: 45 per cent of the total 82 lakh people who died in India in 2020 did not get any medical attention at the time of death and just 1.3 per cent of the total registered fatalities during the year received medical care from a qualified professional, according to data prepared by the Registrar General of India (RGI).

However, the RGI's report 'Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System' for 2020 did not give the number of people who died from COVID-19.

According to the Union Health Ministry data, in 2020, when COVID-19 was first reported in the country, 1.48 lakh people lost their lives due to the pandemic, which is substantially lower than 2021 when 3.32 lakh people died due to the disease.

"About 13 per cent of the total registered deaths during 2020 have received medical attention



from qualified allopathic professionals and practitioners of other system together and 45 per cent of the deceased did not receive any medical attention at the time of death," the RGI's report said.

The proportion of people dying in the absence of medical attention in 2019 was 34.5 per cent.

As many as 28 per cent of the total registered deaths have occurred in institutions and is on a higher side than that of other places from where those who

died had received medical attention. About 16.4 per cent of the registered deaths were reported under 'medical attention other than institutions'.

The RGI report said complete information on medical attention received by the patients at the time of death has been received from 34 states and UTs. Two states -- Maharashtra and Sikkim -- have submitted only partial data and therefore their numbers have not been used while consolidating the data.

Hindu Sisters Donate Land To Eidgah "To Fulfil Father's Last Wish"

Agenceis

Kashipur, Uttarakhand: Fulfilling their late father's last wish, two Hindu sisters donated four bighas worth over 1.5 crore to an Eidgah here, a gesture that touched Muslims so much that they offered prayers for the dead man on Eid.

Kashipur is a small town in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand and the gesture by the sisters won praise, at a time when reports of communal tensions are coming in from parts of the country.

Brainandan Prasad Rastogi, who died 20 years ago, had confided to his close relatives that he wished to donate four bighas of his agricultural land to an Eidgah for its expansion.

Before he could share his last wish with his children, he died in January 2003.

His two daughters Saroj and Anita, who live in Delhi and Meerut, came to know about their father's last wish through relatives recently.

They immediately contacted their brother Rakesh Rastogi, who lives in Kashipur, to seek his consent for it and he agreed readily.

"Honouring father's last wish was our duty. My sisters have done something which will make his soul rest in peace," Rakesh Rastogi said when contacted.

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"The two sisters are a living example of communal unity. The Eidgah committee expresses its gratitude to them for the kind gesture. The two sisters will soon be felicitated for what they have done," Hasin Khan of the Eidgah committee said.

Global Death Toll Estimated To Be 15 Million; India Had 4.7 Million Deaths, Says WHO

The WHO on Thursday said that 14.9 million people were killed either by Covid-19 directly or due to the pandemic's impact on health systems and society, with the global health agency estimating that India had 4.7 million fatalities.

In New Delhi, India strongly objected to the use of mathematical models by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for projecting excess mortality estimates linked to the coronavirus pandemic in view of the availability of authentic data, saying validity and robustness of the models used and methodology of data collection are questionable.

New estimates from the WHO show that the full death toll associated directly or indirectly with the Covid-19 pandemic, described as "excess mortality", between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021 was approximately 14.9 million, range 13.3 million to 16.6 million.

"These sobering data not only point to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger health information systems," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

WHO is committed to working with all countries to strengthen their health information systems to generate better data for better decisions and better outcomes, he said. Excess mortality includes deaths associated with Covid-19 directly (due to the disease) or indirectly (due to the pandemic's impact on health systems and society).

Deaths linked indirectly to Covid-19 are attributable to other health conditions for which people were unable to access prevention and treatment because health systems were overburdened by the pandemic.

The estimated number of excess deaths can be influenced also by deaths averted during the pandemic due to lower risks of certain events, like motor-vehicle accidents or occupational injuries. For India, the cumulative excess deaths associated with

COVID-19 pandemic (mean) estimated by the WHO is 4,740,894.

In a technical note for India, WHO said the "estimates may not be regarded as the national statistics officially produced by India due to differences arising from the data and methods used by WHO."

It noted that the information from the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India for 2020 was made publicly available by the Registrar General of India (RGI) on May 3, 2022 in a report.

The newly published information in the report is being carefully examined and will be taken into consideration in revisions of the estimates.

According to sources in New Delhi, India is likely to raise the issue at the World Health Assembly and other required multilateral forums.

India has been consistently objecting to the methodology adopted by the WHO to project excess mortality estimates based on mathematical models, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

"Despite India's objection to the process, methodology and outcome of this modelling exercise, WHO has released the excess mortality estimates without adequately addressing India's concerns," the statement said.

India had also informed the WHO that in view of the availability of authentic data published through CRS by the RGI, mathematical models should not be used for projecting excess mortality numbers for India.

The Indian government on Tuesday published the CRS report 2020 based on birth and death reports.

In case of registered deaths, the number has gone up from 76.4 lakh in 2019 to 81.2 lakhs in 2020, an increase of 6.2 per cent, the RGI's report 'Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System' for 2020 said.

"Now that actual count of excess deaths from all the causes are available, there is no rationale for using modelling-driven estimates based on pure conjectures and assumptions," NITI Aayog member V K Paul told PTI.

He pointed out that compared to the calendar year 2018, in 2019 there was 6.9 lakh excess mortality.

NEWS MAKERS

Minor Wants To Donate Liver To Father, Court Asks Hospital To Decide In 2 Days

Agenceis

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed a private hospital in Mumbai to decide within two days on an application submitted by a 16-year-old girl who wants to donate a part of her liver to her ailing father.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Madhav Jamar had earlier this week asked the Maharashtra government to take decision on the application filed by the girl, seeking permission to donate liver.

On Wednesday, government pleader P P Kakade told the

bench that the authority which grants such permissions had not received any documents from the authorization committee of Global Hospital, where the patient is admitted.

Even if a hospital decides against an organ transplant, the state government can take an independent view, he added.

The girl, through her mother, has moved the court, seeking a direction to the state government to permit her to donate part of her liver to her father.

Her lawyer Tapan Thatte informed the court on Wednesday that the hospital was not accepting her form (application)

as there was no clarity on the procedure to be followed when an organ donor is a minor.

The court then directed the hospital to accept the girl's form and take decision by May 6 when it would hear the case again.

As per the petition, the girl's father needs liver transplant as he has been diagnosed with 'liver cirrhosis decompensated'. Barrering petitioner girl, no other close relative was found medically suitable for donating liver, it said.

As the petitioner is a minor, to donate organ she needs approval from the state authority set up under the Organ Transplantation Act.

Iran Preparing Cash Handouts To Offset Flour Price Hike

The Iranian government will offer direct cash handouts to the people in the country to offset a decision to raise the price of flour which has led to a steep increase in the price of wheat-based food. Iran's agriculture minister Javad Sadati Nejad said on Wednesday that direct cash handouts will be meant to compensate the rising costs of buying pasta, confectionary as well as some unsubsidized types of bread for the Iranian households.

Sadati Nejad told the state TV that the Iranian government had decided to raise the price of flour to prevent trafficking to neighboring countries.

He said flour trafficking from Iran had surged in the wake of a military conflict between Russia and Ukraine that has led to a crisis in international grain markets.

The minister said that flour prices in neighboring countries are more than 15 times the subsidized price inside Iran. He even claimed that one of Iran's neighbors is counting on smuggled wheat from Iran to overcome a shortage of around three million metric tons estimated for this year.

Iran has been paying direct cash handouts to households since November 2019 when a former administration announced fuel price hikes of up to 300%.

Officer Given 1-Year Jail Term In Triple Talaq Case

A 45-year-old Class 1 government employee was sentenced to a year in jail by a court in Palanpur of Gujarat's Bankasanth district on Wednesday for attempting to divorce his wife of seven years through "triple talaq". This is possibly the first conviction in a triple talaq case in Gujarat, public prosecutor Sanjay Joshi said.

The court of additional senior civil judge G S Darji sentenced Sarfarazkhan Bihari, a deputy engineer, to a year in jail and imposed a fine of 5,000 on him.

The 2019 Act declares the instant divorce granted by pronouncement of "talaq" thrice

as void and illegal and provides for imprisonment of up to three years and a fine to the husband.

Mr Bihari got married to the complainant in June 2012, and they were blessed with a daughter. Later, Mr Bihari was transferred to Dantiwada town as a deputy engineer in the government's Sipu pipeline project and there, he fell in love with a Hindu co-worker, the complainant's lawyer Govind Makwana said.

When Mr Bihari's family found out about the matter, the complainant's wife father met his father and they decided to shift the couple to a separate rented house in Palanpur city, he said.

Govt Approves J&K Road Classification & Road Gazette-2022

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the adoption of Jammu and Kashmir Road Classification & Road Gazette-2022. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, J&K and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting.

The Jammu and Kashmir Road Classification & Road Gazette-2022 will guide the effective management of road infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir through a systematic documentation of roads.

The Road Gazette will serve as an inventory of all roads in the Union Territory besides serving the Department in prioritization of up-gradation works and planning future infrastructure. The Road Gazette will guide the Department in achieving its endeavor to bring uniformity, transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Department.

Earlier, the Department has introduced J&K PWD Engineering Manual 2021 last year and more recently Bridge and Macadamization Manuals to provide standard guidelines for framing proposals, estimation, standardization of bidding documents and ensuring quality control in works, in accordance with the latest practices in the field.

OMAR'S TWITTER GAFFE

Declares MP Akbar Lone Dead, Apologies Later

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) Vice-President, Omar Abdullah on Thursday faced an embarrassing situation after declaring his senior party leader and Member Parliament, Mohammad Akbar Lone dead.

The tech-savvy NC leader announced on his Twitter handle the death of veteran NC leader Lone, minutes before taking down

the Tweet and tendering apology to the sitting Lok Sabha MP.

Omar's tweet came on a day when his close aide Nasir Aslam Wani's mother and former MLC Qaisar Jamsheed Lone's father passed away.

"I owe a great apology to Lone Sb. He is recovering well. My father misunderstood the news & in turn I made a mistake with my tweet. My sincere apologies to Lone Sb & his family," Omar wrote in another Tweet after a goof-up.

Active Hizb Militant Arrested In Anantnag: Police

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested an active militant of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in Kokernag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

A top police officer while confirming to GNS said that on a specific input a cordon and search operation was launched in Sagam Kokernag by Police and army's 19RR.

During CASO one militant was arrested along with arms and ammunition. The arrested militant has been identified as Mohd Ishfaq Shergojri resident of Nowgam Verinag, the top police officer said.

He was active since 15th September 2017 in Anantnag district, a C- Category Hizb militant and was wanted in many militancy related incidents, the officer added.

Nallah Construction In Channi Himmat

Govt Forms Inquiry Panel After HC Questions 'Sorry State of Affairs'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid J&K and Ladakh High Court's observation that it was "at a loss to understand the manner in which administration is being conducted", the Government has formed a committee to inquiry to find out which agency or department has constructed the nallahs/road in Channi Himmat, Jammu and when.

The six-member committee headed by Deputy Commissioner Jammu was formed by the government after the High Court ordered the Chief Secretary to hold an inquiry to find out also if any land of the petitioner—Arun Sharma—has been affected by it.

The committee has been asked to submit the report within four days, according to a government order, a copy of which is with GNS.

In its order on March 28 this year, a division bench of the court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mishra and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi had chided the government after officials said that two nallahs, namely Thanger Nallah and another adjoining SDDM Hospital, have been constructed on the land but they are not aware as to which department constructed them.

"This appears to be a very sorry state of affairs that a Pub-

lic Department is unable to find out as to who has constructed nallahs in the city," the court has said in the order on the petition filed by Sharma, seeking its direction for the payment of compensation for 1 kanal and 7 marlas of land at Channi Himmat which he said has been utilized by the officials for the construction of the Nallah but without acquiring it and paying any compensation.

"If this is the state of affairs it reflects upon the law and order situation of the UT. We are at a loss to understand the manner in which administration is being conducted," the court said, adding, "The administration is not aware of small things happening within the UT." In the situation, the court further said, "we are left with no option but to direct the Chief Secretary, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to hold an inquiry in the matter so as to find out which agency or department has constructed the nallahs/road and when."

"The inquiry should also reveal if any land of the petitioner has been affected by it," the court said and ordered that the enquiry report with its conclusion shall be placed before it within one month. The matter is listed for further proceedings on May 23.

Missing Youth Found Dead In Sopore

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The body of a youth who went missing last week was recovered under mysterious circumstances in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday, officials said.

News Agency KNO quoting officials reported that the youth,

identified as Irfan Nazir Shah son of Nazir Ahmad Shah of Neharpura Sopore had gone missing since last week.

However the officials said that on getting the information, the cops arrived at the spot and recovered the body. "A probe has been initiated into the matter," they said.

Peace Has Started To Become A Permanent Feature In Kashmir: Lt Gen Pandey

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The outgoing General officer Commanding (GoC) of Srinagar-based army's 15 Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey Thursday said that he had joined the strategic Corps with a "philosophy of breaking the cycle of violence in Kashmir and the army did well on that front."

The GoC, however, was quick to add that he did nothing unique but continued what his predecessors did in the past.

Talking to reporters at army's 15 Corps headquarters in Srinagar, the GoC Pandey said that a wrong terminology was being used like "Kashmir problem."

"The fact remains that there was a problem in Kashmir which we along with the people and cross section of society have largely been able to overcome. Today, peace has started to become a permanent feature. Though some, rather very few people won't be happy with the peaceful atmosphere and they will keep on trying new methods to disrupt it, but there will always be joint counter measures to defeat such elements," said the army officer, who is all set to join a new posting soon.

Replying to a query what were his achievements, GoC Pandey said that he joined as the head of 15 Corps with a philosophy of breaking the cycle of violence in Kashmir. "Today, I can say that we succeeded. We have done well on this front," he said.

The GoC Pandey said that



he continued to do what his predecessor had done and did nothing unique or new. "I believe my successor will be more competent than me," he said.

The GoC said he it Rashtriya Rifles in the hinterland or the soldiers on the LoC, both were an intimate part of the Kashmiri society. "Both faced challenges together and succeeded," he said.

About the achievements, the army officer said that on one hand they kept killing militants while ensuring surrenders during live encounters and on the other, efforts were made to ensure youth are prevented from picking up arms.

"In last over a year, some 230 youth who had either joined militancy or were about to join, were brought back to live a peaceful life. This indeed is my achievement. Rest, carrying out operations against militants needs not to be counted," GoC Pandey said.

He said today, Jammu and Kashmir police received more human intelligence that technical intelligence and militants including Over Ground Workers are being isolated none other

than the society itself.

"My endeavor had been that no mother, sister or daughter should cry in pain for just somebody picking up arms and getting killed in encounters," he said.

About American weapons including steel-piercing weapons making entry into Kashmir, GoC Pandey said that it was not a challenge as counter measures through drills and other measures were already put in place to meet such challenges. "Yes, some American weapons have entered Kashmir but its not a challenge anymore....," he said.

GoC Pandey while replying to a query, said hybrid militants were a challenge some nine months ago, but not now. "It was difficult early to identify a government servant, a shopkeeper or a student aged 15 or 16 indulging in militant activities. But as of now, society is so vibrant and such people are being identified in a jiffy. Parents too are keeping a close watch on the children so that they don't tread a wrong path," he said.

On ceasefire pact and its benefits, he said it was never a challenge for the army but people on the either side of the fence used to suffer. "Today, people on both sides of the border are living a peaceful life which is a good gesture," he said.

The GoC said that there will always be threats to disrupt Amarnath Yatra, but security system and measures taken will always foil such plans—(KNO)

Weather To Improve In Kashmir From Today: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Rain and thunderstorm lashed Jammu and Kashmir during the last 24 hours as the Meteorological Department forecast on Thursday that light or moderate rain is likely to occur with an improvement in the weather from Friday onwards.

"Light to moderate rain is likely to occur in Jammu and Kashmir today while there would be improvement in weather from tomorrow onwards," a Department official said, as per news agency IANS.

Srinagar had 11.1, Pahalgam 7.8 and Gulmarg 1.6 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature on Thursday.



Drass in Ladakh had 5.1, Leh 7 and Kargil 7.4 degrees Celsius as the minimum temperature. Jammu had 20, Katra 17.7,

Batote 10.2, Banihal 10.4 and Bhaderwah 8.4 degrees Celsius as the evening lowest temperature on Thursday.

KPs Demand Pilgrimage To Sharda Temple In Pck

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: The Save Sharada Committee in Kashmir has demanded that the Sharada temple in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (Pck) be opened for Kashmiri pandits and Hindus from the rest of India for pilgrimage on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor for Sikh devotees.

The committee has also demanded that the prayers commence in the temple "as has happened in the religious places in conflict zones around the world."

Ever since the Kartarpur Gurudwara was reopened after 72 years, the Indian and Pakistan governments, which sat across the table, formed a draft and that was signed. We say if Kartarpur has been re-opened, why not Sharada. I myself travelled to Kartarpur, why am I not allowed to travel to Sharada Peeth? Ravinder Pandita, the founder of the Save Sharada Committee, told reporters here.

Pandita, along with other Kashmiri pandits, was here to check the progress of the construction of a new Sharada base camp temple at Teetwal near the Line of Control. The temple is being sculpted here using granite rock on Magadi Road in Bengaluru, which would be transported to the border village in the next 45 days.

Explaining, he said there is a mechanism, which is called the Line of Control permit between government of India and the government of Pakistan on how to travel across and how to go to the Pck.



Under the LoC permit, the GoI and GoP have agreed that if someone has a relative across the LoC or those people have their relatives here in Indian side of Kashmir they can travel on an LoC permit. It is not a visa but an instrument like the Kartarpur permit, Pandita said.

He claimed that he had applied twice times for a permit but was denied everytime because there is a clause that the person should have to have a relative on the other side without which the permission cannot be granted.

The irony is that the government of India denied us permission because there is a rider that one should have relatives there. I don't have relatives there but my faith is on the other side of the LoC, my Mother Sharada is there. So, I want an amendment in the existing LoC permit rules to allow pilgrimages, Pandita said.

Speaking about his efforts, he said he had met officials in various ministries. "In principle, the Pandits have been granted permission by the Home Ministry,

and the External Affairs Ministry is also looking into it but nothing happened. Unless and until all the Sharada followers and all the Shankaracharyas raise their voice, nothing will happen," he said.

Regarding the stopping of prayers at Sharada temple, he said, Nowhere in any conflict zone in any part of the world prayers are stopped even for a day in the religious shrines, be it Al-Aqsa mosque or Church of Turkey but it has been stopped at Sharada for the last 72 years.

Speaking about the new Sharada temple at the ancient Sharada temple pilgrimage base camp at Teetwal, he said it is being built in 4,500 sq ft at an estimated cost of Rs 1.2 crore.

The land was discovered and demarcated by the local residents who are also assisting in constructing the temple, he explained.

We are building a new temple at Teetwal. We are getting support from Sringeri Sharada Peeth in Karnataka, which has approved the map of the temple and are offering panchaloha statue of the Goddess and other support for the reconstruction and reclamation of this temple, Pandita said.

The new temple also accommodates a Sikh Gurudwara as used to exist in 1947. Revenue records showed there was Sikh land, said the Save Sharada Temple Committee founder.

We have laid the foundation of this temple. Rest of the super structure, the main temple stone, we are getting it done at Magadi. We had been to that place. Half of the temple is already ready, said Pandita.

MP Hasnain Masoodi, Ex-MLAs Meet LG



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hasnain Masoodi, Member of Parliament from Anantnag, former legislators, and a delegation of Pashmina Exporters and Manufacturers Association (PEMA) called on the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday.

Member Parliament, Hasnain Masoodi discussed with the Lt Governor various matters pertaining to regularization of daily wagers and welfare of employees, among other issues, an official spokesperson said.

Similarly, he said, former minister, Imran Reza Ansari met the Lt Governor and held discussion on various matters of public importance, besides presenting his views on the ongoing developmental process of the UT.

Besides, former Legislator, Surinder Ambardar while calling on the Lt Governor expressed gratitude to the Lt Governor for the Yatri Niwas being built at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

"The Lt Governor gave a patient hearing to the public representatives and assured them that all their genuine concerns and suggestions would be looked into meticulously," he said.

The spokesperson further said that Pashmina exporters led by Dr Hina Shafi Bhatt, VC, J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board also met the Lt Governor and apprised him about the present scenario of Pashmina shawl industry in J&K.

"They also put forth their concerns and issues pertaining to safeguarding the Pashmina shawl industry and people associated with it, and effective promotion of the industry," he said.

The delegation of PEMA included its President Tariq Ahmed Dar and office bearers-Imran Rashid and Abdul Manan.

"While interacting with the delegation, the Lt Governor observed that dedicated efforts are being made to increase the exports and various promotional schemes and possibilities will be looked into so that this cottage industry is promoted efficiently," the spokesperson said.

"The Lt Governor further said that various schemes for the upliftment of the artisans, weavers, and craftsmen are being run by the UT administration. He urged the members of the delegation to ensure that benefits of the same reach grass root levels by spreading awareness among the artisans and weavers," he added.

Union Additional Secy Textiles Reviews Dev Projects In Kupwara

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: Union Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Shantmanu, who is also Central Prabhari Officer for Kupwara, on Thursday asked the officers and field functionaries to step up efforts towards rapid growth and infrastructural development in the district ensuring optimum utilization of liberal funding by the Centre government.

Shantmanu, who is on a two day visit to Kupwara district, was addressing a meeting of district administration convened to review implementation of schemes under Aspirational District Programme (ADP) besides assessing other development programmes.

Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Imam Din, ADC Kupwara, Ghulam Nabi Bhat, Joint Director Planning, Abdul Majeed and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Union Additional Secretary asked the officers to ensure completion of all development works and implementation of centrally sponsored schemes within the stipulated time frame. He exhorted upon the officers to be honest in giving feedback to government about the actual status of implementation of scheme at ground level besides highlighting existing.

Earlier, the meeting reviewed developmental scenario of the district with special focus of Aspirational District Programme including Health, Education, Agriculture, Financial inclusion and Skill Development besides discussing infrastructure building in

the district.

Shantmanu also reviewed implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes and programmes in the district like Soil Health Cards, Aadhaar Seedling, MUDRA Loan, Self employment schemes, SANKALP etc.

He had a detailed review of all indicators of Aspirational District Programme. He was informed that Kupwara received PM's Award of Excellence conferred by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, on 21st April this year besides the district was also conferred gold medal by Union Health Minister on 24th March at New Delhi for achieving more than 60 per cent reduction in TB Notification.

Regarding utilization of funds, the meeting was informed that NITI AAYOG has released a grant of Rs. 3 crore during October 2020, of which, Rs.2.45 crore have been utilized till February 2021 towards implementation of various projects under Health and Nutrition, Education and Skill Development.

Later, Shantmanu accompanied by DC and concerned officers conducted field visit to personally inspect progress on several development projects being executed in the district.

During the visit, he inspected Health and Wellness Centre Shulloora and took stock of various sections of the hospital. He interacted with the senior citizens and patients to get feedback regarding the services being extended to them in the hospital. He inspected OPD section, ANC room, drug store, immunization centre, Yoga room and laboratory.

Mechanic Dies After Air Compressor Machine Explodes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 45-year-old motor mechanic died in Kupwara district as the air compressor at his tyre puncture-mending shop exploded on Thursday, officials said.

News agency GNS quoting a police official reported that the incident took place near

Zunrashi Chowkibal area of the north Kashmir district and the mechanic identified as Dilawar Ahmad Mir died on the spot. He said that even though he was shifted to a local hospital, but doctors declared him brought dead on arrival.

He said legal proceedings in connection with the incident have been launched.



CONDOLENCE

Members of SICOP Employees Union express deep sorrow over the tragic and untimely demise of Bilal Ahmed Kachlo's daughter. In this regard, all the members of the Employees Union and other employees participated in the meeting chaired by the President of SICOP Employees Union Mr Mushtaq Ahmad Malik in which they expressed their condolences to the bereaved family and assured Bilal Ahmed Kachlo that in this grief Employees Union is besides the bereaved family. May Allah Almighty grant her Paradise and grant her family the courage to bear this trauma. May his soul rest. Ameen

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K O V I E W

Hot Spring

Since April, India and Pakistan have suffered extreme spring heatwaves. The unprecedented April temperatures have led to critical water and electricity shortages. North-west and central India experienced the hottest April in 122 years and in Pakistan’s Jacobabad, a city in Sindh province, the temperature hit recently, one of the highest April temperatures ever recorded in the world. In Kashmir too, we had a surprisingly warm March and April, the two months which otherwise used to be drenched in rain and the consequent cold. The unduly warm March, April and May have caused deep concern about the creeping climate change, which is changing the nature of the seasons. Though this should cause alarm, it isn’t. Or at least to the extent where it could matter. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh between them are home to around 1.7 billion people and any disruption in the climate pattern could severely impact them. So, the three countries, as well as other countries in the region need to wake up and work toward a global response to the looming catastrophe.

To be sure, India has supported global action and initiatives to combat climate change. Attending the recent COP26 summit at Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Green Grids Initiative—One Sun One World One Grid (GGI-OSOWOG), the first international network of global interconnected solar power grids, jointly with his UK counterpart Boris Johnson. Addressing a session on clean technology at the summit, PM Modi said ‘one sun, one world, one grid’ can be crucial to re-establishing the environmental balance.

The COP26, in turn, followed the grim report by an UN-appointed panel that warned of the far-reaching effects of climate change if no immediate measures were taken to remedy the damage already done. The world, said the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in August last, will cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. The report further said that human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2,000 years. Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities alone are responsible for approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming since 1850-1900 and the temperatures could continue to rise until 1950. The report revealed that the past decade was most likely hotter than any period in the last 1,25,000 years when sea levels were as much as 10 meters higher. The report caused a global alarm after its release.

There is thus an urgent need for the world to come together and take remedial measures to pre-empt the catastrophe and the COP26 summit did play an important role in this direction. In Kashmir too, climate change has led to considerable changes in weather patterns. Triggering alarm bells is the slowly shrinking glaciers that are the source of the Valley’s water bodies. But the factors causing climate change are global in nature and so any effort to reverse the damage has to be backed by the world. And this should be done sooner than later. The time is running out fast.

OTHER OPINION

Supreme Court's Covid vaccine stance

The Supreme Court has made it clear that Covid-19 jabs cannot be forced. This lays bare the emerging tensions between public health and public rights. The matter is intriguing. But the apex court has adopted a nuanced position, providing a fine balance between these two imperatives. Responding to a petition that alleged that although the Centre had made it clear that the vaccination programme was not mandatory, some states — Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu are among them — have passed orders that discriminate between vaccinated citizens and unvaccinated ones pertaining to their access to public space and even welfare programmes. The wise judges reiterated that bodily integrity, protected by Article 21, is sacrosanct and inferred that by this logic, the notion of ‘personal autonomy’ gives citizens the right to determine whether they should accept or refuse medical treatment. Significantly, the court also noted that neither the Centre nor the state governments had put before it evidence that would justify the implementation of iniquitous policies against those who are yet to receive the jab. Hearteningly, the Supreme Court also issued a directive stating that the executive may undertake suitable preventive measures to stop the contagion if the situation so warrants but these measures would be subjected to constitutional scrutiny.

What the court is, evidently, pushing for is for citizens to make an informed choice. This is how things should work in a democracy. The executive’s future role is clear. It must design interventions to help people make an informed decision. Even though booster shots have been made available, data suggest that India is yet to fully vaccinate its total number of beneficiaries with either two or a single dose of vaccine. This shows that work needs to be done still to extend not only the twindose coverage but also widen the net for booster doses. This means that the government cannot be lax as far as awareness programmes go. The challenge is to help people, especially those who harbour prejudices against the medication, be aware of the need for and the efficacy of these medicines, especially since the pandemic remains a threat. But coercion, as the court has pointed out, has no place in these deliberations.

Telegraph India



Poor Economics: Has India’s Poverty Really Fallen?

Dataset and methodological weaknesses cast doubt on recent poverty estimates that claim drastic reduction

Santosh Mehrotra & Jajati Parida

Bhalla, Bhasin and Virmani in a working paper (IMF), claimed India’s poverty, per a \$1.9 per person per day poverty line (at PPP), was 0.9% of the population in 2020. Thanks to government transfer of free rations of 5 kg per person month, it fell to 0.8% (from 0.9% in 2019). Roy and de Velt, for the World Bank (WB), claim poverty fell from 22.5% to 10.2% between 2011 and 2019. Remarkably, both papers contradict the WB’s official publications, which state that, as a result of Covid, poverty will increase by 88-115 million in 2020, and the largest contributor to this would be India.

Naturally, the media in India has lapped up these conclusions, and purveyed them widely, to the delight of the government. Therefore, the papers deserve a thorough examination, both for their methodology and findings.

First, Bhalla et al use National Accounts Statistics (NAS) to estimate private final consumption expenditure, then used to estimate poverty. Practically no one in the world uses NAS estimates of consumption. It overestimates consumption. That has never prevented Bhalla from using it.

Second, they don’t use household surveys of consumption expenditure (CES), widely used for estimating poverty (including by the WB, relying upon Living Standard Measurement Surveys). Historically, in India, poverty estimation has used the CES. The last one, in 2017-18, followed demonetisation and a hurried GST, which adversely affected the unorganised sector that employs 85% of non-farm workers. That CES showed contraction of rural consumption by 8% and a mere 2% rise in urban, compared to 2011-12.

Third, they ignore data on inequality, rising unemployment, falling employment rates, falling wage rates and rising food inflation. Inequality had fallen between 2012 and 2019, primarily because all consumption was getting compressed and trending downwards. However, the recent PRICE, PEW and Oxfam inequality reports showed income inequality increased during pandemic, as the income of 84% households fell. While unemployment rate increased from 2.2% to 5.8% between 2012 and 2019, the youth unemployment rate increased from 6% to 17%. The share of working-age population with work declined from 38.6% to 35.3%, and, for youth from 42% to 31.5%. The falling wage rates since 2012 are consistent with falling GDP growth rates, especially since 2016. Moreover, a food inflation rate of 31% between July 2020 and July 2021 (RBI Bulletin August 2021), would wipe out the impact of the 5kg of free grain; add to that the fuel inflation, thanks to wilful taxes.

and de Velt (2022) find a reduction in poverty between 2011 and 2019, based on CMIE’s Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS). Their results could be misleading for several

reasons. Although CPHS collects detailed expenditure information on about 115 items of household consumption, on a longitudinal basis (covering 174,000 households from 28 states), it suffers from criticisms.

The CPHS adopts a measure of consumption that is not comparable to that of the NSS, due to differences in survey instruments. Furthermore, Dreze and others have questioned the representativeness of the survey compared to the NSS surveys, due to differences in sample design and geographical coverage. These differences will have important impacts on poverty estimates for India.

On sample design, absence of a second-stage stratification puts a question on representation of households from both ends of the income distribution. By contrast, in the NSS, representation of urban households from the 1st to 6th deciles of the distribution is embedded into the sampling design. Homeless people

urban India close to the 60th most unequal.

Thus, comparing expenditure and non-expenditure statistics derived from the CPHS to those obtained from nationally representative benchmark surveys shows that: (1) CPHS under-represents the poorest as well as the richest households in the population; and (2) under-coverage of the poor and the rich is more pronounced in urban areas. Roy adjusts for these differences, but strong differences remain between consumption in estimates based on CPHS and NSSO. Roy then uses regressions to arrive at poverty estimates for India. However, Roy’s pass-through methodology based estimation of poverty is subject to strong assumptions. Hence, the estimates based on this are questionable. Moreover, the regression based estimation of the Log consumption per capita also suffers from problems of endogeneity (due to use of “consumption categories/heads” and “level of education” as the explanatory

While the incidence of rural poverty declined from 25.7% to 25.2%, in urban India, it declined from 13.7% to 12.4%. But the number of poor actually increased between 2011-12 and 2019-20 due to increased total population. The increase in number of poor in rural areas (from 217 to 235 million) is much higher than the 3 million fall (from 53 to 50 million) in urban India

or families living in construction sites are excluded in CPHS survey. This also contributes to under-coverage of the poorest households in CPHS. Then, the differences in instruments. The NSSO uses a more detailed consumption module comprising over 345 items, compared to CPHS’s 114 unique items. Additionally, the NSS expenditure based on uniform recall period captures household consumption over the past 30 days, whereas the CPHS collects consumption based on the past four calendar months. Differences in recall periods across surveys can have large impacts on poverty estimates. The shares of households with access to electricity, water, toilet and ownership of a TV and refrigerator are notably higher in CPHS-2015 and -2019 compared to NFHS from the same years.

The undereducated are severely under-represented in the CPHS, with only 2% of the 2018 adult population having not received a formal education. By comparison, the NSSO’s Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) from the same year pegs the share of adults without formal education at 17%. By 2019, adults without formal education are virtually eliminated from the CPHS sample, while the PLFS estimates this at 17%. Basole et al (2021) find that average real incomes in the CPHS of 2018 are about 30% higher when compared to the PLFS from the same year.

Moreover, as Roy notes, the Gini coefficient of inequality using CPHS weights would rank urban India on a par with Sweden, the 25th most equitable country. However, NSS-2011 would rank

tory variables) and excluded regressors (family wage income, number of earning members in the family, and land holdings, etc). These two issues normally produce biased and inconsistent regressor estimates. Hence, the prediction based on this model may not be reliable.

Meanwhile, based on the Tendulkar’s extended poverty line (from 2011-12 to 2019-20) taking CPI inflation into account and after due adjustments between CES and NSSO’s Employment Survey (2011-12) EUS discrepancies, we found that the incidence of poverty between 2011-12 and 2019-20 decreased only about 1 percentage point (from 21.9% to 20.8%). While the incidence of rural poverty declined from 25.7% to 25.2%, in urban India, it declined from 13.7% to 12.4%. But the number of poor actually increased between 2011-12 and 2019-20 due to increased total population. The increase in number of poor in rural areas (from 217 to 235 million) is much higher than the 3 million fall (from 53 to 50 million) in urban India.

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

The author Santosh Mehrotra is visiting professor, University of Bath, the UK, and Jajati Parida teaches at the Central University of Punjab. The article was originally published by Financial Express



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Slipping Fourth Pillar

Press is called the fourth pillar of democracy, but its condition has been a worrying factor in India for some years now, as the 2021 World Press Freedom Index shows that the country has slipped to 150th rank from last year’s position of 142. Eversince the BJP’s landslide victory in the 2019

general elections, mainstream media have largely become a tool to promote the ruling party’s views and records. Smaller media outlets and journalists in particular face harassment and threats, and in some cases, they were even murdered. The report from the Paris-based organization ‘Reporters Without Borders’ or ‘Reporters Sans

Frontiers’ (RSF) allege that under the guise of Covid-19 pandemic, the ruling BJP unleashed several lawsuits against media outlets which contradicted the official numbers of COVID cases and deaths. Physical attacks on journalists and arrests under often-archaic laws interpreted beyond their legitimate scope to clamp down

on journalists have become tactics to silence the scribes by the current ruling dispensation. But every attack on the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression only adds to the strength of the Fourth estate in our country.

Ranganathan Sivakumar
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MINDFUL FRIDAYS

PICKING SIDES, CHILDREN AND CHILD ABUSE

Triangulation is a form of child abuse and must be stopped

“
Adolescent's involvement in their parents' relationship troubles puts them at risk for psychological issues like anxiety, depressive symptoms, and withdrawal tendencies



Wasim Kakroo

Family conflict is unavoidable. In two-parent families, exposure to hostile marital conflict is a risk factor for adolescent's development. One of the mechanisms through which marital conflict can negatively affect the development of a young child/adolescent is when the child/adolescent gets involved into parental disputes, causing them to feel "caught in the middle" and torn between divided loyalties. Such a situation is called as triangulation.

There are numerous definitions of triangulation. Some people use the phrase in a mathematical sense, while others use it in a psychological sense. Psychologically, triangulation is the involvement of a third person in a dyadic conflict. Triangulation cannot be happen between two persons; at least three people must triangulate the conversation and the third person must ensure that one or more of the parties agrees with his or her opinion. Triangulation occurs when two members in a family bring a third party to dissolve stress, worry, or tension that exists between them. Often, fighting parents might drag their children/adolescents into the conflict in

order to form a group to attack the other parent. Child triangulation is defined as child's direct involvement in parental fights and arguments and their subjective impression of being caught in the middle. Triangulation leads to involvement of a child in the conflictual interactions of his or her parents by taking sides and carrying messages in order to avoid or reduce conflict between parents.

Some parents may be unaware that they are engaged in triangulation due to ignorance. If a child is involved in a triangulation situation, he or she may say things like, "My parents make me feel caught in the middle when they argue," "my mom always asks if I notice how my dad starts the fights," "mom and dad always ask me questions when they are in the middle of an argument," "after an argument with mom, dad always comes to me and explains his point of view," and "I hate it when mom and dad involve and ask me questions when they are arguing".

HOW TRIANGULATION AFFECTS CHILDREN/ ADOLESCENTS?

Parents should be extra cautious about inadvertently or intentionally involving their children in marital disagreements

because it can be harmful to the children. Triangulation can impede a child's/adolescent's growth since triangulation frequently leads to parents viewing the child as a supportive peer rather than a child. Triangled children frequently become scapegoats, and scapegoated children have been seen to be prone to develop anger issues. According to research, girls who are involved in marital problems of their parents tend to have lower levels of personal maturity. Such children may develop intimacy issues with their children when they grow into adults. Thus, triangulation process is a boundary violation because it puts children in perplexing and distressing situations as they negotiate between parents and manage disputing loyalties. The child who is caught in triangulation may blame himself or herself and believe that the disagreement was caused by his or her actions. Adolescent's involvement in their parents' relationship troubles puts them at risk for psychological issues like anxiety, depressive symptoms, and withdrawal tendencies.

Triangulation increases emotional reactivity in children, putting them at risk for psychological disturbance. Conceptually, emotional reactivity to parental marital

conflict is defined as "chronic elevation of arousal and dysregulation of children's emotions and behaviour, fostering adjustment problems." Prolonged feelings of distress, sadness, fear, anger, vigilance, and preoccupation with parents' marital relationship are some of the indicators.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD?

From the above discussion it is obvious that triangulation is very detrimental to child mental health. Thus, clinicians and others who work with families must help parents keep marital difficulties within the marital dyad. Adolescent children must be excluded from their parents' marital problems; parents must enhance their ability to cope with and handle the anxiety connected with marital conflict in ways that do not involve their children. Running a family necessitates order; without stability, there is no foundation; and without foundation, there is less order.

There are numerous methods to prevent traingulation. Here are few examples:

- Establish and uphold clear boundaries within family.
- Emphasize personal accountability.
- Seek advice from outsiders (i.e. counselors, trusted mentors)

- Learn about healthy and dysfunctional family relationships.
- Work through your insecurities to empower yourself.
- Recognize and address harmful behaviour in oneself.
- Discover how to safely detach from drama.
- Consult a Marriage and Family Therapist, and encourage the entire family to participate.
- Enhance your communication abilities

HOW THERAPIST CAN HELP?

Therapists can use a variety of tactics and approaches to assist families who are involved in triangulation. Because of the disparities in upbringing, social, cultural, and economic levels, it is best for the psychologist to use an integrated approach with families involved in a triangulation conflict. All of the methodologies are used in an integrated way. It enables the therapist to use the "best fitting" strategy for the client to achieve the best results.

The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He can be reached at 8825067196

Unsettling Adolescent Transition

The transition into adolescence can be brutal for kids' mental health – but parents can help reduce the risk

Zara Mansoor

The transition from childhood to adolescence is a vulnerable time for the development of mental health difficulties and brings a marked increase in anxiety and depression.

The push away from family to peers at this age can leave parents feeling adrift. But parents can have a positive role in how young people navigate the challenges of adolescence.

Untreated, mental health conditions often have an impact into adulthood. Supporting a young person with a mental health difficulty also places enormous stress on parents and whānau (family).

So how can parents be there for their children?

Research into how young people develop emotional skills found that a parenting style which encourages understanding and acceptance of emotions is associated with better mental wellbeing compared to styles which are dismissive, punitive or avoid emotional experiences.

As well as general emotional response style, there is an array of other factors linked to anxiety and depression which parents can play an important role in mitigating.

Supporting parents in these areas can have a positive preventative effect on the development of anxiety and depression. By better involving parents in mental health care, we may also improve outcomes for teens with mental health challenges.

Addressing how we treat teen mental health is of increasing importance with rising rates of anxiety and

depression in teens and the likely impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has taken a toll on teen mental health

In a survey of youth in Aotearoa, reported symptoms of mental distress were already increasing prior to the global pandemic – particularly for females and Māori.

While the full effects of the pandemic remain to be seen, key factors related to well being in adolescence have been severely affected, including school attendance, social engagement and the ability to develop independence.

Preliminary evidence from overseas suggests there has been an increase in mental health difficulties above general trends in this period for adolescents.

A report of data from paediatric hospital admissions in New Zealand identified greater admissions related to mental distress and parasuicidal behaviour during lockdown.

A survey of adult New Zealanders also confirmed a range of psychological impacts, with the younger adult group particularly affected.

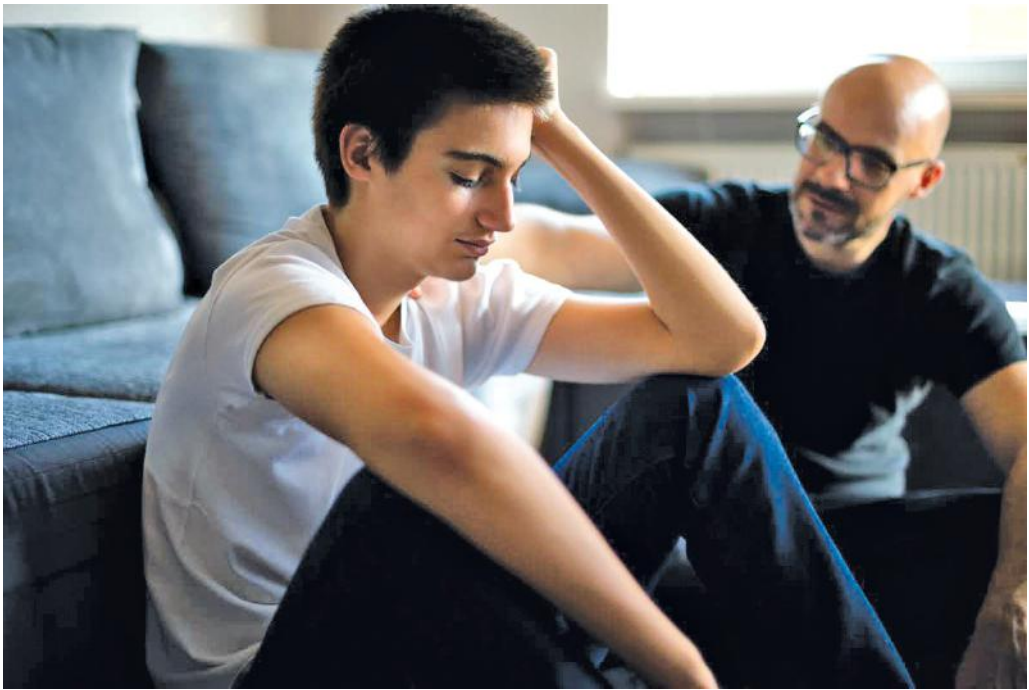
These trends will continue to put strain on our mental health services.

Stretched services

Referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) have been increasing over recent years, particularly for the early adolescent age group.

Chronic resourcing and staffing issues mean the situation is already at crisis point for many needing support.

While there has been a substantial government commitment to increased funding, there are still



“Most current treatments for adolescent anxiety and depression have evolved from the adult evidence base and a generally Western, individually-oriented model. This approach can fail to take in the unique needs of teens and cultural norms that place value on a person's role in a larger whānau or community

deficits and long term skill shortages for specialist child and adolescent clinicians.

Adequate resourcing is essential to providing better support. We also need to ensure we are providing high quality interventions to those seeking help.

Gaps in how we understand teens

There are gaps in the evidence base for working with this age group, including how we can best include parents in treatment.

Most current treatments for adolescent anxiety and depression have

evolved from the adult evidence base and a generally Western, individually-oriented model. This approach can fail to take in the unique needs of teens and cultural norms that place value on a person's role in a larger whānau or community.

Cognitive-behaviour therapy (CBT) and antidepressant medication have been the most researched and are generally the first treatment recommendations. While these treatments have a good body of evidence and are helpful for many young people, effect sizes are modest and may be significantly smaller for teens compared with similar therapies for adults, particularly for depression.

Parents can play an important role

To improve outcomes, mental health treatments need to consider the specific needs of this age group, including the role of parents.

This also fits with Māori and other important cultural perspectives in New Zealand. For example, Te Whare Tapa Whā, a model of Māori health developed by Sir Mason Durie, describes the foundations of health, with whānau (family) as a key pillar. Strengthening our focus on this aspect of health can help make care more responsive for all New Zealanders.

While there is a clear rationale for including parents in treatment, and many clinicians are aware of this in practice, research into parental involvement in care is limited.

Reviews to date have suggested a small but positive impact but these reviews have been limited by the number and quality of studies.

Rather than general parent involvement in existing treatment (e.g. parents included in CBT), one promising avenue is programmes focused on boosting emotional skills.

Our research is focused on a one programme developed particularly for teens, Tuning in to Teens, de-

veloped by a team at Melbourne University from a programme for parents of younger children (Tuning in to Kids).

The programme targets emotion regulation difficulties by teaching parents to be "emotion coaches" and respond to their young person's emotions in the accepting and understanding style which has been found to promote positive mental health.

In a randomised control trial of early adolescents about to transition to high school, those with parents who completed this programme had lower levels of symptoms associated with anxiety and depression compared to those who did not.

This programme has been adopted by several mental health services in New Zealand with positive feedback. We are now investigating how we can further evaluate its impact in this setting.

These are challenging times to be growing up in and challenging times to parent in, too. While more research is needed to determine what works best for this age group, parents have an important role from prevention to treatment. The better we can support parents, the better equipped they will be to support their young people to navigate what is ahead.

"He moana pukepuke e ekengia e te waka" – A choppy sea can be navigated.

The author is a Clinical Psychologist and PhD Candidate, University of Otago. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Researchers Uncover How Parent’s Genes Shape Behavior, Parental Controls



A new study by scientists at the University of Utah explains how mom and dad's genes shape behaviour. Each parent has a unique influence on hormones and other chemical messengers that control mood and behaviour.

The findings of the research were published in the journal 'Cell Reports'.

Parenting is not the only way moms and dads impact the behaviour of their offspring. Genes matter, too. And although most of our genes are inherited in pairs, one copy from each parent, moms and dads exert their genetic influence in different ways.

"We're really intrigued that there is this untapped area of biology that controls our decisions," said Christopher Gregg, PhD, principal investigator and associate professor in the Department of Neurobiology.

A clearer picture of the genetic factors that shape behaviour is a crucial step toward developing better diagnoses and treatments for psychiatric disorders, he said.

Gregg's research team reports that certain groups of cells in the brains of mice rely exclusively on the mother's copy of a gene that is needed to produce essential chemical messengers in the

brain called neurotransmitters.

In those cells, the father's copy of the gene remains switched off. However, in a different organ, the adrenal gland, certain cells favour the father's copy of the same gene. There, the gene is involved in producing the stress hormone, adrenaline.

After identifying this unexpected switch in parental control of a single gene, Gregg's team went on to demonstrate that it had consequences for behaviour found that each parent's gene affected sons and daughters differently: certain decisions in sons were controlled by their mother's gene, whereas fathers had control over some decision-making in daughters.

Evolutionarily speaking, this form of genetic regulation may reflect different parental priorities, Gregg says. "Not everybody has the same sort of interests, outcomes, and selective effects," he explained.

"Daughters need to rear litters. Sons often disperse and will go to new environments." Consequently, it may be in parents' interest to influence behaviour differently in their sons and daughters.

"The revelation that maternal and paternal alleles of the same gene along the brain-adrenal axis could have disparate, or possibly even antagonistic, phenotypic consequences on behaviour is an intriguing

observation," said the paper's first author, Paul Bonthuis, PhD, an assistant professor in the Department of Comparative Biosciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"The brain-adrenal axis is a very important part of mammalian biology that controls behaviour and affects stress, mood, metabolism and decision-making," Gregg explained.

He said that this finding is a first step toward understanding how a parent's genes may affect more routine behaviours and related health conditions in people, from mental illnesses and addiction to cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Study Finds Patients With Metastatic Prostate Cancer Live Notably Longer

ANI

Researchers from SWOG Cancer Research Network have significantly extended median survival for patients with hormone-sensitive metastatic prostate cancer. This result comes from a large randomized clinical trial aimed at testing a new treatment for these patients.

The findings of the research were published in the 'Journal of Clinical Oncology'.

It tested the efficiency of the drug orteronel in these patients, pairing it with androgen deprivation therapy on the investigational arm and comparing that combination to androgen deprivation therapy plus bicalutamide.

Although the study missed the primary endpoint of a 33 per cent improvement in overall survival (OS), it also showed an unprecedented median OS of 70 months in the control arm, the highest ever reported for these patients on a non-intensified androgen deprivation therapy arm. This OS is a 24-month improvement over

results reported in 2013 from the SWOG-9346 trial, which enrolled a nearly identical proportion of patients with extensive disease.

The researchers conclude that the primary reason for this extended survival compared to previous studies is the life-prolonging additional treatments patients received after they completed the S1216 trial.

Some 77 per cent of control arm patients whose cancer progressed went on to get additional life-prolonging treatment after finishing the trial therapy, compared to 61 per cent in the orteronel arm.

"We are seeing the benefit of the advancements made in advanced prostate cancer therapy in the last decade, resulting in unprecedented improvements in survival of men with advanced prostate cancer in general, which is great news for our patients," said study lead author Neeraj Agarwal, MD, a SWOG investigator with the Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah.

Scientists Discover Pathways To Severe Covid-19 In Children

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have discovered the pathways that are activated in severe cases of COVID-19 in children, an advance that can lead to earlier diagnosis and more targeted treatments for the disease.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, identified disease mechanisms in children with COVID-19 who present with multisystem inflammatory syndrome, where different body parts can become inflamed including the heart, lungs, and brain and acute respiratory distress syndrome, a type of lung disease.

The main triggers for severe COVID-19 in children were blood clotting and how proteins in the immune system reacted to the virus, the researchers said.

"Children are in general less susceptible to COVID-19 and present with milder symptoms, but it remained unclear what caused some to develop very severe disease, said Conor McCafferty, PhD student at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

Our research was the first to uncover the specific blood clotting and immune protein pathways impacted in children with COVID-19 who developed serious symptoms," McCafferty said in a statement.

For the study, blood samples from 20 healthy children were collected and samples from 33 SARS-CoV-2 infected children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome or acute respiratory distress syndrome were collected.

Professor Damien Bonnet, from the Greater



Children are in general less susceptible to COVID-19 and present with milder symptoms, but it remained unclear what caused some to develop very severe disease

Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Govt Of India

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from the eligible NGOs/Trusts/Charitable institutions /Urban Local Bodies/Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. on this Ministry's e-Anudaan portal (grants-msje.gov.in) for new projects of (i) Senior Citizen Home for 25 beneficiaries (SrCH-25), (ii) Senior Citizen Home for 50 beneficiaries (SrCH-50) and (iii) Senior Citizen Home for 50 Elderly Women(SrCH-50W) in 105 Gap Districts for the financial year 2022-23 under Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPsRC), a sub-scheme of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY). The list of 105 gap districts along with types of new projects admissible for assistance is uploaded on the Website of the Ministry

2. The detailed eligibility criteria, quantum and conditions of assistance etc. have been described in the AVYAY scheme guidelines available on the Website (socialjustice.gov.in) and on e-Anudaan Portal (grants-msje.gov.in) of the Ministry. The applications from the NGOs/Trusts/Charitable institutions/ Urban Local Bodies/Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. for the new projects in these GAP districts shall be accepted till 25th May, 2022.

davp/38101/11/0008/2223

Paris University Hospitals, France, said collecting samples to further describe the mechanisms of these syndromes and establishing worldwide collaborations were considered key issues to improve treatment and outcomes.

The research found 85 and 52 proteins were specific to multisystem inflammatory syndrome and acute respiratory distress syndrome, respectively.

Both syndromes are major potential outcomes of severe COVID-19.

Data shows 1.7 per cent of reported paediatric hospitalised cases of COVID-19 included admission to the Intensive Care Unit, according to the researchers.

Children with COVID-19 who present with multisystem inflammatory syndrome also show similar clinical features to Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome such as fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, skin rash and conjunctivitis, making it difficult to quickly diagnose patients, they said.

"The results provided an understanding of the processes that underlie severe COVID-19 in children, which would help in the development of diagnostic tests for early identification of children at risk, as well as therapeutic targets to improve the outcomes for those with severe cases," said Professor Vera Ignjatovic from Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Australia.

"Knowing the mechanisms associated with severe COVID-19 in children and how the blood clotting and immune systems in children react to the virus will help diagnose and detect acute COVID-19 cases and allow us to develop targeted treatment," Ignjatovic added.

India's Services Sector Activities Touch 5-Month High In April



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Services sector activities improved further and touched a five-month high in April driven by a surge in incoming new work orders that boosted business activity and supported a renewed increase in employment, according to a survey.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Services PMI Business Activity Index jumped to 57.9 in April, from 53.6 in March, highlighting a sharp rate of expansion that was the fastest since last November amid mounting price pressures.

For the ninth straight month, the services sector witnessed an expansion in output.

In Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"In isolation, the PMI data for the services sector were mostly encouraging, as surging demand underpinned quicker increases in new business inflows and output," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global.

The Indian services sector growth continued to gain momentum amid a near-record upturn in input costs.

Selling prices rose at the fastest rate since July 2017 and inflation concerns continued to

dampen business confidence, the survey noted.

"Service providers reported having paid more for food, fuel and materials, with some mentions of higher wage costs also pushing up overall expenses.

The overall rate of inflation quickened to the second-highest in the survey history, leading companies to hike their selling prices to the greatest extent in close to five years," Lima added.

Survey members continued to suggest that the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions led to greater consumer footfall and a general improvement in demand.

Inflation concerns restricted business confidence in April.

Although still positive overall, the level of sentiment slipped from March and was much lower than its long-run average.

On the employment front, companies resumed their hiring efforts in April, as seen by the first increase in employment since last November.

Those firms that took on extra staff linked the rise to ongoing growth of new business, the survey said.

Lima further noted that "consumer Services and Finance & Insurance were the top-performing areas of the service economy, while Real Estate & Business Services was the only sub-sector to post contractions in sales and output.

Tata Motors Unveils Ace EV; Receives Orders For 39,000 Units

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Homegrown auto major Tata Motors on Thursday unveiled the electric version of its popular mini truck, Ace, as it continues the drive for electrification of its portfolio.

The company has also signed pacts with leading e-commerce players such as Amazon, BigBasket, City Link, DOT, Flipkart, LetsTransport, MoEving and Yelo EV, to supply the Ace EV and it has already received orders for 39,000 units.

The company will also look to build platforms in the e-cargo segment to build solutions to serve market requirements.

Speaking at the unveiling of the Ace EV here, Tata Group Chairman N Chandrasekaran said sustainable mobility is an imperative as well as a trend that is irreversible and it is a global mega trend.

"At the Tata Group, Tata Motors in particular, we have embraced this fully and made a business model that integrates sustainability as one of the key pillars. Whether it is in passenger cars, our commercial vehicles, or in general Jaguar Land Rover, we are committed to making this

transition and are accelerating it everyday," he said.

Stating that Tata Motors has



already made significant progress in its electrification journey, Chandrasekaran said, "We already have launched several models in the car segment and are leading this movement in the passenger cars.

"In the commercial vehicles we have successfully launched electric buses and we are seeing huge acceptance and pickup in that segment. Today marks the day where we are moving into e-cargo mobility..."

Stressing that the Ace mini truck has been a forerunner, a category creator and "a beacon of hope for many entrepreneurs and millions across India", Chandrasekaran said, "By introducing the Ace EV we are renewing our commitment to bring the benefits of electrification to all these entrepreneurs across the country."

J&K Emerging As Top Most Tourist Destination Across India: Govt

Record breaking tourist arrivals seen in last few months



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The record breaking arrival of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir is reflection of successful packaging of uniqueness of tourism destinations in perfect manner.

The significant increase in tourist arrival upsurge in the picturesque famous destination of the country is possible due to highlighting of diverse range of attractions- a concept launched by the tourism department under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The administration is also focusing on exploring the full potential of pilgrimage tourism by developing various religious tourist circuits across the union territory besides the J&K Tourist Village Network initiative to transform 75 villages in Jammu and Kashmir known for historical, scenic beauty, and cultural significance.

The initiatives not only are aimed to empower youth and women through direct and indirect employment opportunities but the youth-led sustainable tourism initiative aims to strengthen the sparsely populated economy and public entrepreneurship.

According to an official, these 75 offbeat locations will provide adventure seekers, trekkers, and international visitors with an experience of nature's wilderness while also creating a livelihood in the villages in the forest environment through home-stays, nature guides, trek operators, food stalls, and forest souvenirs.

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha recently said that Kashmir was witnessing a "golden period" on the Tourism front as 80 lakh tourists have visited the UT in the past few months alone, breaking all the records of past 20 years.

"Record number people are visiting Kashmir. This is a golden period on tourism front in the history of Kashmir and we should cash in on this period," the Lieutenant Governor said. "In the past few months, 80 lakh tourists have visited Kashmir, which is record number ever if compared to past 10 to 20 years. Flight operations too have broken all previous records. Today all hotels are booked in advance and people of other States of India are finding it difficult to get an air-ticket for Srinagar",

he added.

The Union government is enhancing the efforts of the J&K department of tourism with necessary resources and assistance. Liberal funding of a record budget allocation of Rs 786 crores which is Rs. 509 crores more than the previous budgetary allocation, speaks volumes about the Union government's eagerness to improve tourist industry infrastructure and related services in Jammu and Kashmir.

The UT administration has also taken several steps to ensure that air traffic to the Jammu and Srinagar airports grows unhindered in the future so that trade and tourism flourishes in J&K.

Pertinently, Ministry of Civil Aviation approved five Srinagar-Sharjah flights per week on a regular basis, officials said.

Similarly, more than 5,85,653 tourists have visited the Kashmir Valley between January and April 27, which is five times more than last year's figures of 1.26 lakh during the same period. The Jammu airport recently achieved a milestone by recording the highest ever footfall of 1.54 lakh passengers in March on 1,346 flights.

LIC IPO Fully Subscribed On Day 2; Offer Closes On May 9

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: LIC's public offer, the country's biggest-ever IPO, was fully subscribed on the second day of bidding on Thursday.

Against 16,20,78,067 shares on offer, 16,25,35,125 bids were received, making the public issue fully subscribed, as per data on stock exchanges as of 6.24 pm.

Of the total, the policyholders' portion was subscribed a little over three times, while that for employees was subscribed 2.14 times.

Qualified Institutional Buyer (QIB) and Non-Institutional Investor (NII) portion has received a tepid response so far. Non-institutional investors' segment was subscribed 46 per cent, while QIBs' portion was slightly lower at 40 per cent.

Retail individual investors picked up nearly 91 per cent of



the 6.9 crore shares set aside for this segment.

The initial public offering (IPO) will close on May 9.

The government aims to generate about Rs 21,000 crore by diluting its 3.5 per cent stake in the insurance behemoth.

LIC has fixed the price band at Rs 902-949 per equity share for the issue. The offer includes

a reservation for eligible employees and policyholders. The retail investors and eligible employees will get a discount of Rs 45 per equity share, while policyholders will get a discount of Rs 60 per share. The share sale is through an offer-for-sale (OFS) of up to 22.13 crore equity shares. The shares are likely to be listed on May 17.

RBI's Rate Hikes To Weigh Down On Banking System Credit Growth: India Ratings

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The surprise rate hike by the RBI signalling a reversal of the interest rate cycle will weigh down on the banking system's credit growth, which was showing signs of revival with an 11 per cent growth, a report said on Thursday.

The tailwinds supporting a pick-up in credit growth will be in demand from the industry and services segments, even as growth in the agriculture segment remains stable and muted in the retail segment, India Ratings and Research said.

Over the medium term, inflationary pressures, supply chain disruptions and a weak consumption demand could upset the current revival in credit growth, it added.

"the reversal of the interest rate cycle as signified by the 0.40 per cent increase in repo rate by the Reserve Bank of India would weigh down on the credit growth as borrowings become costlier," it said.

The agency added that it has received feedback from the companies rated by it, which points to a delay in capital expenditure plans as they await more clarity on the macroeconomic front.

It said that banking system credit growth offtake has shown a significant pick-up in the early part of FY23, with credit growth of 11.2 per cent as of April 8, 2022, compared to 5.3 per cent in the same period in 2021, it said, adding that this is the high-

est since July 2019.

The agency believes that while the second Covid wave had significantly impacted the credit outlook in 2021, the outlook reasonably normalised at the beginning of 2022.

In a report published in February, the agency had estimated that the system-wide credit growth will stand at 10 per cent for FY23.

The number was not revised in the latest update.

On Monday, it said the sectors which are likely to continue to perform well will include power, metals, cement, chemicals and textiles, while telecom, pharma, and commercial real estate will be under pressure.

In the near term, a continuing working capital demand from corporates, driven by high commodity prices and the beginning of a shift back to the banking system from the bond markets amid rising interest rates which would keep the credit growth drivers in place, the agency noted.

Retail loans continue to be the single-largest contributor to the incremental year-on-year growth, although the proportion declined to 42.7 per cent in February 2022 from 57.7 per cent in March 2021, it added.

The agency said half of the incremental retail loans since July 2021 are to the unsecured segment, which signifies lenders chasing wider profit margins.

However, it was quick to add that they are doing so with tighter credit filters after their experience in the pandemic.

Trout, Mushkbadji Processing Plants To Be Setup In Anantnag



Observer news Service

ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla Thursday held a detailed deliberation on implementation of One District One Product, FPOs and Kissan Bhagydari Prathamika campaign.

During the meeting, discussion was held on progress achieved, matters pertaining to inter departmental coordination and proposal for setting up of 3 new blocks for promotion of new FPOs.

Dr Singla took stock of the operational FPOs in the district. He emphasized that the concerned departments should identify areas for intervention aimed at reducing supply constraints and to focus on marketing and certification to expand the market for the produce. He said the vision behind setting up FPOs is to ensure maximum profit from value added to the produce accrues to the farmer.

Regarding Breng FPO operational in the district, the participants were informed by DDM Nabard that IGSSS is the CBBO for the FPO have completed a baseline survey. He said that 140 farmers have been registered with the FPO and trainings have been imparted to them.

He said that registration of the FPO with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs also stands completed. He said they have successfully broadcasted 300 kgs of potato seed among the farmers. He said that in one year the turnover has been Rs 12 lacs. Regular board meetings are being held and steps to increase membership were discussed.

Chief Agriculture Officer informed the chair that seeds for several exotic vegetables have been distributed and under the Parvaz scheme, modalities are being worked out for exporting the produce to foreign countries.

Dr Singla addressing the meeting said that marketing and certification are key parameters for value addition and maximizing the profits to farmers. He said that higher profitability will in turn attract more farmers. He laid stress on organic certification of the produce. He said the market or certified organic vegetables has high demand and this gap needs to be tapped.

Operational progress of Sha-

habad Honey Producers FPO was also discussed. DC highlighted that the FPO can leverage the first honey processing plant in Achabal for processing. He said that labelling and marketing of the produce should be prioritised. He also directed the CBBOs to arrange exposure visits to companies so that farmers can understand the nuances of processing and marketing their products.

Dr Singla held a detailed discussion regarding Mushkbadji FPO. He said that the market for Mushkbadji remains underutilized. He said that the farmers can carve a niche market by selling the trademark product online thus eliminating middlemen from the trade. A proposal to setup a processing plant was approved with the DC assuring of fulfilling any gap in funding. He said that the cost saved in transportation and processing will be accrued to the farmer's further boosting production.

Giving an overview regarding the Fish Trout FPO, representative from the CBBO said a farmer club is being formed in each village in Phalgama, Dachnipora, Khoveripora blocks. Further, marketing of the product has been started and 3 tons of trout are being shipped to Mumbai and Pune for sale.

Dr Singla said that a trout processing unit is being setup in the district. He said that farmer mobilization for Fisheries FPO should be expedited.

Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium was directed to identify blocks and employ CBBOs for 3 upcoming FPOs. DC Singla said that on fast track basis, a detailed baseline survey be conducted in the proposed blocks to identify marketable surplus and an action plan be prepared in consultation with Chief Agriculture Officer.

Deputy Registrar Cooperatives gave a brief overview of 53 co-operative societies functioning in the district. DC Singla directed DDM Nabard to identify such co-operative societies that can be converted to FPOs.

Regarding ODOF Dr Singla directed LDM to ensure hassle free processing of ODOF cases. Further, strict directions were passed that any cases from unrelated markets, if processed, shall be revisited and cases shall

SHORTS TAKES

SEBI Rejigs Secondary Market Advisory Panel

NEW DELHI: Sebi has restructured its committee on secondary market, which provides suggestions to the capital markets regulator on improving market safety, efficiency and transparency.

The 18-member advisory committee will now be chaired by G Mahalingam, former whole-time member of Sebi, latest information available on the website of the regulator showed.

Earlier, the panel had 17 members and was headed by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

Apart from Mahalingam, the panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of Sebi as members.

Other members of the panel include Zerodha's co-founder and chief executive officer (CEO) Nithin Kamath; Dhiraaj Relli, MD and CEO of HDFC Securities; Jaideep Hansraj MD at Kotak Securities; Naresh Yadav MD and CEO of SBICAP Securities; and Leo Puri Chairman, JP Morgan, South & Southeast Asia. (PTI)

Gold Rallies Rs 559; Silver Jumps Rs 1,179

NEW DELHI: Gold in the national capital on Thursday rallied by Rs 559 to Rs 51,081 per 10 grams reflecting gains in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal settled at Rs 50,522 per 10 grams.

Silver also jumped Rs 1,179 to Rs 63,427 per kg from Rs 62,248 per kg in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,893 per ounce and silver was flat at USD 22.95 per ounce.

"Gold prices traded firm with spot gold prices at COMEX trading 0.61 per cent up at USD 1,893 per ounce on Thursday. Gold prices rallied post the US FOMC meeting as dollar index retreated from five years highs," said Tapan Patel, Senior Analyst (Commodities), HDFC Securities. (PTI)

Rs 2 Lakh Penalty Imposed On Erring FBO Under FSSAI

ANANTNAG: The Addl. Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat who is also the Adjudicating Officer Thursday imposed a penalty of Rs 2 lakh on 14 Food Business Operators for violating different provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

During the trial of these cases, the ADC observed that there was prima facie evidence against the food business operators.

The ADC taking strong note of the cases, said that food operators, in complete violation of the norms and with no regard for public health and safety, compromised with food quality to satisfy their profit motive. He emphasized on the accused to desist from repeating such offences.

Further, the Food Safety Officer Anantnag was directed to repeat the procurement of samples from these offenders and from other food operators and to maintain strict vigil in this regard.

Dir Agri Inaugurates Workshop For 'Implementation Of Parvaz Scheme'

PULWAMA: The Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal Thursday inaugurated a daylong workshop for "implementation of Parvaz Scheme" at Chief Agriculture Office Complex Pulwama.

After inaugurating the event, addressing the participants of the workshop, the Director said that the Government has introduced the Parvaz scheme in Agriculture and allied sectors for the upliftment of grass roots level farmers.

He said this scheme tends to easily transport the perishable produce to domestic as well as international markets. It aims at covering a wider market for the produce harvested locally in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Director highlighted various aspects of the scheme and said that this scheme will boost employment opportunities for the locals for increasing the overall income and their living.

Iqbal said that this scheme tends to benefit the farmers by doubling their income thereby ensuring their economic and social welfare. Director said that the components of Parvaz Scheme will be immediately imposed to benefit and facilitate the vegetable growers of the valley.

Imd Warns Of Fresh Heatwave In Northwest, Central India From May 7

New Delhi: A fresh spell of heatwave is likely to begin over northwest India from May 7 and over central India from May 8, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday.

Heatwave conditions are predicted over Rajasthan on May 7 to May 9, and over south Haryana, Delhi, south-west Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha region of Maharashtra on May

8 and May 9, it said.

With scanty rains owing to feeble western disturbances, northwest and central India experienced the hottest April in 122 years with average maximum temperature touching 35.9 degrees Celsius and 37.78 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Several places in the country had logged their all-time high temperatures for April as the mercury leaped

to 46-47 degrees Celsius under the impact of the torrid heatwave at month-end. Amid the intense heatwave, India's peak power demand had reached an all-time high of 207.11 GW on Friday.

India saw its warmest March this year since the IMD began keeping records 122 years ago, amid a 71 per cent rain deficit.

A heatwave is declared when the maximum

temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A severe heatwave is declared if the departure from normal temperature is more than 6.4 notches, according to the IMD.

Based on absolute recorded temperatures, a heatwave is declared when an area logs a maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius.

Udhampur, Kathua, Ganderbal and Kupwara respectively, the order said.

Ankita Kar, IRAS, managing director, J&K Trade Promotion Organisation, is transferred and posted as additional commissioner, State Taxes (Tax Planning, Policy and Advance Ruling). She shall continue to hold the charge of the post of chief executive officer, Jammu-Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, in addition to her own duties, till further orders, the officials said.

Pradeep Kumar, JKAS, is transferred and posted as director of Archives, Archaeology and Museums; and Rachna Sharma, JKAS, is posted as secretary of the Social Welfare Department.

Similarly, Tariq Ahmad Zargar, JKAS, is transferred and posted as director of Handloom and Handicrafts, Kashmir; Nazir Ahmad Khwaja, JKAS, is transferred and posted as regional director of Survey and Land Records (ex officio settlement officer), Srinagar, against an available vacancy, the order stated.

Ashok Kumar, JKAS, is transferred and posted as mission director, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, it said.

Meanwhile, in a separate order issued on Thursday, the government transferred 14 JKAS officers in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to a government order, Khalid Majeed, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, School Education Department, has been transferred and posted as Director, Panchayati Raj and ex-officio Special Secretary to the Government, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, relieving Mohammad Mumtaz Ali, JKAS, Director, Rural Development, Jammu of the additional charge of the post.

Kanta Devi, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government School Education Department.

Mohammad Syed Khan, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, shall hold the charge of the post of Additional District Development Commissioner, Udhampur, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Puneet Sharma, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Kathua, has been transferred and posted as Director, Urban Local Bodies, Jammu, relieving Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, JKAS, Managing Director, J&K Housing Board of the additional charge of the post.

Atul Gupta, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, shall hold the charge of the post of Additional District Development Commissioner, Kathua, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Haris Ahmad Handoo, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, has been transferred and posted as Vice-Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Bandipore, against an available vacancy.

Syed Sajad Qadri, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Ganderbal, against an available vacancy.

Mohammad Anwar Bandy, JKAS, Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Reasi.

Irshad Ahmad, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Budgam, relieving Mohammad Ashraf Sheikh, JKAS, General Manager, DIC, Budgam of the additional charge of the post.

Renu Kumari, JKAS, Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Jammu, against an available vacancy.

Nissar Ahmad Malik, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Shopian, against an available vacancy.

Sushil Kumar Khajuria, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department.

Avleen Kour Bali, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Joint Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Rural Development, Jammu.

Sundeep Singh Bali, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Anantnag, against an available vacancy.

Kulbushan Khajuria, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Kathua, against an available

vacancy. (With PTI inputs)

Akshay Labroo

Director, Information, J&K.

He will relieve Rahul Pandey, IAS officer of UP 2014 batch of the additional charge of Director, Information, J&K.

Labroo, who was posted as the Mission Director, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT-2.0) is an alumnus of Ramjas College, University of Delhi.

Before that, he was posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate (West) Srinagar.

Nine Senior Police

transferred and posted as SSP Crime Kashmir.

Sudhanshu Verma, IPS (RR:2015), SP Sopore, has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Crime, Jammu against an available vacancy, reads the order.

Sandeep Gupta, IPS (RR:2015), SP Handwara, has been transferred and posted as SP (Tech) CID Hqrs.

Ms. Sheema Nabi Qasba, IPS (RR:2016), SP (Tech) CID Hqrs, has been transferred and posted as SP Handwara.

Tanushre, IPS (RR:2017), SP East Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as SP Shopian.

Imtiyaz Hussain Mir, Commandant IRP-8th Bn, has been transferred and posted as SSP CID Hqrs, against an available vacancy.

Shabir Nawab, Commandant IRP-21 st Battalion, has been transferred and posted as SP Sopore.

Amit Verma, Addl. SP Nowshera, has been transferred and posted as Addl. SP Anantnag, against an available vacancy.

Man Slapped

the District Magistrate of Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir approved a dossier against him filed by the police, they said.

He was subsequently detained and sent to the Kotbalwal jail in Jammu, they said.

According to sources, Ibrahim was found to be in touch with some suspect individuals in Kashmir Valley over phone.

They said Ibrahim was not directly involved in the attack on the SSB camp in 2017. He was in touch with those who attacked the camp. All the three attackers were arrested within days of the incident, besides him.

One SSB jawan was killed and another was injured in the attack. Ibrahim was released from jail a year ago, they said.

'Tremendous Improvement'

As a result of extraordinary synergy, security forces and other organisations of the government, the situation in the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir has seen a tremendous improvement and stabilisation since August 2019. There has been a considerable improvement in all the parameters of militancy and violence, General Officer Commanding in Chief (GoC-In-C), Northern Command, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi said in an interview to PTI here.

Giving further details about the ground situation in J and K, Lt Gen Dwivedi said the (militant) recruitment has declined by 31 percent -- from 192 in 2020 it has come down to 148 in 2021.

Militant-initiated incidents have gone down by 14 percent -- from 137 in 2020 to 119 in 2021. The agitational dynamics has also declined, he said.

As a result of synchronised intelligence network and support from the people, government forces have killed 180 militants in 2021, of which 18 were foreign elements, the Army commander said.

These slain militants belonged to Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Al-Badr and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) outfits, he said.

In the four months of 2022, 66 militants have been killed, including 17 foreign elements, Lt Gen Dwivedi said, adding efforts towards dismantling of the OGW network and exposing their machinations has resulted in the arrest of 495 OGWs in 2021 and 87 OGWs in the first four months of 2022.

A telling blow has been dealt to the militancy network in J-K, he said.

The Army commander maintained that all these successes are reflections of higher standards of professionalism and jointness in all the domains and dimensions of counter-militancy operations.

I see J&K regaining its past glory and sustaining the hard-earned peace through sacrifices of the security forces and awam (people), he said.

Lt Gen Dwivedi said the narrative in the Kashmir region has changed since August 2019.

And in this change, the civil administration, the security forces and the leaders in the society have all joined hands together. The intensity of operations will continue to be high till all of the residual 168 plus militants surrender or they are killed, he said.

The Centre had ended the special status of the Jammu and Kashmir state on August 5, 2019 and downgraded it to a union territory.

The Army commander said that the overall situation is progressively improving due to the proactive Rashtriya

Rifles-gridded deployment leading to a positive and conducive environment for accelerating the developing initiatives of the government.

Dividends of peace have started reaching the people and they are further getting motivated to preserve and sustain the peace, he said.

Youth Now Active

prosperous J&K," he added.

According to the spokesperson, the LG also observed that economic progress requires quality human resources and the government has taken various initiatives to make available a large pool of skilled manpower for the nation.

He said that the LG highlighted the impact of Youth Clubs in empowering the youth of J&K and said that such Clubs are not only deciding youngsters' career prospects but also shaping their personality so they can emerge as leaders in their chosen walks of life.

"It is pertinent to mention here that more than 74,771 youths from 20 districts have joined the Youth Clubs, which is playing a significant role in providing youth the opportunity to work through real challenges and make meaningful change," he added.

The spokesperson said that a total of 4,522 Youth Clubs have been constituted across 20 districts with maximum 9,000 youths enrolled in Poonch district.

"Young people in these clubs who volunteer regularly develop a civic identity, as leaders and change-makers, and therefore become more socially active. They also learn new social skills like collaboration and problem solving that are vital to succeed in academics, the workplace, and their personal lives. Thus, youth clubs are playing a pivotal role in creating lifelong change among youth and result in their overall personality development, which happens to be the core agenda of Mission Youth, which runs the Youth Clubs," he said.

The initiative of Youth Club, he said, was approved by the Governing Body of Mission Youth, headed by LG in its first meeting held on 17th June 2021.

He said that the youth volunteers of these youth clubs are being given training on all aspects of government schemes and will be part of emergency and crisis plans, and be involved in the planning and decision-making regarding volunteer-led activities to be done in Panchayats/wards.

"Mission Youth is focused on continuously encouraging, engaging and mobilizing young volunteers of J&K to support the government efforts for the socio-economic transformation of Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

The spokesperson further said that the members of these youth clubs are also intended to act as peer modulators and motivators, besides creating awareness and mobilization for various Mission Youth schemes.

"The youth clubs are also provided special incentives in the form of grant-in-aid to support their activities. Youth Engagement programs have been convened in all districts through these youth clubs and more than 2 lakh youth have been associated with the program," he added.

Magnitude 5

Richter scale occurred in J&K at 5.35 a.m. on Thursday.

"The epicentre of the earthquake was in Gorno-Badakshan area of Tajikistan. Its coordinates are latitude 37.49 degrees north and longitude 71.85 degrees east.

It occurred 108 km inside the earth's crust, an official of the disaster management authority said.

Cardiac Arrest Kills

hours on Monday, reports said. He was taken by his colleagues to the hospital for treatment.

However, after examination, the doctors declared him dead.

The deceased police officer was a resident of Qazigund in south Kashmir.

The body of the deceased officer was handed over to his family members after completing medico-legal formalities, a local news agency KDC reported, while saying that the reason behind his death was a cardiac arrest.

Jammu Logs 7 Covid

the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 454079.

Also, the officials said that five more people recovered from the infection during the last 24 hours in the Union Territory.

The officials further said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4751 people in J&K--2328 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported from the UT.

Army Major Falls

said that the injured officer was removed by the soldiers to a hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries at the medical facility.

A police officer also confirmed the death of the officer and said inquest proceedings under 174 CrPc have been initiated by the police.

"The body of the Army officer was handed over to his concerned unit after completing medico-legal formalities," the officer added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Panel Recommends

ex-officio members, has recommended that the legislative assembly of the union territory have at least two members, one of them a woman, from the Kashmiri migrant community.

They should be at par with nominated members of the Puducherry Assembly who have the right to vote, the Commission said in a statement.

The Commission, which was set up in March 2020 and entrusted with the work of delimiting assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the union territory on the basis of the 2011 Census, has also recommended to the government to consider giving displaced persons from Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir some representation in the assembly through nomination.

Besides, for the first time, nine seats have been proposed for Scheduled Tribes -- six in Jammu and three in the Valley -- following consultations with representatives of political parties, citizens, civil society groups.

The panel has redrawn the Anantnag parliamentary constituency in Kashmir by adding the Rajouri and Poonch assembly seats that fall in Jammu region. There are five parliamentary constituencies in the union territory with each having 18 assembly seats.

The names of some assembly seats have been changed keeping in view the demand of local representatives and public sentiment involved in the renaming, the statement said.

Tangmarg has been renamed Gulmarg, Zoonimar is Zadibal, Sonwar is now Lal Chowk, Padder is Padder-Nagseni, Kathua North is Jasrota, Kathua South is Kathua, Khour is Chhamb, Mahore is Gulabgarh and Darhal is Budhal.

"The Delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir had been a challenging task and the Commission visited the union territory twice during which it interacted with delegations as well as officials," the statement added.

"The peculiar geo-cultural landscape of the Union Territory presented unique issues arising due to factors like competing political aspirations of the geographically and culturally distinctive regions," the statement said.

During the public hearing, the Commission received several representations from Kashmiri migrants and displaced persons from Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir (PcJK). The Kashmiri migrants' delegations said before the Commission that they were persecuted and forced to live in exile as refugees in their own country for the last three decades.

It was urged that in order to preserve their political rights, seats may be reserved for them in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly as well as in Parliament. Displaced persons from PcJK also requested the Commission to reserve few seats for them in J&K Legislative Assembly, the statement said.

NC, PC Indulge

in the deliberations of the commission.

Redrawing the electoral map of Jammu and Kashmir, a three-member Delimitation Commission on Thursday earmarked 47 assembly seats for Kashmir division and 43 for Jammu in its final order submitted just a day before its two-year tenure was to end.

A gazette notification was issued after the panel, headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, signed the final order giving Jammu six additional seats and one more to Kashmir.

"We have seen the final recommendations of the Delimitation Commission. We are studying the implications of these recommendations for individual assembly constituencies.

"No amount of gerrymandering will change the ground reality which is that whenever elections are held the voter will punish the BJP & its proxies for what they have done to J&K over the last 4 years," the National Conference tweeted.

However, the People's Conference said the delimitation report is a repeat of the past and accused the NC of providing sanctity to the delimitation exercise.

"Same traditional entities are calling the shots behind the scenes. Kashmir

has been discriminated against as in the past. No change. Only the degree of disempowerment is greater," the party said in a statement posted on Twitter.

Over the last six decades, Kashmir's share of assembly seats in the J-K assembly increased from 43 to 47, while Jammu's share rose from 30 to 43. Who is responsible for systematic disempowerment of Kashmiris from 1947, it asked.

"Those who aided and abetted in the journey from Jammu's 30 to 37 are the ones who aided and abetted from 37 to 43.

"Wish Kashmiri parties had stayed away and not diluted the stigma associated with a people-less process. Hope Kashmiris will remember the parties who associated themselves with delimitation process which was in essential a tool for disempowerment will always be in wonderment. How could a party which associated itself with the delimitation process be so audacious. They actually had the nerve of submitting one memorandum in Kashmir and a separate memorandum in Jammu. Ironically the memorandums were contradictory," the People's Conference said

"The Jammu one seemed to have been copy-pasted from the Hindutva brigade, it added.

The party said it will go for an RTI and seek the video recordings of the meetings.

"How those who started beating their chests outside the meeting halls were bending their back backwards to appease and please the members of the delimitation commission. Financial scams indulged in - during the last few decades cannot be squared off by covertly facilitating disempowerment of the Kashmiris.

"How stupid we were. We couldn't see through the game plan. The raids. The EDs. It was all a game. A trade-off. They again bartered away the Kashmiris. The barterers are the same. When will this change," it said.

The party said it does not claim that the outcome of the exercise would have been any different if there was no participation of the National Conference. "But the process would not enjoy the sanctity that they enjoy now .

CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami said though the Delimitation Commission was constituted under the Delimitation Act of 2002, it has redrawn the constituencies of UT of J-K in accordance with the provisions of J-K Re-organisation Act 2019 which has been challenged in the Supreme Court.

"The Re-organisation Act modified the law of enfranchisement of J-K. Voting rights for the State Assembly which were restricted to only permanent residents have been extended to non-state subjects also. The exercise is bound to disempower the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the long run," he said.

Senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz said a cursory look at the report reveals some of its extremely negative sides, which can never be accepted by the people of the J-K.

"The Commission's recommendation of adding six Assembly seats to Jammu region and only one seat to Kashmir smacks of its pre-determined erroneous assessment of the situation. Many observers had already suspected that the Commission would play the nefarious game in tandem with the Union Govt!" Soz said.

He said the commission has totally failed to appreciate that a sizable number of people in Kashmir belong to social castes who carry the same stigma as STs and SCs.

Delimitation Panel

added or removed areas as per their wishes. We reject it, we have no faith in it," Mehbooba told reporters after attending a function in Anantnag.

The former chief minister said the commission was set up to disempower the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The delimitation commission is part of the design under which Article 370 was abrogated. The aim is to reduce the powers of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and weaken them. This is another way to disempower people," she added.

Replying to a question about PDP's participation in elections, Mehbooba said "What elections? There is no trace of the polls in sight. We don't know anything".

Report Politically

process and decision making thereby equitably empowering all the residents of J&K irrespective of caste, creed, religion and region, which forms the core of democracy, a party spokesperson said.

The senior BJP leader, he said, asserted that the report will provide justice to all and will help in shaping their destiny by being equal partners in governance and decision making. Eventually it will lead to strengthening the idea of Jammu and Kashmir and thereby the idea of India.

"We welcome the fair and impartial report of the Commission headed by Justice (Retd) Ranjana Prakash Desai about 43 assembly constituencies for the Jammu Division and 47 for the Kashmir Valley, which reflects the urges and aspirations of all the areas and sections of the people", Rana said while interacting with media at the side-lines of an event.

He said that political empowerment of all will lead to harmonious growth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the relevant provisions of the Constitution (Article 330 and Article 332) and sub-sections (6) and (7) of Section 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019, Rana said the Commission has very graciously and sagaciously reserved nine Assembly Constituencies for Scheduled Tribes for the first time apart from seven constituencies for the Scheduled Caste population.

"This is a landmark and path breaking initiative to empower the marginalized segments of the society," he added.

The Senior BJP leader lauded the Commission for taking cognizance of the popular demand of the people through their representatives about accepting the suggestions of changing the nomenclature of a few Assembly Constituencies.

He also welcomed the final report of the Commission on parliamentary constituencies, carving out one Lok Sabha constituency by combining the Anantnag and the Poonch/Rajouri areas of the Jammu region to ensure that each of the constituencies will have an equal number of 18 assembly constituencies.

Rana said the report of the Commission has enthused the people across Jammu and Kashmir, who see a prospect of equitable opportunities in decision making.

Cross-Border Tunnel

300 metres from the border outpost Chak Faquira and 700 metres from the last Indian village.

The detection of the tunnel comes nearly a fortnight after security forces gunned down two suicide bombers after they attacked a CISF bus and killed an assistant sub-inspector in the Sunjwan area of Jammu on April 22.

Inspector General of BSF Jammu Frontier, D K Boora lauded the devotion and dedication of the troops in detecting the tunnel and said this was the fifth one detected in less than one-and-half years.

"This shows the evil strategy of Pakistan establishment to create trouble in India," Boora told reporters here.

The BSF has launched a massive drive to detect any tunnel along the International Border following the April 22 encounter in the Sunjwan area of Jammu.

47 Bureaucrats,

and civil aviation commissioner.

Senior IAS officer Ashok Kumar Parmar has been posted as principal secretary of the Jal Shakti Department. M Raju and Rashmi Singh will be the new commissioner-secretary of the Mining Department and the sales tax commissioner, respectively, the order stated.

Navin Kumar Choudhary, a 1994-batch officer who was recently raided in connection with a case, has been posted as the principal secretary of the Health and Medical Education Department, it said.

Raghav Langer, Sushma Chauhan, Bhupinder Kumar, Rajesh Kumar and Anshul Garg are among those transferred.

IAS officers Avny Lavasa, Syed Sehrish Asgar, Kritika Jyotsna, Rahul Panday, Shymbir and Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer Khalid Jehangir have been posted as DCs of Jammu, Baramulla,

'Old Skool Gym' Inaugurated At Baramulla



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Old Skool Gym, a state-of-the-art fitness centre, was thrown open in Baramulla town on Thursday.

Spread over 2000 square feet, the gym is equipped with all high-end bodybuilding and cardio equipments for the fitness lovers of the town.

The old skool gym is owned by Faisal Farooq, an MBA pass-out and Bhat Anique, both residents of Baramulla.

The gym has come with the latest machinery like ab coaster, roving, treadmills, smith machine, butterfly, plain bench and other machines as well. The gym also has a spare space for martial arts and kick boxing lovers.

Housed in two floors of a building, the Old Skool Gym got a massive response on its inauguration. People from almost all the age groups attended the inauguration ceremony of the gym and encouraged the young owners for coming up with such a state-of-the-art facility in the town.

Faisal Farooq, a 27-year-old from Sher Bagh area of Baramulla town is into the field of bodybuilding and fitness for last more than a decade. With his experience and know-how about bodybuilding Faisal has earned a name and reputation in the bodybuilding scene.

"I was in 9th standard when I developed passion for body building. I stepped into this field almost 15 years ago," Faisal said.

In past Faisal has been a fitness trainer and has also participated in bodybuilding competitions as well.

"Opening my own gym as a facility for youth in town was my passion. With the support of my parents and friends particularly my co-owner I accomplished it," he said.

With the opening of Old Skool Gym, the town got its sixth new fitness centre in the last four years. At present there are around a dozen gym centres located within the radius of not more than four kilometres of the town.

YSS-CUP 2021

IBDL Cricket Tournament Begins At Kishtwar

DC urges youth to showcase talent in their favourite sports



Observer News Service

KISHTWAR: An Inter Block District Level Cricket tournament began on Thursday here at Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar organised by Sports Departments Kishtwar under YSS-Cup 2021.

The tournament was declared open by Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Sharma as the chief guest of the inaugural function.

As many as 12 teams, including 11 block level teams and one Municipal level team selected after holding inter Panchayat level matches, are participating in the IBDL tournament.

A huge gathering of cricket lovers, players and sports officials were present on the occasion.

In his inaugural address, the chief guest encouraged the youth of the district to showcase talent in their favourite sports. "The success begins when you step out of your comfort zone and give your best to achieve the target," he said.

The inaugural match was held under the supervision of I/c ZPEOs, conveners and well known officials of the department. Later, DC along with guest of honour Inderjeet Singh Parihar, SDM Chatroo, distributed certificates among players who participated in different events organised last year.

ers, players and sports officials were present on the occasion.

Discus Thrower Kamalpreet Kaur Fails Drugs Test

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Top Indian discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur has been provisionally suspended by the Athletics Integrity Unit after testing positive for a banned steroid.

Kaur faces the prospect of being banned for a maximum period of four years if she is found guilty.

"The AIU has provisionally suspended discus thrower Kamalpreet Kaur of India for the Presence/Use of a Prohibited Substance (Stanozolol), a breach of the @WorldAthletics Anti-Doping Rules," the governing body said in a tweet on Wednesday.

A provisional suspension is when an athlete or other person is suspended temporarily from participating in any competition or activity in athletics prior to a final decision at a hearing conducted under the World Athletics Anti doping rules or the integrity code of conduct.

The 26-year-old from Punjab has been issued a notice of allegation by AIU, an independent body set up by World Athletics.

It is not known where and when she was tested but Kaur is



in the registered testing pool of World Athletics.

Kaur's sudden improvement last year had raised a few eyebrows but she had earlier denied that she tested positive for any banned drug.

Kaur had finished sixth in the Tokyo Olympics last year. She had skipped the Federation Cup Senior Athletics Championships last month after aggravating her knee injury while winning gold at the Indian Grand Prix II in Thiruvananthapuram on March 23.

Kaur holds the national record of 65.06m which she had achieved last year

Annual ICC Rankings: Australia No. 1 In Tests, India Top T20, NZ No. 1 In ODIs

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India under new captain Rohit Sharma finished the 2021-22 season as the world's number one ranked T20 team after a string of impressive performances at home but were a good nine points behind Australia in the annual Test rankings released by ICC on Wednesday.

The 'Black Caps' from New Zealand finished the last season as the world No.1 ODI team with the cut-off date being May 4, 2022. The England versus India series that began in 2021, will be included in the rankings once the final postponed Test is completed.

"Australia have increased their lead over second-placed India from one to nine rating points while Pakistan have overtaken England to fifth position in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings following the annual update carried out today," the ICC release stated.

"India have also gained a point to move to 119 while England have had the biggest decrease of nine points as



their 4-1 series win over India in 2018 is now dropped from the rankings. England's 88 rating points is their lowest since 1995," the release added.

Australia, who beat England 4-0 in the Ashes in January, have moved from 119 to 128 rating points in the annual update that drops the 2018-19 season and reflects all series completed since May 2019.

Series completed prior to May 2021 are now weighted at 50 per cent and subsequent series at 100 per cent.

India remain on top in T20Is, extending their lead over second-placed England from one to five points. South Africa and Australia have overtaken New Zealand, who are now in sixth place. Similarly, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are now ahead of Afghanistan (10th). In the updated ODI rankings, New Zealand remain on top but their lead over England is reduced from three to one point. The gap between England and third-placed Australia has increased from seven to 17 points.

IPL: Gujarat Look To Seal IPL Play-Off Berth Against MI

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Table-toppers Gujarat Titans would look to plug the holes in their top-order and seal a place in the play-offs by returning to winning ways against an already out-of-contention Mumbai Indians in an Indian Premier League match here on Friday.

GT got a timely wake-up call in an eight-wicket loss to Punjab Kings in their last match, which snapped their five-game winning streak.

An inconsistent batting department, especially top-order has been GT's thorn in the flesh throughout the tournament so far and it's time the IPL newcomers fix the issue going into the business end of the league.

Despite the loss, GT are sitting pretty at the top of the 10-team standings with 16 points from 10 games and a win on Friday would make them the first team to cement their spot in the play-offs.

The likes of skipper Hardik Pandya, David Miller, Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan, who had produced stellar performances and played a key role in GT's success so far, have floundered against Punjab.

In Mohammed Shami, Lockie Ferguson, Alizzari Joseph and Rashid, Gujarat have one of the most lethal attacks in this year's IPL.

MI, on the other hand, are placed last and are already out



of the tournament after registering eight consecutive defeats.

But the Rohit Sharma-led side would heave a sigh of relief after finally registering their first win of the tournament, a five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals.

Suryakumar Yadav has been the star for MI in the batting department, which lacks cohesive effort.

Rohit and Ishan Kishan's terrible run at the top continued, while Kieron Pollard failed miserably to perform the role of a

finisher till now in the season.

On the bowling front too, MI looked nowhere near to his best.

Jasprit Bumrah has been economical upfront but has not been among wickets which has hurt the team most.

Daniel Sams and Riley Meredith have been patchy and barring Bumrah, MI doesn't have another quality bowler to rely upon.

But having returned to winning ways, MI would look to play party spoilers in their remaining games.

Actor Stephen Fry To Become The Next President Of MCC

Press Trust of India

LONDON: English actor and comedian, Stephen Fry was on Wednesday named as the next president of MCC, the custodians of the laws of cricket.

Current president Clare Connor made the announcement during their annual general meeting at Lord's, saying Fry would take charge on October 1.

"I am honoured and proud to be nominated as the next president of MCC," the 64-year-old Fry said in Marylebone Cricket Club website.

"It is a club that is known throughout the world for what it represents in the game and to be gifted the opportunity to perform this role is truly humbling," Fry is a lifelong cricket supporter, a patron of the MCC Foundation, and delivered the MCC Cowdrey Lecture last year — only the second non-cricketing personality to do so.

Fry is an English actor, screenwriter, author, playwright, journalist, poet, comedian, television presenter and film director.

He is also an advocate for mental health and has been president of Mind, the mental



health charity, for over a decade.

Fry has also worked with MCC previously to narrate a series of videos to help explain aspects of the Laws of Cricket for use on MCC's elearning platforms.

MCC president Clare Connor said: "I am thrilled to be able to announce Stephen as my successor. He has a deep love and care for cricket and will be a wonderful ambassador for MCC."

"The Cowdrey Lecture he delivered last year was inspiring and showed the extent to which he understands the challenges and opportunities that both MCC and cricket face."

He will bring a wealth of experience to the role and I hope he thoroughly enjoys his year."

Maradona's 'Hand of God' Shirt Sets Auction Record

Agencies

LONDON: The shirt worn by Diego Maradona when he scored the controversial "Hand of God" goal against England in the 1986 World Cup has sold for 7.1 million pounds (\$9.3 million), the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of sports memorabilia.

Auctioneer Sotheby's sold the shirt in an online auction that closed Wednesday. It did not identify the buyer.

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 greats first goal was ruled a header, but the ball had bounced off Maradona's fist, out of sight of the referee.

Maradona said afterwards 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.

Argentina won the game 2-1 and went on to win the World Cup.

After the game Maradona swapped shirts with England midfielder Steve Hodge, who loaned it long-term to England's National Football Museum in Manchester before putting it up for sale.



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 Sotheby's announced the coming sale last month, relatives of Maradona expressed doubt the blue No. 10 jersey was the shirt the soccer star had worn in the second half of the game, when he scored both goals. The auction house said the shirt's identity was confirmed by sports memorabilia photo-matching firm Resolution Photomatching and confirmed by Sotheby's chief science officer.

The previous record for sports memorabilia was \$8.8 million paid at a December 2019 auction for the manifesto that launched the modern Olympic movement. The previous record for a piece of sportswear was \$5.64 million for a Babe Ruth New York Yankees jersey in 2019.

The sale prices include an auction house charge known as the buyer's premium.

Rafael Nadal Returns From Injury With Win In Madrid Open

Agencies

MADRID: Rafael Nadal got off to a good start in his return from injury, defeating Miomir Kecmanovic in two sets to reach the third round at the Madrid Open on Wednesday.

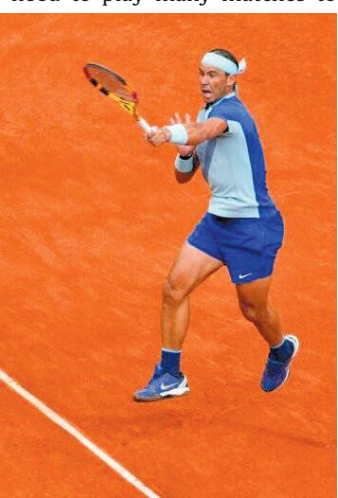
Nadal showed few signs of rustiness in his 6-1, 7-6 (4) opening win at home. He cruised in the first set and recovered in the second after twice losing his serve following a rain interruption.

The victory lasted nearly two hours, but it was fast enough to allow Nadal to watch Real Madrid's Champions League match later Wednesday night in the Spanish capital. Tournament organizers said Nadal asked to play in the afternoon so his match would not coincide with Madrid's semifinal game against Manchester City, which the hosts won 3-1 to advance to the final.

Nadal is a Madrid fan and on Saturday gave the ceremonial kickoff at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium before the team clinched the Spanish league title with a win against Espanyol.

The fourth-ranked Nadal had been out for nearly 45 days after a rib stress fracture halted his great start to the season, highlighted by winning his record 21st Grand Slam title with vic-

tory at the Australian Open. "Coming from injury I always need to play many matches to



regain my best form," Nadal said. "Winning is very important to give me confidence."

Nadal was cruising before getting injured in the semifinals in Indian Wells, where he lost the final to Taylor Fritz for his first defeat of the season. Nadal missed tournaments in Miami, Monte Carlo and Barcelona.

Nadal could face a quarterfinal against Spanish teenage sensation Carlos Alcaraz, and a semifinal against either top-ranked Novak Djokovic or former No. 1 Andy Murray. If he wins in Madrid, Nadal will move level with Djokovic on a record 37 titles in Masters 1000 tournaments.

Real Madrid Stun Man City To Reach Champions League Final

Agencies

MADRID: The "Si se puede! (Yes we can!)" chants gradually faded at the Santiago Bernabéu as the minutes passed and Real Madrid looked beaten.

As the end of regulation approached, many in the stands — and on the field — were close to giving up as Manchester City defended its 1-0 lead.

It seemed that there would be no magical night at the Bernabéu for the 13-time European champions this time.

But Madrid took its Champions League comebacks to another level on Wednesday, rallying late with two goals in two minutes by substitute Rodrygo to force extra time and defeat Manchester City 3-1 to reach the final — a showdown with Liverpool.

Karim Benzema, the hero of Madrid's previous comebacks this season, converted a penalty kick in extra time for the decisive goal that allowed Madrid to advance 6-5 on aggregate after a 4-3 first-leg semifinal loss in which it escaped losing by a bigger margin.

Madrid had already pulled off thrilling comebacks at the Bernabéu against Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16 and



Chelsea in the quarterfinals.

"I cannot say we are used to living this kind of life, but what happened tonight happened against Chelsea and also against Paris," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "If you have to say why, it is the history of this club that helps us to keep going when it seems that we are gone."

By doing it again against City, Madrid booked a spot in the May 28 final in Paris against Liverpool, which advanced after defeating Villarreal on Tuesday. Madrid defeated Liverpool in the 2018 final, when the Spanish powerhouse clinched its record-extending 13th title.

The result ended City's latest quest for its first Champions

League trophy. Pep Guardiola's team lost in the final last year to Chelsea.

"We were close but at the end we could not reach (the final)," Guardiola said.

Madrid looked defeated near the end of regulation before Rodrygo scored his goals two minutes apart. Riyad Mahrez had put City ahead in the 73rd but the Brazilian forward equalized in the 90th and got the go-ahead goal with a header a minute into stoppage time.

Madrid carried all the momentum into extra time and Benzema gave the hosts the 3-1 lead by converting a 95th-minute penalty kick after he was fouled inside the area.

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