

Four Local Militants Killed In Twin Encounters

Two Among Them Were Involved In TV Artists Killing: IGP

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have killed four Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants, two among them allegedly involved in shooting dead a TV artist, in separate encounters in Srinagar and Pulwama districts of the Valley.

Around 9:30pm Thursday, police, army's 55 RR and the personnel of CRPF 130 battalion launched a cordon and search operation in the Aghanzipora area of Awantipora on a specific input about the presence of militants in the village, a police spokesperson said Friday.

The search team, he said, came under heavy fire from the hiding militants when a cordon was being laid around a cluster of houses. He said the joint team returned the fire, setting off an encounter.

In the exchange of gunfire, the spokesperson said, two local militants of LeT were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter.

He identified them as Shahid Mushtaq Bhat of Hafroo Chadoora, Budgam and Farhan Habib of



File Photo

6 INCRIMINATING MATERIALS, HUGE CACHE of arms & ammunition was recovered from both the sites of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation."

Hakripora, Pulwama.

Meanwhile, two militants were killed in a separate encounter in Soura area of this capital city, the spokesperson said.

Giving further details, he said that Srinagar Police developed an input about movement of militants from South Kashmir to Srinagar City and tracked their presence in Soura area of the city.

"A special & small team of Srinagar Police launched a cordon and search operation in the said area," he said.

During the search, the spokesperson said, as the presence of militants was ascertained and search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired indiscriminately upon search party which retaliated leading to **| More on P10**

Militants Flee In Bandipora: Police

Militants managed to escape after a brief exchange of fire with government forces in North Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday, officials said. "After initial brief encounter during a cordon and search operation in Gundpora Rampora area of Bandipora, militants managed to escape from the spot," police said in a statement, adding, "However, our team is chasing them. Further details shall follow."

NEWS DIGEST

Hybrid Militant Held In Srinagar: Police

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a hybrid militant of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from Bemina area of this capital city. Acting on a tip-off about the movement of militants in the Bemina, a joint team of police, army and CRPF **| More on P10**

VC Kashmir University Calls On LG

Srinagar: Prof. Nilofar Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, called on the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here on Friday, an official spokesperson said. The newly-appointed VC, he said, briefed the LG about various **| More on P10**

Train Crushes Woman To Death

Srinagar: A middle-aged woman on Friday was crushed to death by a moving train in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. 55-year-old Fehmeeda Begum, wife of Bashir Ahmed, a resident of Wapora Panzath in Qazigund was mowed down by a train on Friday morning, reports said. The woman, as per reports, **| More on P10**

Two Killed After Tractor Overturns

Srinagar: Two people were killed on Friday after a tractor carrying them overturned in Pampore town of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Abdul Majeed Dar of Kruncho and Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir of Konibal were critically injured when their tractor turned turtle near Konibal on Friday morning, reports said. **| More on P10**

Covid: 7 New Cases In J&K

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported seven new Covid cases on Friday that took the infection tally to 4,54,227, officials said. Of the new cases, five were from Jammu district, while one each was registered in Srinagar and Udhampur districts, they said. There are 63 active cases while the overall recoveries have reached 4,49,412, **| More on P10**

Social Activist Held Over 'Blasphemous' Tweet

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday arrested social activist Waqar H Bhatti for allegedly hurting religious sentiments with his 'shivling' tweet which caused social media outrage.

Following his tweet, which was later deleted, netizens demanded his immediate arrest.

"FIR was registered following his tweet, which hurt religious sentiments," a senior police officer said. Bhatti was later arrested, he said.

Facing a backlash on social media, Bhatti had sought to clarify his tweet with another tweet saying, "I did not target any religion and why should I target when the matter is in court." A few days ago, Delhi University Associate Professor Ratan Lal was arrested for his alleged objectionable social media post on claims of a 'Shivling' at the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi. He was granted bail a day later. **| More on P10**

HYDERPORA 'ENCOUNTER'

Court Orders Exhumation Of Ramban Youth's Body

Basit Amin Makhdoomi

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Friday ordered that the body of a civilian, killed and passed off as a militant by government forces in the controversial Hyderpora encounter last year, be exhumed and handed over to the family for last rites.

The single bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar also directed the Union Territory administration to pay a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the deceased Amir Magrey's father, the petitioner, if the body has been decomposed or is likely to pose a risk to public health and hygiene during the burial.

On November 15 last year, police claimed to have killed a Pakistani militant and three of his associates in the Hyderpora area of the city here. However,

JKCA SCAM

ED Summons Dr Farooq To New Delhi



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Lok Sabha MP Farooq Abdullah on May 31 at its Srinagar office in connection with a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association,

officials said on Friday.

Abdullah (84), a three-time chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, had recorded his statement in the same case in 2019, they said.

Political parties in the valley said the summons were "common to all opposition" leaders in the country. **| More on P10**

CBI Summons Rubaiya Sayeed In 1989 Abduction Case

A special CBI court here has summoned Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, on July 15 in a case related to her kidnapping in 1989, officials said on Friday. This is the first time Rubaiya Sayeed has been asked to appear in the case relating to her abduction on December 8, 1989. She was freed from captivity five days later on December 13 **| More on P10**

Atmosphere Of Fear In J&K: Omar

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday said tourist arrivals in Jammu and Kashmir should not be linked with normalcy as there is an atmosphere of fear in which no one is certain about his future. He said the government should be asked how the situation has come to a point where militancy has made a comeback in areas declared militancy-free years ago. "Tourist arrivals to Kashmir should not be seen as a sign of normalcy. Tourists **| More on P10**

7 Soldiers Killed As Vehicle Falls Into River In Ladakh



Press Trust of India

Leh: Seven soldiers were killed and several others injured when a vehicle carrying them skidded off the road and fell into the Shyok river in Ladakh on Friday,

Army officials said.

The accident took place in the Tuktuk sector at around 9 am at a place which is around 25 kilometres from Thoise in the Nubra region of Leh district, they said.

A party of 26 **| More on P10**

PM Anguished Over Loss Of Soldiers

Prim Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed anguish over the road accident in Ladakh in which seven army personnel lost their lives and said all possible assistance is being given to those affected. Seven Army soldiers were killed and 19 others injured in the Tuktuk sector of Ladakh on Friday when the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road **| More on P10**

KP Employees Meet LG At Raj Bhavan

'Govt Will Do Everything Possible To Address Your Grievances'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that his administration will do everything possible to address the grievances of Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime Minister's special package.

Sinha made these remarks while interacting with a delegation of PM package employees at Raj Bhavan here on Friday, an official spokesperson said. The delegation, he said,

apprised the LG of their various issues and concerns and sought his intervention for their early redressal. He said that the LG gave a patient hearing to the members of the delegation and assured them that the issues projected by them would be looked into earnestly for their redressal on priority.

"The government will do everything possible to address your grievances," Sinha said.

Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration **| More on P10**

LG Flags Off Two Mobile Medical Units for J&K, Ladakh

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday flagged off two Mobile Medical Units for the twin Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. This Clinic on Wheels facility, sponsored by SBI Foundation in collaboration with Borderless World Foundation will cater to 26 villages with comprehensive healthcare services, an official spokesperson said.

Appreciating the initiative, he said, the LG acknowledged the key role of voluntary organizations and stakeholders in complementing government's efforts to strengthen healthcare services across J&K, particularly in rural and remote areas. Sinha, he said, also **| More on P10**

Govt Orders Transfer Of Two JKAS Officers

Dwivedi Given Addl Charge of H&ME Dept

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory administration on Friday ordered transfer of two Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers and assigned additional charge to Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department to Manoj Kumar Dwivedi and Mining Department to Amit Sharma.

According to a government order, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department.

Garbi Rashid, JKAS, Collector, Land **| More on P10**

Cell-Based Therapy Shows Promise Against Type-1 Diabetes

IANS

An islet cell transplant programme developed by a team of Canadian researchers is a safe, reliable and life-changing treatment for people with hard-to-control Type 1 diabetes. Islets are clusters of cells which produce insulin, a hormone that allows the body to control the flow of energy from food, storing the excess after meals and releasing it to allow the body to function between meals. In Type 1 diabetes, the immune system mistakenly destroys the cells within islets so patients have to take insulin by injection. Patients with hard-to-control or "brittle" diabetes face life-threatening low or high blood sugars and long-term complications. "We've shown very clearly that islet transplantation is an effective therapy for

patients with difficult-to-control Type 1 diabetes," said James Shapiro, Professor of surgery at the University of Alberta. "This long-term safety data gives us confidence that we are doing the right thing." "This data shows really strong proof that cell-based therapies can deliver a meaningful and transformative impact for people with diabetes," added Peter Senior, director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute at the varsity. "We are delivering something which all other treatments for diabetes don't deliver—there's a comfort, a predictability, a stability to blood sugar levels that don't exist with anything else." In the study published in The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, the researchers report on patient survival, graft survival, insulin independence and protection from life-threatening low blood sugars for 255 patients who have received a total of more than 700 infusions of islets at the University of Alberta Hospital between March 1999 and October 2019.



The results showed that 70 per cent of the grafts survived for a median time of nearly six years, 79 per cent of the transplant recipients were able to stop taking insulin after two or more islet infusions and a median time of 95 days following the first transplant. About 61 per cent were still insulin-independent a year later, 32 per cent at five years and eight per cent after 20 years, the researchers reported. While most patients had to resume taking insulin injections, the doses were usually much smaller than their original needs and their diabetes control was better. "Being completely free of insulin is not the main goal," said Shapiro. "It's a big bonus, obviously, but the biggest goal for the patient - when their life has been incapacitated by wild, inadequate control of blood sugar and dangerous lows and highs - is being able to stabilise. It is transformational."

Covid Infection May Induce Severe Bone Loss, Study Suggests



Press Trust Of India

Infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, can lead to severe bone loss during the acute and post-recovery phases of the disease, according to a study conducted in hamsters.

The findings, recently published in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Communications, provide insights into the possible long-term complications of Covid-19.

In addition to lung infection, complications of different organ systems in the long-term SARS-CoV-2 infection, or "long Covid," have been increasingly recognised in patients with disease, the researchers said.

However, the full spectrum of clinical manifestations, especially the influence of SARS-CoV-2 infection on bone metabolism, has yet to be fully understood, they said.

To study the effects of SARS-CoV-2 infection on bone metabolism, the researchers from the University of Hong Kong (HKUMed) infected Syrian hamsters with SARS-CoV-2.

They then collected their bone tissues after the infection and analysed them using three-dimensional microcomputerised tomography (CT) scans.

The study found that SARS-CoV-2 infection induced severe bone loss from 20 per cent to 50 per cent progressively in particular to the trabecular bone in the long bones and lumbar vertebrae.

This effect extended from the acute phase to the chronic phase of infection, according to the researchers.

The pathological osteopenia -- loss of minerals like calcium and phosphate by bones -- was found to be associated with the inflammatory activation of osteoclasts -- a kind of cell responsible for break down of the bone tissue.

The cytokine dysregulation or inability to control inflammation, induced by SARS-CoV-2, triggered an amplified pro-inflammatory cascade in the skeletal tissues to augment their breakdown.

The researchers said their team is the first in the world to report the effects of SARS-CoV-2 on bone metabolism using a well-established Syrian hamster model that closely mimics Covid-19 in humans.

The findings indicate that the pathological bone loss may be an important but neglected complication, which warrants more extensive investigations during the long-term follow-up of Covid-19 patients, they added.

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Jal Shakti Department Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 26 OF 2022-23 Dated: 26-05-2022

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	As per ANNEX-URE-I to this bid document.	500/-	02% of the estimated cost	90 days	As per ANNEX-URE-I to this bid document.

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

The tender inviting authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Baramulla.

The awarding authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM)

Critical Dates

i	Publish Date	26-05-2022 at 18.00hrs
ii	Document download/ sale start date	26-05-2022 at 18.00 hrs
iii	Bid submission start date	26-05-2022 from 18.00 hrs
iv	Bid submission end date	08-06-2022 upto 16.00 hrs
v	Date and time of bid opening	09-06-2022 at 10.00 hrs

- 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.
- The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla. Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table.
 - The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD/TR/e challan in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla.
- The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of TR/e-challan, Earnest money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as LI after opening of financial cover.
- The bid shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder withdraws his bid before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the same shall be considered to be in violation of bid security declaration and shall be dealt with accordingly and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website www.jktenders.gov.in.
- Queries by email if any should be made at kmphebla@gmail.com.

No. PHE/Bla/CC/ 1764-74

Date 26.05.2022

DIPK-2762/22

Sd/

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Department
PHE Division Baramulla

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 Perihaspura	Constt of RCC 8.0 lac glns capacity Regional S.R. Lavotery Block, Lab cum JE Quarer, Chowkidar Quarter cum chemical shed, 05 No sluice chambers, Approach road, R Wall/ Breast Wall and Chain Link Fencing for WSS Parihaspura under JJM [Part-2nd]	Baramulla	245.83	365 days	AAY
2	WSS Peripheral Perihaspura	Constt of Testing lab cum J.E Quarter, Chowkidar Quarter Cum Chemical Shed, Sluice Chambers, Chain Link Fencing, Lavotary Block and Development of Sump Premises for WSS Peripheral Perihaspura under JJM [part 2nd]		129.25	365 days	AAY
3	WSS Zamzampora	Retrofitting of W.S.Scheme Zamzampora by way of :- Laying and fitting of Main /Submain /Distribution System at various spots. Manufacturing/ providing and fixing of M.S Sheet metal safety boxes for controlling valves and Constt. of 0.05 lac gallons RCC Dome type S.R (for providing 100% FHTC) under JJM. Fresh to ENIT 07 of 04/2022		14.08	45 days	BEE/CEE/DEE

از نیابت مٹن با اجلاس ایکیو جیو جیو بیٹ درجہ اول
مضمون درخواست منجانب: محمد یاسین پیر منظور احمد جام ساکنہ کرکسو تحصیل مٹن ضلع اننت ناگ

بعض حصول :- RBA / SC/OBC سر تقیٹ

اشعار براد آگاہی پر خاص وعام۔

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بعض حصول RBA/SC/OBC سر تقیٹ دفتر بڈ میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ زیر کاروانی ہے پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کتبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	پیشہ	عمر	آبدانی
01	منظور احمد جام ولد غلام محمد جام	ملازم	42 سال	LPC
02	شبنم زین منظور احمد جام	گھریلو کام	40 سال	
03	دیبا منظور دختر منظور احمد جام	زیر تعلیم	17 سال	
04	محمد یاسین ولد منظور احمد جام	زیر تعلیم	14 سال	
05	عقیقہ منظور دختر منظور احمد جام	زیر تعلیم	06 سال	

اس طرح ساکن کا کتبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سر تقیٹ مذکورہ کو حاصل کرنے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ ایک ہفتہ کے دوران دفتر کی اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں۔ مدعیان گزر کرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریر الصدرا گیزیکو جیو جیو بیٹ درجہ اول) rna

From the office of Abid Rasool Advocate At District court Anantnag

In the case of: Ab gani shah , S/o sonaullah shah, Amir pora nambal Anantnag.

(caveator)

Vs
Public at large

(Non caveators)

I caveator is having apprehension that any person may file false and frivolous civil suit against me before any forum or court of law, i may be given opportunity of being heard before passing any order. ma

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No. ARTO/ BUDGAM/926

Dated: 27-05-2022

Sd/
Assistant Regional Transport officer
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ACB Raids Former SMC Commissioner's House

Agencies

Srinagar: After filing a disproportionate assets case against former Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Commissioner Showkat Ahmed, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday raided his residential house at Airport Avenue Link road in Humhama area of Srinagar outskirts.

Official sources said, ACB has charged the former top official with a disproportionate assets case. He allegedly acquired assets through ‘dubious, unlawful means and illicitly’ enriched himself.

Sources added that a formal case against the official vide number 21/2022 stands registered at police station ACB Srinagar while the anti-graft body yesterday acquired a search warrant of his house from the Anti-Corruption Court.

Sources said that the official in question has constructed two palatial houses in Jammu and one in Srinagar during his tenure as Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

An official speaking on anonymity said that preliminary searches so far have revealed that Showkat Ahmed has acquired movable and immovable assets to the tune of crores. ‘Further verification of additional assets is underway and the case is under investigation,’ he added. (KNT)

Anjuman Auqaf Terms Closure Of Jamia Masjid Unfortunate

Srinagar: Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid Friday termed the closure of historic grand Masjid as unfortunate.

“Once again today, authorities did not allow Friday prayers at the Jama Masjid Srinagar and locked it down, turning away men and women who had come to offer Friday prayers at the masjid, which is very unfortunate,” Anjuman Auqaf said in a statement.

It said that this morning the magistrate and police personnel came to Jama Masjid and informed the staff that no Friday prayers will be allowed today. “Later, the main gate of the grand masjid was locked by them,” the statement said.

“People, especially elders, women and youth from far and wide come to this historic mosque only to find the mosque repeatedly locked down by authorities. (KNO)

Srinagar Admin Launches Anti-Encroachment Drive Across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: District Administration Srinagar, launched a massive anti-encroachment drive on Thursday in all Tehsils of the District and retrieved over 50 Kanal of State land at prime locations worth crores of rupees.

The Revenue and Police Officers headed by respective Tehsildars of Srinagar District conducted an anti-encroachment drive in all 7 Tehsils of the district including South Srinagar, Khanyar, North Srinagar, Shalteng, Chanapora, Eidgah and Pantha Chowk.

Speaking about the anti-encroachment drive undertaken to preserve Government land, the DC Srinagar said anti-encroachment drives will continue in all the parts of the district to retrieve entire State and Kahchrai lands encroached by the land grabbers. He said



involvement in land encroachment will be dealt with sternly as per the law.

He sought cooperation of the general public in its action against encroachments and also warned of action under CrPC in matters of encroachment on State lands.

The DC also asked encroachers of State land to voluntarily relinquish the illegal possession else action as warranted under law shall be taken against them, besides retrieval of all such land will be taken by district administration.

Lauding the efforts of all the Tehsildars and

their teams, the DC asked them to continue the anti-encroachment drives in their respective jurisdictions with added zeal and dedication so that all State land is retrieved. He also asked them to activate their field staff for keeping proper check on each patch of Government land so that it is not encroached.

Meanwhile, the local people of these areas applauded the District Administration for removal of illegal possession on land and appealed for further action against all such encroachments.



KO PHOTO ABID BHAT

9 Year Old Girl Charred To Death In Overnight Blaze At Dal Lake

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: A nine year old girl was charred to death in an overnight blaze that turned the houseboat into ashes in Dal Lake.

Official sources said that a 9 year-old girl identified as Nadia Bashir, daughter of Late Bashir Ahmad Goswani was charred to death in an overnight fire incident at Ghat number 16 Dal Lake Srinagar.

Fire broke out from the Kareem Houseboat opposite Ghat number 16 Boulevard, causing extensive damage to the houseboat.

“The family members were inside the houseboat when the fire broke out”, said a family member.

“Nadia along with other family members were sleeping when the incident took place at around 12:30 a.m.”, " Nadia's parental aunt said.

“She did not wake up during the

incident and was charred alive as nobody bothered to save her” she added.

The other women along with her mother were seen wailing. “She was my only daughter. What will I do without her,” Nadia’s mother said.

Police has taken cognizance of the incident and said that the cause of fire is being ascertained

Meanwhile, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Syed Hanief Balkhi along with Vice Chairman LCMA, Bashir Ahmad Friday visited Aabi Karpora, Dalgate to take firsthand appraisal about the incident. The Officers also took on the spot assessment of the damages caused due to the devastating fire incident.

Interacting with the fire sufferers, the ADC expressed sympathies

with the affected families.

The administration sanctioned ex-gratia relief of 4 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased 8-year-old girl under SDRF. Essential assistance in the form of 15 blankets, 15 mattresses, 15-bed sheets and 3 kitchen sets and 3 tents, besides Rs 30,000 to all 3 affected families was also provided out of Red Cross as an interim relief.

Further, the DC also sanctioned structure-wise financial assistance of Rs 30,000 under SDRF in favor of the affected families separately under the District Red Cross fund.

Meanwhile, the District Administration has appealed to the public to follow all precautionary measures while handling electronic gadgets, LPG cylinders and other appliances being used for heating and cooking purposes to avoid such incidents.

India’s First CTIED Inaugurated At NIT Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: India’s first Centre for Technology Intervention for Elderly and Disabled (CTIED) was inaugurated at National Institute of Technology.

Addressing the members, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said it is a proud moment for the entire institution that it is taking lead in this noble initiative. It is a historic day and opportunity for our students to shape their future, he said.

Prof. Sehgal congratulated the CTIED team members for the noble idea and informed them that no such initiative has been taken by any of the technical institutes, or universities in the entire country.

“Differently-abled persons are part and parcel of the society and we should help them through innovations and technology. I believe this centre will bridge the gap between community and technology,” he said.

Prof. Sehgal also highlighted problems faced by the differently-abled persons and stated that technical innovations will lessen their problems and troubles. If this centre will succeed in its motive, that will be our biggest contribution to society, he said.

The Director NIT also suggested developing mechanisms in the institute for the multi-disciplinary projects covering various fields of engineering. He

urged CTIED members to encourage and motivate the students across various branches to work for technical innovation in this area.

Institute’s Registrar, Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari said that NIT Srinagar has already taken various initiatives for Differently-abled persons including the construction of ramps and other support systems.

“We are ready to empower and support these PwDs for the noble cause both morally and financially. They do not only need the society’s sympathy, but we need to empower them with innovation and technology,” he said.

The CTIED is headed by Chairman, Dr M. A. Bazaz while Dr Neeraj Gupta (EED), Dr. H. S. Pali (MED) and Dr. Ravi Bhushan (EED) are the coordinators of the centre.

Chairman of CTIED, Dr M. A. Bazaz apprised the members of the various technological innovations in tackling disability in the elderly and disabled in the country.

He also highlighted the goals and vision of the CTIED. Prof. Bazaz later expressed his gratitude to Director NIT Prof. Sehgal led the administration in establishing this innovative centre.

“This centre will work towards the development of innovative, assistive technology and services that are affordable and appropriate in terms of culture, gender, and age of the elderly,” he said.

DIAL-EMMA

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



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
26 Shawwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 41
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5:26
Magrib	7:37
ISHA	9: 15

This Day In History

- 640 - Severinus begins his reign as Catholic Pope (elected in 638)
- 1037 - Holy Roman Emperor Conrad II removes "Constitutio Feudis"
- 1156 - Battle at Brindisi: Norman-Sicilian King William beats Byzantine fleet under John Doukas and Alexios Bryennios
- 1349 - 60 Jews murdered in Breslau, Silesia
- 1358 - Daint-Leu at Oise begins French boer uprising
- 1431 - Joan of Arc is accused of relapsing into heresy by donning male clothing again, providing justification for her execution
- 1521 - Pope Leo X signs treaty with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V
- 1588 - Spanish Armada under the Duke of Medina-Sidonia departs Lisbon to invade England
- 1741 - Spain and Bavaria sign treaty
- 1863 - 1st black regiment (54 Mass) leaves Boston to fight in US Civil War
- 1871 - Paris communards revolt put down
- 1900 - Total solar eclipse occurs

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 Liaqat w/o Liaqat 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 nitte 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, 28 May, 2005)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of the General Manager, District Industries Centre. Srinagar

Phone No 0194-2427478

Public Notice

M/S Standard Work Shop IE Zainakote Srinagar is formally registered with this office under No.07/09/01730/PMT/SSI dated. 05.10.1982 for the activity of castings, textiles, machinery parts, gears, water gates, iron pipes and general fabrication of steel and other machinery part viz, gates, grills, roof trusses, water tanks, angle iron posts and poles, manhole covers, steel bridges and oil tankers as proprietorship concern of Ghulam Rasool Ahanger S/O Abdul Ahad Ahanger R/O Mujahid Manzil, Srinagar. The proprietor was expired on 19.04.2019 as per death certificate issued by Registrar Birth & Death vide registration No. 419 dated 15.05.2019. The legal heirs of the deceased have approached this office vide application dated. 27.11.2021 for change of constitution from late Ghulam Rasool Ahanger to two legal heirs namely Shabir Ahamd and Tariq Ahamd Ahanger sons of Late Ghulam Rasool Ahanger residents of Mujahid Manzil, Srinagar as family settlement deed executed on 15.01.2022 in the Court of law. f any person having any objection for the said change, he will contact to General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice

DIPK-2798/22

General Manager
District Industries Centre Srinagar.



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tele: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

RE-TENDER NOTICES

ITEM	E-NIT No	Advertised Cost of Work (In Rs.)	Class of Contract
The work "Electrical Stage Contract Works (2022-23) at IUST campus, Awantipora" published vide E-NIT No: IUST/EW/ELE/TEND/ES/03., dated: 29-04-2022 is hereby retendered as No Bidder Qualified for opening of Financial Bid".	No: IUST/EW/ELE/TEND/E S/03-A. Date:26/05/2022	30,00,000.00/=	"A"
The work "Shifting of 630KVA Substation along with Control Room and all allied material to the Receiving Station IUST." published vide E-NIT No: - IUST/EW/ELE/22/TEND/SS/01-A, dated: - 08-04-2022 is hereby retendered as No Bidder Qualified for opening of Financial Bid".	No: IUST/EW/ELE/TEND/S S/01-B. Date: 26/05/2022	12,56,000.00/=	"A"

Bid submission Start Date: 26-05-2022

Bid submission End Date: 06-06-2022 up to 6:00 pm

Date of Submission of DD (Hard Copy): 07-06-2022 upto 4:00 pm

Tender document can be downloaded from website: (<https://iktenders.gov.in>) Detailed Tender Notices are available on University website www.iust.ac.in. For further updates, kindly remain in touch with University website

DIPK-NB-1258/22

Executive Engineer, IUST

"West Has Declared War On Us": Russia Foreign Minister On Sanctions

Agenceis

Moscow: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday accused Western countries of waging a "total war" on Russia and its people and culture as Moscow pushes on with its military operation in Ukraine.

"The West has declared war on us, on the whole Russian world. The culture of cancelling Russia and everything connected with our country is already reaching the point of absurdity," Lavrov said at a ministry meeting.

He accused the West of banning Russian writers, composers and other cultural figures.

"It is safe to say that this situation will be with us for a

long time," he added.

According to Lavrov, Washington "and its satellites are doubling, tripling, quadrupling their efforts to contain our country".

He said they are "using the widest range of tools -- from unilateral economic sanctions to thoroughly false propaganda in the global media space".

"In many Western countries, everyday Russophobia has become of an unprecedented nature, and, to our great regret, is encouraged by government circles in a number of countries," Lavrov said.

Western capitals slapped Moscow with unprecedented sanctions after President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine on February 24.

Palestinian Probe Finds Al Jazeera Reporter "Murdered" By Israeli Forces



Agenceis

Ramallah: An Al Jazeera journalist shot dead in the occupied West Bank earlier this month was murdered by an Israeli soldier in a "war crime", the official Palestinian investigation concluded Thursday.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) and Al Jazeera have blamed Israeli forces for Shireen Abu Akleh's killing on the morning of May 11, when she was covering an Israeli army operation in Jenin camp in the north of the West Bank.

Israeli authorities have countered that Abu Akleh could have been killed by stray fire from a Palestinian gunman in the area or mistakenly by an Israeli soldier.

All "proven facts constitute the elements of the crime of murder... according to national laws, they are a war crime and a violation of international laws," said PA attorney general Akram Al-Khateeb, who presented the Palestinian investigation's findings.

The Palestinian-American journalist, who was wearing a vest marked "Press" and a helmet, was killed after being hit by a bullet just below her helmet.

The report said Abu Akleh was killed with a 5.56 millimetre armour piercing round fired from a Ruger Mini-14 rifle.

The report also said that bullet holes on a nearby tree indicated the "targeting of the upper parts of the body with the aim of killing."

"All of these facts: the type of projectile, the weapon, the distance, the fact that there were no obstructions to vision and that she was wearing a press jacket lead us to conclude that (Shireen) Abu Akleh was the target of a murder," Khateeb

concluded.

"The only source of fire was the Israeli occupation forces," he said.

Senior PA official Hussein al-Sheikh said a copy of the report had been sent to US authorities, while copies would also be given to Abu Akleh's family and Al Jazeera.

A CNN report published this week, disputed by Israel, also pointed to a deliberate killing, citing the impacts on the tree.

"The number of strike marks on the tree where Shireen was standing proves this wasn't a random shot, she was targeted," Chris Cobb-Smith, an explosive weapons expert, told the US news network.

Israeli authorities were quick to decry the Palestinian report's conclusions, with Defence Minister Benny Gantz saying the Israeli army would never target journalists.

"Any claim that the IDF intentionally harms journalists or uninvolved civilians, is a blatant lie," he said in a statement, referring to the Israeli Defence Forces.

"Despite the Israeli side reaching out repeatedly, the Palestinians refuse to cooperate, which raises the question (of) if they really want to reach the truth," he said.

Palestinian authorities had refused to hand the bullet over to Israeli authorities for further investigation, citing a lack of trust.

Gantz also hit out at CNN Thursday.

"Attempts to charge IDF soldiers with war crimes while promoting false assessments such as the one published by CNN, undermine the ability to achieve peace and stability in the region, while ultimately boosting terrorism," he said.

Iran Seizes 2 Greek Tankers In Persian Gulf, Tensions Spike



Agenceis

DUBAI: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard seized two Greek oil tankers on Friday in the Persian Gulf, just after Athens assisted the U.S. in seizing an Iranian oil tanker over alleged sanctions violations in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Guard's announcement comes as tensions remain high between Iran and the West over stalled negotiations regarding its rapidly advancing nuclear program. And while the Persian Gulf has seen a series of attacks since former President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in 2018, there has not been a major incident at sea in months.

The Guard issued a statement on its website, accusing the unnamed tankers of unspecified violations.

Greece's Foreign Ministry said it made a strong demarche to the Iranian ambassador in Athens over the "violent taking over of two Greek-flagged ships" in the Persian Gulf.

"These acts effectively amount to acts of piracy," a ministry statement said.

The ministry called for the immediate release of the vessels and their crews, and said these acts would have "particularly negative consequences" in bilateral relations and in Iran's relations with the European Union, of which Greece is a member.

The ministry's statement said that earlier Friday, an Iranian helicopter landed on the Greek-flagged Delta Poseidon in international waters some 22 nautical miles off the coast of Iran.

"Armed men then took the crew captive," it said, adding that two Greek nationals were among the crew.

"A similar incident has been reported on another Greek-flagged vessel, that was carrying seven Greek citizens, close to the coast of Iran," the ministry said.

A Greek official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the attack with a journalist, identified the second ship as the Prudent Warrior. Its owner, Polembros Shipping in Greece, earlier said the company was "cooperating with the authorities and making every possible effort to address the situation effectively."

Greek officials did not identify the nationalities of the other crew onboard the vessels.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters, said it appeared the two ships had come close to -- but not in -- Iranian territorial waters Friday before drifting off into Iranian waters. The ships also had turned off their tracking devices, another red flag, the official said. However, neither had issued a mayday or a call for help, the official said.

Iran had threatened to take "punitive action" earlier Friday over Athens being involved in the U.S. seizure of an Iranian oil tanker in Greek waters.

Iran's Nour News website, close to its security services, made the threat just as shipping news site Lloyd's List said it believed two Greek tankers had been seized in the Persian Gulf. Quoting anonymous industry sources, Lloyd's reported that the two ships had been boarded after Iranian military helicopters approached them on Friday afternoon. It said both tankers had just been loaded with Iraqi crude oil.

Pakistan's "Bitter Pill" Amid IMF Talks: Petrol At 179, Diesel At 174

Agenceis

Islamabad: The Pakistan government Thursday announced to increase the prices of petroleum products by ₹30 per litre, with the hike set to go into effect at midnight.

After the increase, the price of petrol will be at ₹179.85, diesel at ₹174.15, kerosene at ₹155.95 and light diesel at ₹148.41.

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail made the announcement at a press conference here, a day after the talks between the Pakistan government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Qatar failed to reach an agreement on an economic bailout and the IMF staff-level agreement for the revival of the USD 6 billion programme ended.

"New prices will be effective from midnight," Ismail said.

The IMF in a handout on Wednesday emphasised upon "urgency of concrete policy actions, including removing fuel



and energy subsidies".

Miftah said it has become indispensable to shift the fuel price burden on the masses as the IMF had refused to give "any relief" until the fuel subsidy was removed.

The previous Imran Khan government in February had capped the prices of petroleum products until June despite having an

agreement with the IMF to increase the prices. When his government was removed in April, the new government needed IMF support but it was in fix over the issue of hiking the prices.

However, after the final refusal by the fund to release any funds until the prices were revised upward, the government took the bitter pill.

Fake Call Centre Scamming US Nationals Busted In Mumbai; 3 Arrested

Agenceis

Thane: The Navi Mumbai police busted a fake call centre operating at a business park and arrested three persons involved in running the establishment, an official said on Friday.

Based on a complaint, officials of the crime branch's cyber cell raided the premises on Wednesday and arrested Harit Sudhama Prasad (32), Pravin Patil (41) and Ashish Shukla (30), assistant commissioner of police (Crime) Vinayak Vast said.

The trio allegedly illegally obtained confidential data of US citizens and called them

through VoIP, by posing as representatives of a renowned pharma company, he said.

The accused offered viagra and other drugs at concessional rates to the victims, obtained their credit card details and cheated them by not supplying the medicines, the official said.

An offence under sections 420 (cheating) of the IPC, Information Technology Act and Indian Telegraph Act has been registered against the accused with Vashi police station, he said, adding that laptops, hard disk and other gadgets were seized from the accused.

Morning Of Horror: How Texas Shooter Spent His Final Hours

Agenceis

Washington: The day after his 18th birthday, Salvador Ramos, a troubled teenager from small-town Texas, bought an assault rifle. A week later, he walked into a local elementary school, where he shot and killed 19 young children and two of their teachers.

Authorities are still trying to piece together what drove Ramos to commit America's worst school massacre in a decade, but here is what is known so far about the shooting:

How the shooter attacked

Described as a long-bullied youth with a history of self-harm, Ramos turned 18 on May 16 and bought an assault rifle the very next day.

He purchased 375 rounds of ammunition on May 18, and then a second rifle two days after that.

Ramos -- a school dropout with no criminal history -- messaged on social media Tuesday morning that he planned to attack his grandmother, Texas Governor Greg Abbott said.

Ramos shot his 66-year-old relative in the face. She survived and was airlifted in critical condition to a hospital in nearby San Antonio.

The shooter then messaged again to say he had followed through on his plan to attack his grandmother, and that an elementary school was his next target.

He drove a little over two miles (3.2 kilometers), crashing near Robb Elementary School, where more than 500 students in grades two to four -- aged around seven to 10 years old -- had just three days of class left before summer vacation.

He fired on bystanders at a funeral home, then climbed a fence, entered the school through a door that was apparently unlocked, and made his way to two adjoining classrooms.

"That's where the carnage began," said Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS).

How he was stopped

As a crowd grew near the school, police arrived on the scene.

Officers entered the school

minutes after the shooter, but were held back by gunfire and called for backup, according to Victor Escalon of DPS.

A tactical team that included US Border Patrol agents entered and killed the suspect "approximately an hour later," Escalon said.

In the interim, officers evacuated students and teachers from the school, and unsuccessfully tried to negotiate with the gunman, who held them back with rifle fire.

Texas police are facing scrutiny over the delay between the start of the attack and the death of the shooter.

When pressed by journalists on the law enforcement response -- and on contradictory accounts provided by officials -- Escalon said investigators were still conducting interviews and working to piece together what happened.

There were "numerous officers" involved, he said. "Once we interview all those officers, what they were thinking, what they did, why they did it... we'll have a better idea."

Who was the gunman?

Ramos had been living with his grandmother for two months, McCraw said. According to Texas Governor Greg Abbott, no psychological problems were known to local health departments.

A cousin, Mia, told The Washington Post Ramos "wasn't very much of a social person" after being bullied for a stutter.

But two graduating seniors at Uvalde High School -- both of whom said they knew the shooter -- painted a different picture.

"We went to school with him... We all knew of him," Jaime Cruz, 18, told AFP.

"I do vividly remember him being a bully in school. It wasn't just that he was getting bullied, he was also the bully," said Cruz.

"He was a bully. He was mean," agreed Ariana Diaz, 17.

Speaking to ABC News, Ramos's mother Adriana Reyes said her son could be aggressive when angry but was "not a monster" -- and that she was not aware he had been buying weapons.

"I had an uneasy feeling sometimes, like 'what are you up to?'," she said. "We all have a rage, that some people have it more than others."

NEWS MAKERS

Man Poses As NRI, Promises Marriage To 300 Women, Arrested: UP Police

Agenceis

Noida: A Nigerian national staying in Delhi has been arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police on the charge of cheating at least 300 women and duping them of crores of rupees on the pretext of marriage, officials said on Friday.

The accused befriended women through social media and matrimonial websites, where he introduced himself as a non-resident Indian (NRI) settled in Canada and a prospective groom, the officials said.

Garuba Galumje (38), who hails from Lagos in Nigeria, was staying in the Kishan Garh area of South Delhi and has been arrested by officials of the Cyber Crime police station in Noida, they said.

"The accused has been arrested in connection with a complaint from a woman who lives in Meerut district of UP. She claimed that she had registered herself on Jeevansathi website for marriage. A man approached her through the website and introduced himself as Indo-Canadian NRI Sanjay Singh," Inspector Reeta Yadav, in-charge of the Noida Cyber Crime police station, said.

"The man eventually gained her confidence and made emotional appeals as he tricked her into transferring 60 lakh in multiple instalments into his various bank accounts before she realised the fraud," Yadav told reporters.

When the matter was brought to the police, an investigation

was taken up and the culprit tracked down to be operating from Delhi and arrested, said the inspector, who led the cyber police team.

"During questioning, we came across multiple similar cases involving Garuba. There are over 300 women who he had targeted through various popular websites, and cheated them of crores. On social media and matrimonial websites, he used profile pictures of smart-looking men and not his own in order to dupe women," Yadav said.

According to the police, Garuba had first come to India in February 2019 on a six-month visa in connection with a business related to human hair and readymade garments.

Bahrain King Orders Change Of Title To 'His Greatest Majesty', Draws Online Ridicule

Agenceis

Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has ordered his royal title to be changed from "His Majesty" to "His Greatest Majesty," in a move that has drawn scorn and ridicule from social media users.

The Arab country's royal court reportedly sent a communiqué through the ministry of information to local news outlets on Wednesday, ordering them to use the new title in reports, as well as in official speeches and correspondence.

"Please adopt the following name for His Greatest Majesty, and amend the news received in your newspaper today: His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,



King of the Great Country, may God protect him," the notice read.

The order to change his royal designation has led to vicious backlash on social media, with a barrage of criticism and contempt from activists who see the move as smacking of self-aggrandizement.

Lalu Yadav's Supporters Come Riding Buffalo, Guards Ask Them To Leave

Agenceis

Patna: Stripped down to their waists and with their torsos painted in a dark shade of green, three supporters of Rashtriya Janata Dal, or RJD, chief Lalu Yadav today reached the home of his wife Rabri Devi to pay obeisance to their leader.

They shouted slogans against the Central Bureau of Investigation, or CBI, for recent raids. One of them came riding a buffalo.

The buffalo-rider's name is Natwarlal, which prompted laughter among the people gathered there, as it was also the name of a conman, who incidentally belonged to Siwan, a district adjacent to Lalu Yadav's ancestral Gopalganj.

One of the two companions of Natwarlal was Mithilesh Pandit, who said they came all the way from Mahua in Vaishali district, 45 km away. They said they considered Tejashwi Yadav their "pitaji" (father) while Lalu Yadav and Rabri Devi were "da-da-dadi" (grandparents).

They said the image of the lantern - RJD's election symbol - was indicative of their reverence while the slogans against the CBI expressed the anguish they felt over their leader's "harassment through fabricated corruption cases".

"Lalu-ji keeps talking to us over phone even when he is in Ranchi or Delhi. He wanted to see us. So here we are," one of them said.

Govt's Muscular Policy Worsening Situation In J&K: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said she is shocked that no one from the Jammu and Kashmir administration has visited the family of television artist Amreen Bhat, who was shot dead by militants in Budgam district on Wednesday.

"Visited Ambreen Bhat's family. Shocked to know that no one from LG admin has bothered to visit them. A sole breadwinner, she struggled to make ends meet. Hope the govt takes her circumstances into consideration and extends help (sic)," Mufti said in a tweet after her visit to Bhat's family in Chadoora.

She said the TikTok starlet was a martyr as she had lost her life for fending for her family.

"We believe that anyone who dies while looking for a livelihood is a martyr," Mufti said.

Asked about the police claim that the militants involved in the killing of Bhat were eliminated, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said, "It is weird that within 12 to 24 hours of a civilian killing, they claim that the perpetrators have



been killed. I cannot say anything more on it."

Mufti said while innocent people like Amreen Bhat, Kashmiri Pandit employee Rahul Bhat and civilian Shoaib Ganaie are getting killed day in and day out, the Centre is going hammer and tongs with its claims that normalcy has returned to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The situation has only worsened as the government is continuing with its muscular policy of oppression and suppression," she said.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief alleged that the BJP-led government at the Centre is looking at Jammu and Kashmir as a security and religious issue.

"They think this is a Muslim-majority place, if people are dying, let them. This will not help improve the situation," she said.

MoS Home Praises Kashmir's 'Unparalleled Beauty'

Says Govt Committed To Ensure All Citizens Should Have Access To Public Services

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Ajay Kumar Mishra said on Friday that Kashmir Valley is blessed with scenic landscapes and unparalleled beauty and his government is committed to ensure that all the citizens of the country should have access to public services.

Mishra made these remarks at the Govt Higher Secondary School Pahalgam on the conclusion of his two-day tour to the Valley, an official spokesperson said.

On this occasion, he said, the minister stated that Kashmir valley is blessed with scenic landscapes and unparalleled beauty.

"He said that the government is committed to ensure that all the citizens of the country should have access to public services. He said the constitution has empowered every citizen above 18 with the power to vote and it is the responsibility of people to make the best use of this right," he said.

"He said that witnessing the enthusiasm and skill of students, he is confident that the youth of UT of J&K are capable of competing at the global level and the government will ensure that they are given ample opportunities to make their mark globally," he added.

Mishra, as per the spokesperson said that under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, focus has been not only on achieving academic excellence but providing opportunities to youth in sports

so that they can demonstrate their talent at the global level.

The Minister, he said, exhorted the students to work hard with dedication and assured them that the government is committed to creating opportunities for them to excel.

"The MoS issued directions to DEPO Anantnag and SDM Pahalgam to ensure that separate toilet complexes are constructed both in GHSS Batkoot and GHSS Pahalgam," he said.

On the occasion, the spokesperson said, Mishra laid the e foundations for construction of slaughter house and town hall cum municipality office at Bijbehara and also inaugurated some projects completed by RDD Anantnag including footbridge at Wardbal Gujran Batkoot and a community sanitary complex at Batkoot. Earlier, he said, the MoS inaugurated 33/11 KV 6.3 MW Batkoot Receiving Station constructed under PMDP Rural at a cost of Rs 3.9 crore that will benefit more than 2000 households in 9 villages.

According to the spokesperson, Mishra also visited the Ayush Health Centre at Pahalgam and reviewed the existing facilities. He praised the medical staff for their hard work and assured all assistance to the centre.

"Later, a delegation from the Private Schools Association met the MoS to discuss issues regarding the functioning of schools in the district. They apprised the MoS regarding grievances of some schools," he added.

DGP Reviews Security Arrangements For Amarnath Yatra



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh Friday reviewed the security arrangements for this year's Amarnath Yatra and asked different agencies to maintain close coordination within their ranks and among themselves for conducting the pilgrimage peacefully.

The director general of police held a high-level meeting of officers from police, army and central armed paramilitary forces (CAPF) at the police headquarters.

The meeting was attended by ADG CRPF Daljit Singh Choudhary, Special DG CID J&K R R Swain, Commandant General Home Guard and Civil Defence J&K H K Lohia, ADGP Armed J&K SJM Gillani and ADGP Traffic J&K T Namgyal.

The Jammu-based officers attended the meeting via video conferencing, a police spokesman said.

"The meeting deliberated

on different issues of security of camps, communication network, regulation of traffic management on national highway and other roads, parking of vehicles and deployment of forces on both the yatra routes of Pahalgam and Baltal, etc," the spokesman said.

He said it was decided to deploy sufficient manpower in advance so that the camps and routes of yatra are secured and checked at the earliest.

It was also decided that rescue teams be deployed by the police forces at various places to provide necessary help to the yatis.

The DGP asked the officers present in the meeting to maintain a close coordination with their ranks and other security agencies to achieve better results and called for an effective mechanism and planning for smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra.

He emphasised upon officers for special focus on sensitive locations and base camps while putting in place the security ar-

rangements.

Singh said the coordination mechanisms and communication systems must be established among the counterparts of all the stakeholders of army, CAPFs, Police and Civil administration.

He said that adequate and effective deployments should be made on ground to address any vulnerability.

He directed the officers to revisit security plans and fine tune these at sectoral level to augment an adequate response to any exigency.

Singh also emphasised putting focus on road opening parties, lateral deployment, law and order deployment to neutralise threats and meet challenges.

The DGP said adequate logistics with regard to mobility, CCTVs and other security gadgets will be made available along with sufficient manpower. He said adequate arrangements with regard to disaster management be made to tackle any natural calamity.

RIVERBED MINING CASE

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: The principal bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday issued a one month notice to the J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and NKC Projects Private Limited in an alleged illegal grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) for riverbed Mining case.

While hearing a petition, a division bench of NGT including Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel (Chairperson NGT) and Professor A. Senthil Vel (Expert member) noted that the division bench has found it necessary to seek a response from the PP[Project Proponent, who is the contractor in this case] and SEIAA, J&K within one month."

"List for further consideration on 02.08.2022. A copy of this order be forwarded to the PP and EIAA, J&K by email for compliance. The appellant may serve a set of papers on the PP and SEIAA, J&K and file an affidavit of service within one month."

A petition was filed by promi-

nent environmental activist, Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat challenging the environmental clearance (EC) issued for the riverbed mining in Central Kashmir's Budgam district. The prayer was to quash and set aside the EC granted for the mining.

"This appeal has been preferred against grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) for minor mineral block No. 4, Panzan Bridge to Trumbi Bagh (Lalgam), Downstream Shaliganga Nallah, Village Lalgam, Tehsil Chadoora District Budgam, JK UT (resized area - 2.90 ha.), under proposal No. SIA/JK/MIN/255737/2022 & SIA/JK/MIN/233732/2021, vide order dated 19.04.2022 by J&K SEIAA, in favor of Respondent No.4, M/s NKC Project Pvt. Ltd Gurugram."

The NGT bench has noted. Pertinently, main objection of the Dr. Bhat claimed that the impugned EC was in violation of Rule 4(iv) of Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession which states that the Licensee of a unit/plant/crusher should maintain all records of the minor minerals procured, processed and supplied to fur-

ther destinations and submit monthly returns.

Besides claiming a violation of Rule 4, Bhat had also objected to the riverbed mining work alleging that there was a violation of Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016 which prohibits mining within 25 meters from embankment. Mining site

Talking to Kashmir Observer, Dr. Raja Muzaffar says that the riverbed is already over-exploited and not fit for a mining zone. It will result in disruption of flow and will subsequently impact Hokersar wetland.

"No District Survey Report has been prepared, as per the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016. They're using JCB for mining despite clear instructions for not using a JCB in these riverbeds. Above all, no replenishment study has been conducted as per Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020," says Dr. Bhat while expressing his anguish over the flawed tenders issued for riverbed minings.

LG Chairs 177th Managing Committee Meeting Of IRCS, J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday chaired the 177th Managing Committee meeting of J&K Chapter of Indian Red Cross Society.

The high level meeting of the office bearers and members of IRCS was convened at Raj Bhavan.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor, who is the President of the organization reviewed the activities and programs conducted by IRCS-JK across the UT in last two years and the tasks performed by the volunteers and the staff of the organization.

The meeting decided to incorporate new social welfare activities and training programs in the yearly calendar of Red Cross Society.

The Lt Governor directed for constituting a committee under the chairmanship of Vivek Bharradwaj, Financial Commissioner, (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department for examining various issues presented during the meeting as agenda items.

Directions were also issued for instituting functional units of IRCS across all Districts of the UT, besides revamping the functioning of regional and UT level headquarters.

The Lt Governor directed General Secretary, IRCS to bring out an Annual Calendar for the

training of UT and District level Disaster Response Teams and stock sufficient quantity of relief material such as tents, blankets, first aid kits at appropriate locations where these could be used immediately and managed efficiently, during any emergent situation.

He stressed on connecting maximum volunteers by organizing outreach programs on priority. The Lt Governor directed the UT-level committee for submitting the future action plan of the organization within 15 days.

He further urged Red Cross to collaborate with other government agencies for implementation of various schemes at grass root levels. Deputy Commissioners were directed for actively organizing and supporting the activities of Red Cross Society in their respective districts.

Earlier, Kifayat Hussain Rizvi, General Secretary, IRCS-JK gave a brief on the achievements, activities and programs of IRCS-JK including Covid-19 response, Immunization programmes, Blood Donation camps, Ambulance services, First-Aid training and Awareness camps.

Dinesh Gupta, Member Managing Committee IRCS-JK apprised the meeting on various core issues and need for revitalizing the organization at the District level.

No Need To Panic Over Monkeypox Virus: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: With monkeypox cases reported in more than 20 countries, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday said there is no need to panic over the virus as it does not spread easily between humans.

"The virus spreads through close skin to skin contact and the risk of spread to the general population is very low," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

Dr Hassan said monkeypox is not Covid. The virus doesn't spread easily through the air because it requires close contact with an infected person. And the virus is unlikely to become a pandemic like Covid-19.

He said monkeypox is by no means new. The first human case was detected in 1970 and since then most monkeypox cases have been found in central and south Africa where the disease is endemic.

Cases outside Africa have been linked to travel history or imported animals from the endemic area. However, in the current outbreak there are cases who have no history of travel.

The DAK President said monkeypox is a mild illness and most cases recover on their own

without treatment.

"The virus is closely related to smallpox. Evidence suggests that the smallpox vaccine can help prevent monkeypox infection and decrease the severity of symptoms. Since smallpox has been officially eradicated, routine smallpox vaccination for general population has been stopped in 1980. Older people who were vaccinated against smallpox decades before will still have some protection against monkeypox," he said.

"Symptoms of monkeypox disease begin with fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes and feeling tired. This is followed by a rash that forms blisters and crusts over. The bumpy rash characteristically first appear on the face and spread to other parts of the body including genitals," said Dr Nisar.

"The time from exposure to onset of symptoms is usually 7 to 10 days. The duration of symptoms is typically 2 to 4 weeks," he said.

"While no suspected case of the disease has been detected in Kashmir so far, the valley being the most favorite international tourist destination, we need to be vigilant especially for those travelling from countries which have reported cases of monkeypox," he said.

Filmmakers Make Comeback In Enchanting Places Of J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Filmmakers are making a beeline for shootings in the scenic splendor of locales of Jammu and Kashmir especially after recent launch of maiden Film Policy by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, which has incentivized film shootings in the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said Friday.

In January 2021, he said, Bollywood's big banners arrived in Kashmir giving a major shot in the arm to tourism sector which was facing huge losses.

The visiting Bollywood team was comprised of a 24 member Bollywood delegation including members of the Ajay Devgn Films, the Sanjay Dutt Productions, the Reliance Entertainment, the Rohit Shetty Films, the Zee Studios, the Adhikari Brothers and SAB (Marathi), the Endemol, Director Raj Kumar Hirani and the Excel Entertainment besides several representatives from the Producers Guild, Mumbai.

"Top production houses have visited various locations in the Union Territory having the charming natural beauty and potential of shooting variety of subjects. Kashmir has been receiving good response from film makers since the opening of

tourism here in addition to the regional entertainment houses for shooting song sequences and commercial advertisements," Director, Tourism, Kashmir, an official said.

Bollywood directors have chosen Kashmir as the filming ground for many of their movies due to its picturesque landscapes. The shooting of many popular movies like Highway, Phantom, Fitoor, Bajrangi Bhैया, Raazi, Haider, 3 Idiots and more happened in Kashmir.

"We will bring Kashmir back to the film industry the way it was in 1960s," said film Producer Siddharth Roy Kapur on his recent visit to Kashmir, during the Gulmarg Winter Festival 2021. The three day festival which commenced on February 6, 2021, saw the presence of Bollywood celebrities like Siddharth Roy Kapur, Vidya Balan, Neelam Kothari and Arbaaz Khan.

Bollywood actor Neelam Kothari asserted that she will encourage her colleagues, producers and directors of the industry to shoot their films in Kashmir valley especially in picturesque Gulmarg.

"Kashmir is very near to my heart as my first picture 'Jawaani' was shot in beautiful locations of Srinagar, Gulmarg

and Pahalgam", the gorgeous actress asserted on the side lines of "Gulmarg Winter Festival" organized by the Army to celebrate 75th year of Indian Independence "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahatsav".

She said the Bollywood film industry can shoot their films in the beautiful locations of Kashmir very happily and comfortably as there is no fear or threat and the atmosphere has entirely changed.

Recently, Sara Ali Khan, daughter of actor Saif Ali Khan visited the Valley twice in the last nine months, her January trip being the latest. Sara has been posting her videos and pictures about Kashmir all over social media.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, at the launch of the Union Territory's Film Policy, had said 'It has been worked out to facilitate overall growth of film industry in the region including setting up of a film development council and revival of closed cinema halls'.

The policy, launched at a star studded event in presence of actor Aamir Khan and filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani, aims at establishing Jammu and Kashmir as the first choice for film shooting destination for the filmmakers.

Actor Aamir Khan has called the Jammu & Kashmir's Film Pol-

icy-2021 a "moment of happiness" for the entire film industry.

"I want to congratulate Manoj Sinha and am also thankful to him for this Film Policy. It is a moment of happiness for the film industry and we will get several facilities and it will make shooting films here easy. I wish the whole team all the very best," Khan said.

The 56 year old actor also thanked the people of the valley for showering them with love.

Tollywood film makers are equally enthusiastic to shoot in Kashmir and capture the breathtaking landscapes in their movies. Film makers Kannada superstar Puneeth Rajkumar shot for the film James in February 2021. South film actress Priyamani's team also shot last month in remote areas of Doodhpathri with new entrants Kiara and Sonal.

Another Kannada actor Rakshit Swshetty shot for film 777 Charlie in November 2020. Also, Malayalam film Janeman was shot at various locations in Kashmir. Besides, renowned Telugu film star Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas and Nabha Natesh shot for a film in January 2021.

"The shooting experience for James with Puneeth Rajkumar has been exhilarating and we enjoyed shooting in Kashmir,"

Chethan Kumar, director of the film James was quoted in media.

Top cinematographer and filmmaker, Ravi Varman, who had shot in Kashmir for the film Kaattru Veliyidai has said, "Kashmir is one of the most beautiful places in our country. Kashmiris are very friendly and they are like south Indians a lot."

South film actor and comedian known for his comic expressions, Ali Basha, who was recently shooting for a Telugu song in Kashmir said: "The south film industry should make a comeback to the enchanting valley for the shootings."

According to officials, the new Film Policy has been worked out to promote overall growth of film industry in the union territory, setting up of Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council and providing hands on access to website for talent pool and all shooting destinations.

It will also facilitate the development of shooting locales, infrastructure for film screening, revival of closed cinema halls, upgrading existing cinema halls, encouraging setting up of multiplexes, destination marketing, organizing the J&K film festival, and restoration and preservation of films from the region, they added.

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Twitter Talks



“The relentless questioning of #NikhataZareen about her shorts is truly nauseating. Woman just won gold at a world boxing championship and liberals are obsessed with something completely unrelated to her feat. No self-awareness over just how problematic this line of questioning is”

@khanthefatima

“Eventually, a win in gambling becomes a magnum opus in Kashmir journalism. Haraam becomes Halaal, gambler becomes inspiration. Overnight millionaire, being an eyesore till yesterday, turns everyone's favorite”

@Umar_Khalid

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Roots of Pay Crisis

State employees have raised the stakes in their attrition with the government to a perilous level in threatening an indefinite lock-out should their demands on the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission report and other issues not be conceded. Even as we go to press, government functioning in the state has been paralyzed by a two-day strike, with a secretariat gherao planned for Wednesday. Employee unions are in no mood to give the government more time, dismayed as they are by the recent cabinet meeting sidelining the issue totally.

Commentators have, perhaps with good reason, described the unfolding scenario as a grave crisis in the making, and indeed, the situation does show the signs of a showdown. The recently inducted National Conference-led coalition in Jammu and Kashmir would have been wishing for this particular hornet's nest not to be stirred, but couldn't have been unaware of the restive ranks of the employees who have been pursuing this issue aggressively for some time. The pay panel's recommendations have come as an additional boost to the agitation-prone employee unions who say that many of their genuine grievances have been left unaddressed for too long. What they decide on Wednesday during the secretariat gherao will determine what the Omar Abdullah government will have to face.

In any case, the state dispensation is confronted with its first major challenge where its avowedly good intentions clash with the reality of a serious resource crunch.

The state finance minister, Abdul Rahim Rathar, has already outlined the huge financial implications of implementing the 6th Pay Commission report, and tacitly admitted the state's limitations by stressing that the issue would have to be taken up with the center.

Remarkably, the demands about the Commission's recommendations took center stage when the agitation over the Shrine Board land transfer had taken on a much broader dimension. The governor, then ruling the state, himself gave audience to employees' delegations, notably to a hastily cobbled group of KAS officers who had actively begun to champion the cause.

These senior officers could not have been unaware of the shaky state of government finances and the protracted top-level wrangling it would take to make the center cough up the thousands of crores of rupees needed to meet the liability. The employees have been on the agitation path on a number of diverse issues, but the pay commission report has given their stir a cutting edge, turning the government-employee tussle into an affair of keen public interest. Bent on giving the government no further quarter by threatening an indefinite strike, attention is bound to be focused on developments concerning an estimated four-an-a-half lakh individuals. If carried out, the threat has wider ramifications, involve as it does the society in general which is heavily dependent on government functioning.

If the National Conference-led coalition government finds itself painted into a corner because of an indefinite pen-down strike by employees, the party has partly to answer to itself with respect to the weak state economy. The National Conference has been in power for long decades, and its sins of omission and commission have a direct bearing on the present state of affairs. It cannot absolve itself of responsibility of having giving the state no direction in the economic and social spheres to meet the demands of coming years. The state cannot even generate finances to meet its own salary bills, and has been kept dependent on outside injections in more ways than one. Right from the everyday necessities of life, including the food front where Jammu and Kashmir should have been self-sufficient, the state has to rely on imports, and can be brought to its knees in a matter of days as evidenced in the economic blockade by communal fanatics in the Jammu region.

The connection between salary issues and the self-sufficiency of the state is not far-fetched, as Kashmir's vulnerability comes to the fore every time the Srinagar-Jammu highway gets blocked for a matter of days. It bears repeating that the National Conference, which has been in power at what could have been a defining stage in Kashmir's development, has failed abysmally in providing the leadership and vision required to put a people on the path of sustainable progress. What has been cultivated instead is a pervasive cult of consumerism and ostentation under which even the last remnants of producers, the peasantry and the farming community, are selling off their land to finance bribes for government jobs for their younger generation. The National Conference had lost no time in granting land to the tiller, but failed to give a sound agrarian philosophy that would have sustained the state as agriculture does states like the Punjab.

The credit for the state's perennial begging bowl image, even for employees' salaries, goes fair and square to the National Conference which has been content with flowing with the drift, and seldom lifted up a hand to address the state's decline.

The article is an editorial from KO's archives and was originally published on June 12,2010

Between Culture and Fad

Amir Suhail Wani

The past few years have witnessed a surge in cultural shows, musical fests and other allied activities carried under the impression of revival of culture and heritage. From schools to universities and from auditoriums to open fields, traditional forms of folk, eatery, clothes and utensils are displayed and promoted with the idea of cultural revival and reinforcing people's interest and attachment to the same. At times, we have been virtually lead to the precipice, where it seemed as if our culture, with all its attendant constituents is going to make a comeback and often reared the nascent dream of putting on traditional serape, leaning against mud wall and sipping Saffroni Kehwa in potter cups. Many elite restaurants actually sell this fantasy, where a separate space is designated to cultural and "primitive" ambience and oeuvre, where people relive their nostalgic dreams or have a sort of time travel experience. But one is pressed to ask the worth of all this and the role of these multiple exercises in the actual revival of culture – culture as something lived reality, not a fantasy or a figment of imagination. Kingsley Davis, an American Sociologist remarked that the only line of distinction between humans and animals is that humans possess culture, which no other creature does.

The nature of argument that is about to unfold and what has already been said as preface obliges us as the very beginning to answer the most important question concerning this entire discourse and that is "What is Culture"? Edward Tylor sums up that culture is an umbrella term which encompasses the social behaviour, institutions and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, and habits of the individuals in these groups". This all-encompassing and inclusive definition of culture may violate our previously held beliefs about the same where culture is identified with some attire or merely consigned to the arena of folklore. That is the understanding of culture too narrow in scope and too feeble to adhere to. No real understanding of culture and by extension no real revival and preservation of culture is possible while holding to its narrow and superficial definition which leaves out the bedrock elements and essential features thereof. That may be the reason why despite many cultural shows and fests, musical events and cultural theatrics, we feel as if we are receding away from culture and vice versa with each passing day. The multidimensionality of culture makes its preservation an equally multidimensional challenge and lest an inclusive and comprehensive policy is chalked and walked upon, all attempts remain superficial and all dreams of revival elusive. A question, and therefore a genuine question may be raised here as to why should one worry about the preservation and revival of culture and it seems to serve no immediate ends?

Here it needs to be noted that culture is the collective memory of nation, and as the erasure of individual memory deprives the individual of his individuality, identity and personality, so the erasure or erosion of culture amount to collective amnesia and wipes away with its erasure, the identity and particularity of a nation and civilization. Having said that, we need to be aware of the fact that in the rhythmic movement of time,

culture is not something sedentary or immobile, but is itself manifest dynamism. It carries within its recess, the potential of change and continuity and from this balance between change and continuity does culture assert itself against the sweeping tide of time. To evolve and to adopt to the urges of age and time is the defining and definitive feature of any living and vibrant culture. To hold on tenaciously to the bygone mores is not characteristic to any living and evolving culture and therefore, while we talk of the preservation and perpetuation of culture, the dynamics and evolutionary nature thereof shall not be lost sight of. The question then arises as to what we mean by preservation and perpetuation of culture and how to chaff the transitory features from the permanent and timeless features of culture.

A culture and all the institutions and affairs revolving in its orbit do not stand in vacuum. They are rooted in some idea, an ideology, an underlying philosophy, the overarching defining principle and a force of cohesion which binds

has been picked up as means of illustrating the larger principle, which applies to the culture as whole. On similar lines, let's think for a while what destiny has our language met and what direction the course of our linguistic evolution is heading in? A handful of people have remained who are able to read the Kashmiri script, still fewer who can write it and result? The terrifying result of all this linguistic alienation is that we have simultaneously barred ourselves from our rich, exquisite and marvellous literary heritage. While few of us are still able to hum Lal'e Vaakhs and Sheikh'e Shruki, the unfortunate day is not away when Lal Ded and Sheikh Ul Aalam, Shamas Fqir and Soch Kral, Mehjoor and Ahad Zargar will survive only as vestiges of our unconscious and we will find ourselves disqualified to read their rich verses, leave alone catching their subtleties and complexities. How many young and promising writers do we have writing in Kashmiri? The answer may alarm us to the threat of cultural alienation we are going through.

This all-encompassing and inclusive definition of culture may violate our previously held beliefs about the same where culture is identified with some attire or merely consigned to the arena of folklore. That is the understanding of culture too narrow in scope and too feeble to adhere to.

the otherwise apparently disparate modes and manifestations of life into an organic whole. Appearances may change, forms may evolve and additions and alterations may be made here and there, now and then. But as long as loyalty and concordance to the underlying defining principle is maintained, no change and no modification in any manifestation of cultural import shall be seen as regression or degeneration of culture. What wrong is therein if traditional costumes are given updation and brought in at par with the fashion in vogue, while at the same time maintaining its traditional aesthetics and originality? Like musicians have been bringing in many changes by virtue of their understanding and mastery over both the traditional and modern music. Is it not a judicious and better alternative instead of throwing away the baby with the bathwater? Between the dilemma of resisting any change and yielding to every change, we have, for instance ruined many of our traditional inheritances and things of cultural value and import. Look for example the architectural and structural changes we have bought in our residential houses. No doubt, they are at par with the time we are living in, but they are at complete discord with our geography and topology, weather and climate, our ways of life and manner of living. This is an illustration of mismanaged grafting and superimposing upon the local elements something which is out rightly alien to them. Same has been the case with many other aspects of our life and culture, where we have so much yielded to the change that we have almost abandoned the idea if the change is compatible to the place we are living at. Even seasoned engineers and geologists inform us that our vernacular architecture and structural make up of houses was at par with the geological and seasonal specifications of the place.

The intention is not to digress from the issue and get lost in the architecture and structure of our traditional and new houses. But the example

Spoils of United State's Gun Lobby

Joseph Stepansky

that establishes "the right of the people to keep and bear arms".

Meanwhile, gun control groups like the Giffords organisation, founded by former US Congresswoman and gun violence victim Gabby Giffords, accuse NRA lobbyists of solely being motivated by the goal "to sell more guns and pad the bottom line of gun lobby executives".

Gun control advocates have long blamed the lobby's power for the dearth of federal gun control measures passed in the US in recent years, despite a series of prominent mass shootings and a recent spike in active shooter incidents.

Gun control advocates also blame lobbyists for helping to loosen firearms restrictions in Republican-dominated state legislatures across the country.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott and Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz, as well as former US President Donald Trump, are set to speak later this week at a meeting in Texas hosted by the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, the organisation's self-described "lobbying" arm.

How influential is the 'gun lobby'?

is difficult to quantify the influence of the constellation of groups that make up the gun lobby, which provide both political cache and millions of dollars in direct support to candidates across the country. The NRA, which has run into financial hardship in recent years, has long maintained a grading system for politicians and undertakes advertising campaigns in support of its interests. From 1998 to 2020, pro-gun groups paid \$171.9m in lobbying to directly affect legislation, according to

OpenSecrets, a non-profit that tracks spending in US politics. Since 1998, the NRA alone paid \$63,857,564 in that category.

Meanwhile, pro-gun groups have paid a whopping \$155.1m in a 10-year span from 2010 to 2020 on so-called outside spending, according to OpenSecrets. Since 2000, the NRA has paid more than \$140m in such spending, which includes all spending that supports – but is not directly coordinated with – a candidate.

Unlike direct contributions to candidates, there is no cap on outside spending for corporations and non-profits following the 2010 Citizens United v FEC Supreme Court ruling.

In 2016, the NRA reportedly spent \$50m in outside spending in support of Trump and six Republican candidates for Senate.

The money assured that one in every 20 TV ads that aired in October of 2016 in the influential swing state of Pennsylvania was sponsored by the NRA, according to an analysis by the Center for Public Integrity. In North Carolina, one in every nine ads was sponsored by the NRA that month, while in Ohio, one in every eight ads pushed the group's pro-gun interests.

The NRA's overall spending jumped \$100m in 2016 over the previous year with "no politician benefiting more" than Trump, OpenSecrets reported.

Trump repeatedly promised to support gun rights, in 2017 telling the NRA "I will never, ever let you down."

Pro-gun organisations have also paid a total of \$54.4m in direct campaign contributions, a category subject to restrictions on donations, from 1990 to 2020, according to OpenSecrets. The contributions

in recent years have been almost entirely to Republicans.

The top recipients so far in 2022 in the US Congress were Republican Senators Rand Paul and John Kennedy, who each received over \$38,000 from pro-gun groups, according to OpenSecrets. US House of Representatives Minority Whip Steve Scalise received \$25,610 from pro-gun groups during that period.

In 2018, during his re-election bid, Texas Senator Cruz received \$311,151 in direct contributions from pro-gun groups. In 2020, vulnerable Republican Senators Martha McSally, David Perdue, and Kelly Loeffler received over \$516,000, \$307,000, and \$298,000 respectively from pro-gun groups, according to OpenSecrets.

How powerful is the 'gun control lobby'?

Efforts to legislate gun control on a federal level have made little headway in the wake of the Sandy Hook massacre in 2012, but advocates have pointed to a growing gun control movement that they say could lead to change.

That movement was "essentially nonexistent" in 2013, when efforts to expand federally required background checks for firearms sales failed in the US, Senator Chris Murphy, who represents Connecticut, told the New York Times in mid-May.

"It's all about political power, and political muscle, and we're in the process of building our own," he told the newspaper.

Meanwhile, lobbying for gun control, while still dwarfed by pro-gun movements, has grown since 2013, led by groups like Giffords, the Mike Bloomberg-backed Everytown for Gun Safety, and the Sandy Hook Promise.

Overall annual spending on lobbying by gun control advocates jumped from \$250,000 in 2012 to \$2.2m in 2013.

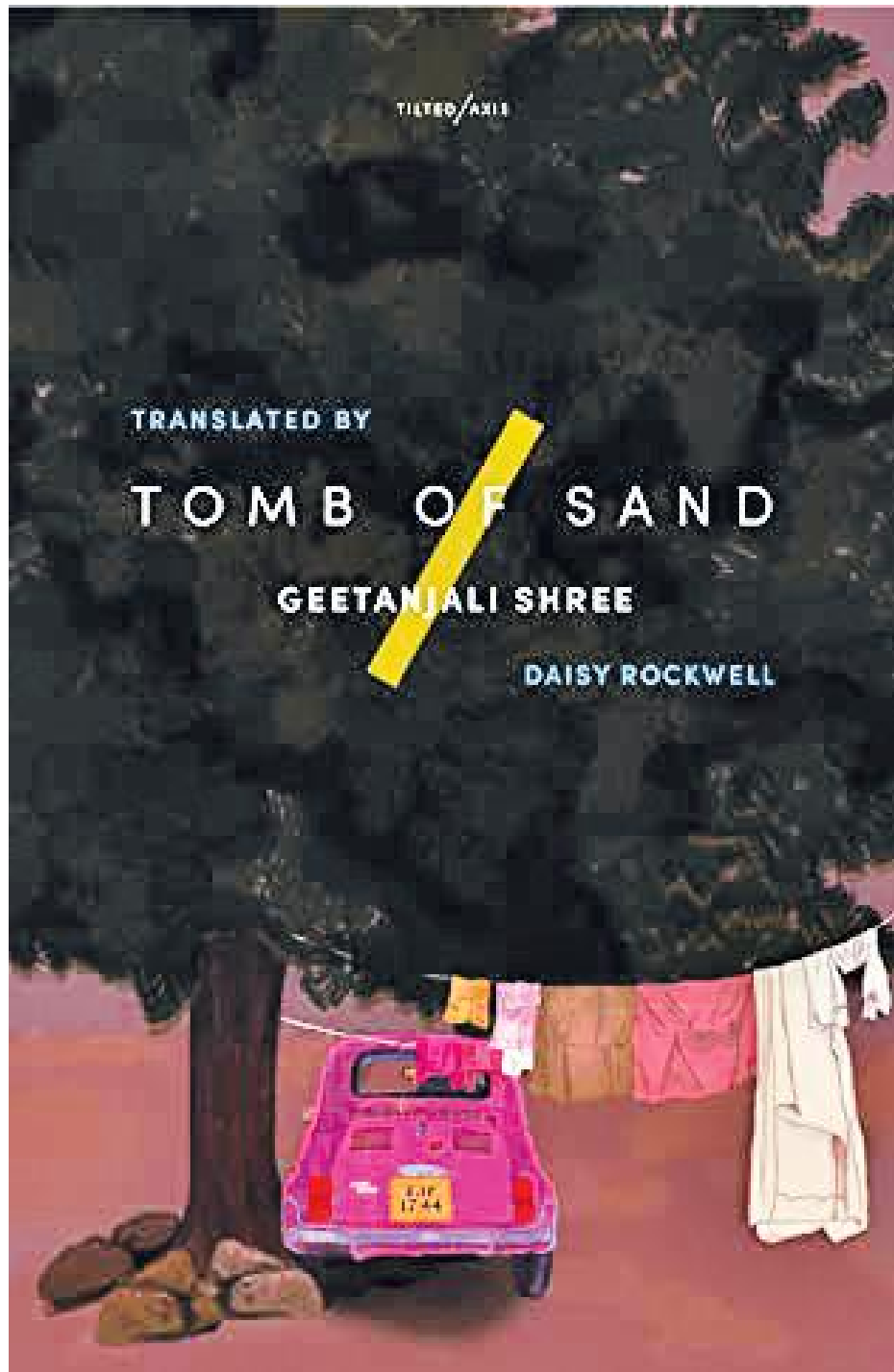
In 2021, gun control groups spent \$2.9m on lobbying.

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

The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

On “Tomb of Sand” and the International Booker Prize

Geetanjali Shree talks about her novel “Tomb of Sand”, which, in its translation from Hindi by Daisy Rockwell, won the International Booker prize



John Self

“If you handle a heavy thing with lightness, you actually increase the poignancy, and it puts a different kind of focus on it.” Geetanjali Shree is talking to me about her novel *Tomb of Sand*, which, in its translation from Hindi by Daisy Rockwell, won the International Booker prize on Thursday. It's now early Friday morning and Shree and Rockwell join me from London's Groucho Club – bright, fresh and talkative despite the night's festivities (Rockwell was still tweeting about it at 2am).

Shree has been writing for more than 30 years, and three of her previous books have been translated into English. Why did this one strike such a chord with readers and judges? “I think it speaks to the pluralism of the world, the polyphony of the world, and that somehow captures the imagination of people. I also think there's a lot of inventiveness in the language, which seems to have appealed.”

That is certainly true. *Tomb of Sand* is a sombre-sounding book – about an 80-year-old woman, Ma, who slips into depression after the death of her husband – and daunting at almost 750 pages. But it's playful and funny, light but not slight, a carnival of characters. “It's an important way to focus attention,” says Shree. “It's also the best way to live! To get some fun in spite of the serious things.”

The serious things in the book are borders and divisions: between religions, genders and nations – notably between India and Pakistan, as a result of the partition of India in 1947. Shree, who was born 10 years later, says that even though her generation does not remember the partition, “we very much live with it, particularly the ideology it has unleashed, [that supposes] that these two major communities in the subcontinent cannot live together.”

Shree was born Geetanjali Pandey but changed her surname to her mother's forename. “It was in adolescence, when I got my first bank account, and with a great flourish I signed my full name. But my



father said, ‘No, just sign your first name, because a woman's name will change after marriage.’ He wasn't being nasty, but it stayed with me. And I thought, why is my mother's name nowhere? She's the one who played such a big role in bringing us up. So when I started writing, I thought, I want my mother's first name to become my second name.”

The process of translation for *Tomb of Sand* was collaborative, via emails throughout the pandemic between Rockwell in Vermont and Shree in New Delhi. Shree speaks English (“like many Indian people, because of the Raji”), which helped the process, though she insists that her English “may sound fluent, but it's a very formal, schooled English”. As a child she was encouraged to read: “That was the time of the new independent India. There was a lot of idealism afoot and as a result we as children were exposed very much to our language and literature, compared to the children of today. The world has turned to corporate success stories, and they don't need India and its culture in the way that in my time, people felt they needed it.”

One quality of the International Booker prize is that it recognises – and shares the £50,000 prize money between – both author and translator. In Rockwell's view the prize has “a lot to do with the recognition of the translator” that we

are seeing now. This includes a campaign for translators to be named on the covers of the books, spearheaded by Jennifer Croft, who Rockwell notes is not named on the cover of her own International Booker-shortlisted translation, Olga Tokarczuk's *The Books of Jacob*. “I think she's pretty peeved.”

An artist and writer as well as a translator, Rockwell comes from a creative family. Both her parents are artists and her grandfather was Norman Rockwell, the celebrated painter who held a mirror to American social history. Was she encouraged to pursue her creative impulses? “They wouldn't have known any other way to raise me. I tried to be an academic, but it didn't work!”

Indeed Rockwell painted the cover images for both Hindi and English editions of *Tomb of Sand* in India. Why didn't the UK publisher use her covers? “I don't know! I think they should issue a commemorative edition with my cover on it!”

A few years ago, when Rockwell had just agreed to translate *Tomb of Sand*, she spoke of how, having translated only men for some time, she was focusing exclusively on female writers. Since doing so, she says, “I think what's been really important to me is to realise how women's voices are left out of literature by men and are sidelined. So I've enjoyed really thinking about women's

experiences and women's lives. I'm not really that interested in going back.” She laughs. “You know the way people can be annoying, they say, ‘I've cut sugar out of my diet, and now I hate sweets.’ So I'm kind of like that!”

An excerpt from Tomb of Sand by Geetanjali Shree, translated by Daisy Rockwell

A tale tells itself. It can be complete, but also incomplete, the way all tales are. This particular tale has a border and women who come and go as they please. Once you've got women and a border, a story can write itself. Even women on their own are enough. Women are stories in themselves, full of stirrings and whisperings that float on the wind, that bend with each blade of grass. The setting sun gathers fragments of tales and fashions them into glowing lanterns that hang suspended from clouds. These too will join our story. The story's path unfurls, not knowing where it will stop, tacking to the right and left, twisting and turning, allowing anything and everything to join in the narration. It will emerge from within a volcano, swelling silently as the past boils forth into the present, bringing steam, embers, and smoke.

The article was originally published by The Guardian

“The setting sun gathers fragments of tales and fashions them into glowing lanterns that hang suspended from clouds. These too will join our story. The story's path unfurls, not knowing where it will stop, tacking to the right and left, twisting and turning, allowing anything and everything to join in the narration

How ‘gate’ became the syllable of scandal

Roger J. Kreuz

On June 17, 1972, Washington, D.C., police arrested five men for breaking into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. Although the administration's press secretary, Ron Ziegler, dismissed the crime as a “third-rate burglary,” its scope would grow to consume Richard Nixon's presidency and then bring it to an end 26 months later.

As with other infamous episodes, such as the Teapot Dome scandal or the Chappaquiddick tragedy, the event would come to be known by the place where it occurred.

But unlike those two precedents, the Watergate Office Building would be immortalized as the catchall term for political scandal.

“Watergate,” in this context, is an example of metonymy. A part – the site of the break-in – comes to stand for the larger whole: the illegal acts committed by Nixon's administration, as well as the subsequent investigation into them.

Metonymy is a common way in which English is fortified with new vocabulary – think of “the Pentagon” as a stand-in for the U.S. military, or “Hollywood” as a way to refer to the motion picture industry.

What's unusual about Watergate is that one syllable splintered off to become the universally recognized designator for political malfeasance. When boozy government-sponsored parties that broke COVID-19 lockdown rules came to light in the U.K., the scandal quickly became known as “partygate.” But the syllable has also migrated beyond politics, becoming a tag for wrongdoing of virtually any kind.

Other splinters have also been pressed into service to create new words. For example, “-athon,” from “marathon,” can emphasize an event's long duration – telethon,

dance-a-thon, and hackathon. Similarly, “-aholic,” from “alcoholic,” denotes an addiction: shopaholic, workaholic, sexaholic.

But in terms of sheer productivity, “-gate” has no peer. Wikipedia's list of -gates has over 260 entries.

During its remarkable career, it has often been wielded as a linguistic cudgel, and few other four-letter strings have such power to stigmatize and to demonize.

The early years

A year after the Watergate break-in, the humor magazine *National Lampoon* referenced “Vulgagate” – a fictitious Russian scandal – in its August 1973 issue. This seems to have been the first use of -gate as a generic label for a political scandal.

A month later, *Newsweek* characterized a scheme to peddle cheap Bordeaux as “Winegate.” Its extension to viniculture suggested that -gate might have a life outside of politics.

But the real popularizer of -gate was William Safire, Nixon's former speechwriter. As a conservative political columnist with *The New York Times* for over 30 years, Safire created or promoted many such terms. These included Billygate, Lancegate and Briefingate to describe scandals that emerged during Jimmy Carter's presidency. He also popularized Travelgate and Whitewatergate during the Clinton years.

These episodes didn't rise to the seriousness of Watergate, of course. But by making them into -gates, Safire was implying that Democrats could be just as corrupt as Republicans.

Apart from Safire's inventions, few episodes from the 1970s to the 1990s were referred to as -gates. Only about 10% of the terms on Wikipedia's list date from the 20th century. Even major political scandals of the period only occasionally received this epithet.



“But even half a century later, -gate is still finding gainful employment in politics. It was used, for example, to tag several Trump scandals, from Russiagate to Ukrainegate. And President Joe Biden has had to contend with Kabulgate and #formulagate.

Consider the Reagan administration's scheme to use Iranian arm sales to fund the Nicaraguan Contras. All the attributes for a Watergate-style comparison were present: illegal activity, conspiracy and an attempted cover-up.

Despite this, *The New York Times* referred to the episode as “Reagan-gate” just twice, “Contragate” only 11 times and “Iranagate” about 100 times. In contrast, the paper used the phrase “Iran-Contra” nearly 6,000 times in its coverage.

Opening the ‘flood-gates’
In the new millennium, however, -gate became totally unmoored from politics.

It has been employed to describe kerfuffles in almost every field of human endeavor – sports (Astrogate), journalism (Rathergate), technology (Antennagate) and entertainment (Nipplegate).

Already in 2022, hashtags referring to a number of events – such

as #slapgate and #lettergate – have trended on Twitter.

For those who value precision in language, this is a problem – because if everything is a scandal, then nothing is.

Consider “Ponytailgate.” In 2015, New Zealand's prime minister, over a period of several months, repeatedly tugged on the ponytail of a young café waitress. He persisted despite repeated requests from both the waitress and the prime minister's wife that he stop. Such behavior is boorish at best.

But does it belong in the same category as events involving corruption, a conspiracy, or a cover-up?

A pleasing sounding suffix
It may be that -gate is used because nothing better has come along. Replacement terms have enjoyed only limited popularity.

The splinter “-ghazi” arose in reference to the 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi,

Libya. It was occasionally deployed against the Obama administration. For example, when President Obama wore a tan suit to a press conference, “Beigeghazi” was born. But -ghazi probably failed as a suffix for scandal because it was too much of a mouthful.

This can be seen in the 2014 debate over what to call former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's lane closure scandal. Should it be “Bridgeghazi” or “Bridgegate” – or even “Bridgeaquiddick”?

Bridgegate won out – undoubtedly because it was shorter and simpler. Resonance also seems to apply for other scandals: “Deflategate” simply sounds better than “Ballghazi” as a name for the New England Patriots football scandal.

One size fits all?

Not content with its domination of English, -gate has also wormed its way into other languages, such as German, Serbo-Croatian, Greek and

Hungarian.

But like most successful trends, the widespread use of -gate has engendered significant backlash. As with Ponytailgate, many of these coinages fail to differentiate the mundane from the momentous. This invites accusations of journalistic laziness, in which events are merely lumped together rather than analyzed.

In addition, overuse has transformed -gate constructions from the somewhat clever coinages of Safire's day into the tired clichés of today. It can also be difficult to tell when a -gate construction is intended ironically, which makes interpretation difficult.

Finally, sometimes shorthand is just too short. “Reagangate” may have failed as a label for Iran-Contra because it wasn't specific enough. The term could have referred to any of several different episodes during Reagan's eight-year administration.

At the other extreme, the same -gate has been applied to very different controversies. “Sharpiegate” referred to Terrell Owens' signing of a football in 2002. But it was also trotted out for President Donald Trump's edit of a map of Hurricane Dorian's path in 2019. And in 2020, it became associated with allegations of ballot fixing in Arizona.

But even half a century later, -gate is still finding gainful employment in politics. It was used, for example, to tag several Trump scandals, from Russiagate to Ukrainegate. And President Joe Biden has had to contend with Kabulgate and #formulagate.

No president has resigned since Nixon, arguably in the face of worse scandals than Watergate.

As with the wear and tear on an overused suffix, one has to wonder: Have voters become numb to political scandal, too?

By arrangements with The Conversation

GREENERY In The City Prevents Mental Illness

360info.org

Trees, grass and greenery lower the risk of mental health problems. It's a lesson city planners need to learn. Children who grow up surrounded by trees, grass and green space have a lower risk of developing a mental illness later in life, according to Danish researchers.

Their findings, involving almost one million Danes, were more than an interesting correlation: the risk of mental health problems varied directly with the amount of green space available to the child. As more people move into cities and mental health diagnoses appear to be rising, the findings could have relevance for urban planning.

More than 450 million people suffer from a mental disorder, according to the World Health Organization. And this number is expected to increase. In some places, urban residents have almost a 50 per cent higher risk of developing anxiety and mood disorders compared with their rural counterparts, and the risk of schizophrenia is 200 per cent higher for children who grow up in the most urbanised environments.

Contact with nature has long been linked to better mental health — it's why sanatoriums

and hospitals are often found in green surroundings. Living in greener surroundings is thought to improve physical and mental health by promoting physical activity, increasing psychological restoration and stress recovery, and strengthening social bonds in neighbourhoods.

Mapping using satellite data

Researchers from Aarhus University used satellite data from 1985 to 2015 to map the amount of green space around Danish childhood homes. Because Denmark collects detailed health data about its citizens, the researchers could compare this data with whether the children went on to develop one of 16 mental disorders later in life.

Children surrounded by the highest amounts of green space had up to a 55 per cent lower relative risk of developing a mental disorder — even after researchers adjusted for other known risk factors such as socio-economic status, urbanisation and family history of mental disorders. The more green space a child had, the lower the risk of poor mental health.

This 'dose-dependent' relationship was present across the country and the Danish population, indicating that the association is more than a simple correlation. Accounting for people moving to and from more urbanised areas,

the research also showed the risk of developing a mental disorder decreased with the length of time a child was surrounded by green space from birth up to the age of 10.

The same researchers explored the concept further in a survey of Danish blood donors. Around 66,000 people answered questions about their access to green space and 'blue space' — water bodies. Current mental well-being was associated with more green space around people's homes. Calm was particularly associated with 'blue space'. The researchers also found that more physically active people had even stronger positive associations with green space.

Green space in childhood is therefore extremely important, and it follows that urban planning for access to natural environments for all ages is likely to have benefits.

The very large datasets for both studies strengthen the findings. Across time, geography, 'dose' level and huge numbers of people, the patterns were the same. The results are part of a larger movement of scientific studies that have found a wide range of physical and mental health benefits of green spaces.

These studies are supported by many experimental studies where scientists manipulated environments that showed green space is linked with stronger cognitive development

of children, reduced activity in the areas of the brain linked to depression, and enhanced stress recovery. Even virtual-reality nature exposure has an effect.

Taking greener approach

This knowledge can guide future urban planning — important because by 2050 more than two-thirds of the world's population is expected to live in a city. Integrating more natural environments into urban areas may improve the mental health of city residents.

A greener approach to urban planning has the associated benefits of mitigating climate change, reducing the urban heat island effect, managing flood risk and conserving biodiversity. Working within and across research disciplines will ensure the multifunctional potential of urban green spaces is fulfilled.

Local governments around the world are already starting to make cities greener. Denmark's capital, Copenhagen, recently decided to transform one of its major roads into a park to improve green-space access, and Barcelona in Spain has launched an ambitious urban greening plan for the whole city to promote the health of its citizens and support biodiversity.

In a project in South Africa, Danish researchers are working with local collaborators

to reimagine the City of Tshwane, Pretoria. The plan is to move towards a more liveable, healthy, equitable, biodiverse and climate-change-resilient city.

Nature-based solutions

Large international organisations such as the World Bank and the European Union have also seen the potential of green urban planning, including nature-based solutions — projects that tackle development problems while keeping the natural environment to the fore.

Since 2012, the World Bank has supported nature-based solutions in around 100 projects in 60 countries, allocating \$1.18 billion in 2019-20; and the EU is providing funding for such projects through its Horizons 2020 programme. Competition for space is intense in the world's densely populated cities, meaning innovative approaches to green space design will be needed — for example, green walls and roofs.

Local perspectives and context are also important. Current studies on green space and mental health are mainly from developed economies, so they may not apply in developing economies. Involving local communities in planning decisions will help.

Fruits And Vegetables Plays Key Role In ADHD Symptoms In Children

ANI

According to a new study, eating fruits and vegetables can help children reduce inattention issues.

The findings of the study were published in the journal, 'Nutritional Neuroscience'.

As part of a larger study, researchers asked parents of 134 kids with ADHD symptoms to complete a detailed questionnaire about the typical foods the children ate, including portion sizes, over a 90-day period.

Another questionnaire asked parents to rate symptoms of inattention -- a hallmark of ADHD -- in their kids, such as having trouble staying focused, not following instructions, difficulty remembering things, and difficulty regulating emotions.

Results showed that kids who consumed more fruits and vegetables showed less severe symptoms of inattention, said Irene Hatsu, co-author of the study and associate professor of human nutrition at The Ohio State University.

"Eating a healthy diet, including fruits and vegetables, maybe one way to reduce some of the symptoms of ADHD," Hatsu said.

The data for this research was collected as part of the Micronutrients for ADHD in Youth (MADDY) Study, which examined the efficacy of a 36-ingredient vitamin and mineral supplement to treat symptoms of ADHD and poor emotional control in the 134 kids aged 6 to 12.

The study that evaluated the effectiveness of the supplement showed that children who took the micronutrients were three times as likely to show significant improvement in their ADHD and emotional dysregulation symptoms than those who took a placebo. That study was published last year in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Another study involving the same children, published earlier this year in the journal Nutrients, showed that kids whose families had higher levels of food insecurity were more likely than others to show more severe symptoms of emotional dysregulation, such as chronic irritability, angry moods and outbursts of anger.

The three studies all paint a similar picture, Hatsu said: A healthy diet that provides all the nutrients that children require can help reduce the symptoms of ADHD in children.

"What clinicians usually do when kids with ADHD start having more severe symptoms is increase the dose of their treatment medication, if they are on one, or put them on medication," Hatsu said.

"Our studies suggest that it is worthwhile to check the children's access to food as well as the

quality of their diet to see if it may be contributing to their symptom severity," he added.

Children in the MADDY study, all of whom met the criteria for ADHD, were recruited from three sites: Columbus, Ohio; Portland, Oregon; and Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. The study took place between 2018 and 2020. Participants were either not taking medication or stopped using it two weeks before the study began.



fore the study began.

The studies on fruit and vegetable intake and the role of food insecurity were based on data collected when the children were first enrolled in the study before they began taking the micronutrient supplement or placebo.

Why may diet be so important in ADHD?

Researchers believe that ADHD is related to low levels of some neurotransmitters in the brain -- and vitamins and minerals play a key role as cofactors in helping the body make those important neurochemicals and in overall brain function, Hatsu said.

Food insecurity may play an additional role.

"Everyone tends to get irritated when they're hungry and kids with ADHD are no exception. If they're not getting enough food, it could make their symptoms worse," she said.

Also, the stress of parents who are upset about not being able to provide enough food for their children can create family tension that could lead to more symptoms for children with ADHD.

The MADDY study is one of the first to look at the relationship between ADHD symptoms and diet quality among children in the United States and Canada, Hatsu said.

That's important because Western diets are more likely than many others, such as the Mediterranean diet, to fall short on fruit and vegetable intake, she said.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division

(Additional Charge Srinagar Smart City Limited)

Address: Regal Lane, Lal Chowk Srinagar

Email: eerrwsmc@gmail.com

Notice Inviting E-Tender No. 04 of 2022-2023

Dated: 23.05.2022

NOTE: - 1. The Bidders who have not started the works allotted in their favour in Right River Works Division need not to apply for bidding. As per the directions they are debarred from participating in bidding. Their Bid if they apply shall be deemed invalid.

2. Bidders should participate keeping in consideration their financial and physical capacity to execute the works as per the time schedule and in case of being successful for multiple works they will have to start/complete all allotted works simultaneously and failure at one place(work) shall be treated as failure at all other allotted places (Works).

3. The lowest quoted items to be executed in full. In case any deviations, the deductions as per the rates in vogue shall be implemented on the final comparative work done. For percentage tenders, variations in quantity if any shall be strictly as per financial code (PWD).

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis (in Double Cover System) read with the bid document uploaded on the website www.jktenders.gov.in from approved registered eligible Civil Contractors for the below mentioned works.

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. cost in lacs	Cost of T/Doc. in Rs	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of Completion	Head of Account	Class of contractor
1	Construction of community Hall/ community Center at Abiyar Alamgari Bazar	278.39	Rs. 4500/- (Non-refundable)	556780	6 months	CAPEX 21-22	AAV/Firm

Position of AAA: Accorded (Order No. 138 of 2022 dated: 28.01.2022)

Technical Sanction: Accorded (62-SSCL of 2022 dated: 25.04.2022)

Defect Liability Period: 03 years after date of completion as per clause 20.6 of JK PWD Engineering Manual 2020

The NIT consists of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract, and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the date schedule given below.

S. No.	Particulars	Date from to
1	Date of issuance/ Publication of NIT on e-portal	23.05.2022
2	Date of Downloading of bid documents for said NIT	24.05.2022 from 02:00 PM
3	Date of uploading of bid document / bid submission starts	24.05.2022 from 03:00 PM
4	Date of Pre-bid meeting	31.05.2022 at 02:00 PM in the office of Joint Commissioner (Works), SMC at Karan Nagar
5	Date of uploading of bid document/ bid submission Ends	20.06.2022 at 04:00 PM
6	Date of receiving of hard copy of documents including DD/Bid Security	21.06.2022 upto 04:00 PM
7	Date of Technical Bid opening	22.06.2022 at 11:00 AM in the office of the executive Engineer RRWD
7	Date of Financial Bid opening	Date shall be communicated after Technical Bid Evaluation

Note: - Fresh Date means the Documents Drawn after the issuance of said NIT.

1. The employer, Commissioner, SMC invites bids from bidders who shall be an Agency/ Entity/ Company/ Firm incorporated in India under the (Indian) Companies Act 2013/ Firm registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008 for the work as detailed in table above:

1. The intending tenders should attach call deposit receipt equivalent to 2% of the total cost of the work shown against each work pledged to the Executive Engineer Right River Works Division, SMC, drawn from any schedule Bank without which no tender will be entertained.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in the shape of Bank Receipt / challan as a tender fee paid in the Municipal Account No. 0216010200000007 payable at J&K Bank Branch Dood Ganga Balgarden, Srinagar payable at Srinagar (with NIT No and Serial No of work mentioned) and Earnest Money/ bid security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Bank Receipt/ Challan and earned money/bid security should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).

4. The Bid document consisting of Information to Bidders (ITB), Bid Data Sheet (BDS), Information and Documents to be furnished along with the Bid, General & Special Conditions of Contract, Contract Data, Scope, Specifications and Drawings, Schedule of Quantities and set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents will be uploaded on the website: www.jktenders.gov.in from [23.05.2022]. The Bidders can take part in the bidding process as per below tabulated schedule given above.

5. Bids shall be received "on line" on or before the scheduled date. The bidder must possess Compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and proper used ID.

6. If any date specified herein is a holiday, then the next working day will be considered for the activity and the time will remain the same.

DIPK-NB-1244/22

No: SMC/EERRWD/498-506

Dated: 23/05/2022

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,

Right River Works Division,

Srinagar Municipal Corporation

J&K's Tourism Map Offers Everything To Travelers: Advisor Bhatnagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar Friday described Jammu and Kashmir as an amazing Golfing Destination in the country while maintaining that the tourism map of the region offers everything for travellers and tourists alike.

He made these remarks while addressing the inaugural function of Golf Tourism Summit-cum-Golf Tournament here organized by The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in collaboration with J&K Tourism Department and Chhattisgarh Tourism Board. The Golf Tournament will be played at Srinagar and Pahalgam Golf Courses of the Kashmir valley.

Advisor Bhatnagar said that with respect to golf, J&K has amazing, scenic beauty & perfect environs and professionally laid golf courses. He observed that everyone who visits Kashmir leaves happy, which is a biggest tribute to the spirit of J&K and the hospitality it offers to the visitors.

The Advisor said that there is a lot of opportunity for travel and tour operators and hotel industry also in the region due to the presence of these wonderful golf courses. He said the Government is enhancing and strengthening logistic facilities for tourists in a staggered manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Chhattisgarh, Amitabh Jain appreciated the FICCI for bringing J&K and Chhattisgarh together through Golf Tournament, saying that the two regions of the country can explore the golfing destinations and also complement each other through Golf Tourism.

"We thank FICCI and J&K Tourism for inviting us to play golf in the Paradise. Playing golf in Kashmir is a dream," Jain said.

Dulloo Reviews CAPEX, CSS, PMDP, NABARD of Horticulture & Allied Sectors



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial achievements of Horticulture and allied sectors under CAPEX, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) and NABARD.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in Agriculture Production Department, Special Secretary, Horticulture Department, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Horticulture (P&M), MD, JKHPMC, J&K, Jammu based officers will attend the meeting through VC.

While chairing the meeting, ACS took review of the expenditure under the schemes since the inception and also took department wise details of plan/releases/expenditure for the year 2021-22. He also discussed the component wise breakup of subsidies for purchase of farm machinations, equipments etc for the both the divisions of Kashmir and Jammu.

He directed the officers to remain proactive to the needs of the farming community and deliver with speed. He directed them to create awareness among the farmers through extension programmes and fix targets and start working on the ground to meet the deadlines.

The HoDs of different sectors gave a presentation over the approved outlay plan under CAPEX

Additional Director General, Union Ministry of Tourism, Rupinder Brar also spoke on the occasion and noted that J&K is creating its own footprints globally and as stakeholders "we need to create right narrative and perspective before people and act like responsible travellers and tourists to put right message so that both domestic as well as foreign tourists can be attracted to J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Tourism J&K, Sarmad Hafeez said that tourism in J&K is wonderfully going well and the region has witnessed the best five months ever in terms of tourist footfall.

He also appreciated the support extended by the tour and travel industry with great support from the Ministry of Tourism, GoI, to promote J&K Tourism and also the UT as a golfing destination in the country. He added that J&K has a whole golfing circuit with five Golf courses, offering wonderful layouts for professional golfers across the country and abroad.

Managing Director Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, Anil Kumar Sahu while delivering a presentation on Chhattisgarh Tourism gave an overview of the tourist destinations and the potential the Central Indian has.

Chairman FICCI J&K Council, Irfan Ahmad Guju, Co-Chairman FICCI J&K Council, Rajesh Sharma and Member FICCI Tourism Committee and President India Golf Tourism Association, Rajan Sehgal also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the wide range of services being offered by J&K Government in tourism sector and through golfing destinations.

Director, Tourism, Kashmir, Dr G N Ito, other senior officers, representatives of hotel industry, travel trade, ace golfers of the country were present on the occasion.

Budget, CSS, PMDP and NABARD of Horticulture and allied departments for the year 2022-23. The meeting also held a threadbare discussion on major targets and achievements for the year 2022-23 under CAPEX and other schemes.

The meeting also discussed Physical achievements under MIDH since it's inception and was given out that an area of 13892 ha has been brought under orchards and 4641 hectares of old and senile orchards have been rejuvenated. It was also given out that 1428 Vermi compost units have been established, 1025 Bore well/Tube wells have been created. It was further given out that an area of 1539 ha has been brought under vegetables and 687 ha under flowers and 72 ha have been brought under Protected Cultivation.

While discussing the major Physical achievements of Horticulture under PMDP, it was given out that an area of 50 ha has been brought under High Density Plantation, 113 hac under Medium Density and 75 nurseries have been established. It was also given out that assistance has been provided to 18 CA Storage Units and 14 Food Processing Units. It was also given out that an area of 2184 ha has been brought under vegetable cultivation and under irrigation Infrastructure, 132 Bore wells have been constructed. Under Horticulture Mechanization, assistance on purchase of 16203 different types of Machinery has been provided and wholesale markets have been established.

Looking At 'Pros And Cons' Of Introduction Of Digital Currency: RBI

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank on Friday said it is looking at pros and cons of introduction of a virtual currency in the country and it will adopt a graded approach for launching the central bank digital currency. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget 2022-23 had announced that the central bank will launch an Indian digital currency.

Introduction of CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 and an appropriate amendment to the RBI Act, 1934 has been included in the Finance Bill, 2022, RBI said in its annual report for 2021-22 released on Friday.

It said that the Finance Bill, 2022 has been enacted, providing a legal framework for the launch of CBDC. "The Reserve Bank is engaged in the introduction of a central bank digital currency in India. The design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability and efficient operations



of currency and payment systems," it said in the report.

The Reserve Bank has been looking at the pros and cons of introduction of CBDC in India, it said, adding that it proposes to adopt a graded approach to introduction of CBDC, going step by step through stages of proof of concept, pilots and the launch.

Proof of concept refers to an exercise in which work is focused on determining whether an idea can be turned into a reality, or to verify if the idea will function as envisioned. RBI said that the design of CBDC needs

to be in conformity with the "stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability" and "efficient operations of currency and payment systems".

Accordingly, the appropriate design elements of CBDCs that could be implemented with little or no disruption are under examination, said the report. After the budget announcement on February 1, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said that the Reserve Bank does not want to rush and is carefully examining all aspects before the introduction of the CBDC.

Number Of ₹2000 Currency Notes Account For Just 1.6% Of Total Circulation At March-End

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The number of bank notes of Rs 2000 denomination has steadily declined over the years to touch 214 crore or 1.6 per cent of the total currency notes in circulation at the end of March this year, according to RBI annual report.

The total number of currency notes of all denominations in circulation stood at 13,053 crore as of March this year, up from 12,437 crore from the year-ago period. At the end of March 2020, the number of Rs 2000 denomination notes in circulation stood at 274 crore, accounting for 2.4 per cent of the total number of currency notes in circulation.

The count declined to 245 crore or 2 per cent of the total bank notes in circulation as of March 2021 and further fell to 214 crore or 1.6 per cent at the end of last fiscal year.

In value terms also, the Rs 2000 denomination notes dipped from 22.6 per cent of the total value of currency notes in circulation to 17.3 per cent at the end of March 2021 and further to 13.8 per cent at the end of March 2022.

According to the report, the number of Rs 500 denomination notes in circulation rose to 4,554.68 crore at the end



of March this year as against 3,867.90 crore in the year-ago period. "In volume terms, Rs 500 denomination constituted the highest share at 34.9 per cent, followed by Rs 10 denomination bank notes, which constituted 21.3 per cent of the total bank notes in circulation as on March 31, 2022," the annual report for 2021-22 released on Friday said.

The Rs 500 denomination notes accounted for 31.1 per cent share at the end of March 2021 and 25.4 per cent as of March 2020. In value terms, these notes rose from 60.8 per cent to 73.3 per cent from March 2020 to March 2022.

The total value of currency notes in circulation of all denominations rose to Rs 31.05 lakh crore at the end of March this year from Rs 28.27 lakh crore at the end of March 2021.

"In value terms, the share of Rs 500 and Rs 2000 notes together accounted for 87.1 per cent of the total value of bank notes in circulation as on March 31, 2022, as against 85.7 per cent at end-March, 2021," the report said.

"The value and volume of bank notes in circulation increased by 9.9 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, during 2021-22 as compared to 16.8 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively, during 2020-21," the report said.

The Currency in Circulation (CiC) includes banknotes and coins. Presently, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issues banknotes in denominations of Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 200, Rs 500 and Rs 2000.

Coins in circulation comprise 50 paise and Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20 denominations.

Lay Focus On Producing Marketable Products: MD JKRLM to Field workers

Assures better market linkage facilitation for all products



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mission Director Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Indu Kanwal Chib Friday emphasised on the field workers of the Mission to focus on channelizing the efforts in the products being produced by the members to make them marketable.

The meeting also discussed that different new verticals will be added to the program activities that will focus on livelihood generation and economic development of the SHG members.

She further directed the officials to identify one cluster in each Block for training the members for branding and packaging of the products and Mission will provide all the required support.

The meeting also discussed that different new verticals will be added to the program activities that will focus on livelihood generation and economic development of the SHG members.

It was decided in the meeting that Mission will train 50 rural Women of UMEED, Five Per District to work as sale women at designated market places so that sales are made in more professional manner. The sale

women will be equipped with the marketing and sale ideas at posh areas which the Mission has explored like Airports, Railways etc.

MD impressed upon the officers to undertake on priority the livelihood convergence with different departments and schemes especially in Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) for augmentation of their livelihoods further.

The meeting was attended by Additional Mission Director Kashmir, Reyaz Ahmad Beigh, State project Managers JKRLM, District programme Managers, Block Programme Managers, and other officials of the Mission.

RBI's Balance Sheet Increased By 8.4% In FY 2022 To Rs 61.9 Lakh Crore

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The size of the Reserve Bank's balance sheet, which is reflective of activities carried out by it in pursuance of currency issue function as well as monetary policy and reserve management, has increased by 8.46 per cent during 2021-22, the annual report data showed.

While income for the year increased by 20.14 per cent, expenditure rose by 280.13 per cent, RBI said in its annual report 2021-22 released on Friday. The year 2021-22 ended with an overall surplus of Rs 30,307.45 crore as against Rs 99,122 crore in the previous year, resulting in its decrease of 69.42 per cent.

Last week, the central board of directors of RBI had approved transfer of Rs 30,307.45 crore surplus to the government.

"The size of the balance sheet increased by Rs 4,82,633.14 crore, i.e., 8.46 per cent from Rs 57,07,669.13 crore as on March 31, 2021 to Rs 61,90,302.27 crore as on March 31, 2022. The increase on the asset side was due to rise in foreign investments, domestic investments, gold, and loans and advances by 4.28 per cent, 11.67 per cent, 30.07 per cent and 54.53 per cent, respectively," said the report.

On the liability side, the increase was due to rise in deposits and notes by 16.24 per cent and 9.86 per cent, respectively.

RBI said that the domestic assets constituted 28.22 per cent

while the foreign currency assets and gold (including gold deposit and gold held in India) constituted 71.78 per cent of total assets as on March 31, 2022 as against 26.42 per cent and 73.58 per cent, respectively, as on March 31, 2021. "Provisions of Rs 1,14,567.01 crore and Rs



100 crore were made and transferred to Contingency Fund (CF) and Asset Development Fund (ADF), respectively," RBI said.

On gold holdings, it said as on March 31, 2022, total gold held by the Reserve Bank was 760.42 metric tonnes as compared to 695.31 metric tonnes as on March 31, 2021. "The increase is on account of addition of 65.11 metric tonnes of gold during the year," he said.

RBI said the value of gold (including gold deposit) held as asset of banking department increased by 37.11 per cent from Rs 1,43,582.87 crore as on March 31, 2021 to Rs 1,96,864.38 crore as on March 31, 2022.

This increase is on account of addition of 61.59 metric tonnes of gold and also due to increase in the price of gold and depreciation of INR vis-à-vis USD, said the report. On the expenditure side, the total expenditure of the Reserve Bank increased by 280.13 per cent from Rs 34,146.75 crore in FY21 to Rs 1,29,800.68 crore in FY22, it said.

However, its total employee cost during the year decreased by 19.19 per cent to Rs 3,869.43 crore from Rs 4,788.03 crore in the previous fiscal. The decrease was due to decrease in Reserve Bank's expenditure towards accrued liabilities of various superannuation funds in 2021-22, RBI added.

Banks Need To Support Growth, Remain Watchful Of Credit Behaviour: RBI Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank on Friday said the banks would need to support growth while being watchful of the credit behaviour of entities whose loans were restructured during the pandemic period to arrest slippages.

Banks had extended moratorium on repayment of loans and restructured advances to businesses to help them combat the impact of the COVID pandemic and subsequent lockdowns to check the spread of the virus.

In its annual report released on Friday, the RBI said the banking sector has witnessed improved financial parameters despite the COVID-19 pandemic. "However, there is a need to be watchful of the credit behaviour of the restructured advances and possibility of increased slippages arising from sectors that were relatively more exposed to the pandemic," it said.

The report noted that with the unwinding of support measures, some of the restructured accounts might face solvency concerns, and the impact on banks' balance sheets becoming clearer in the upcoming quarters. Prudence warrants proactive recognition of any non-viable accounts to activate timely resolution, it added.

"Going forward, as the economy recovers and credit demand rises, banks will need to focus on supporting credit growth while being vigilant of the evolving risks. "Care needs to be taken to ensure that fresh slippages are arrested, and banks' balance sheets are strengthened to avoid future build-up of stress," said the Reserve Bank's Annual Report for the Year 2021-22.

It further said NBFCs and urban cooperative banks (UCBs) will have to be mindful of frailties, wherever they exist, in their balance sheets and ensure robust asset-liability management, apart from improving the quality of their credit portfolios.

The central bank also said that in order to further strengthen the regulatory and supervisory framework, several measures are expected to be put in place for banks and NBFCs during the current financial year. On the overall economic situation, the Reserve Bank said fiscal 2020-21 brought many challenges, but a recovery is underway in spite of headwinds.

The future path of growth will be conditioned by addressing supply-side bottlenecks, calibrating monetary policy to bring inflation within the target while supporting growth and targeted fiscal policy support to aggregate demand, it added.

'Forex Reserves Rise By USD 4.23 Billion To USD 597.51 Billion'

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: India's forex reserves increased by USD 4.23 billion to USD 597.509 billion for the week ended May 20 on the back of a high accretion of core currency assets, according to RBI data. The country's foreign exchange reserves had declined by USD 2.676 billion to USD 593.279 billion in the previous reporting week ended May 13.

During the reporting week, the rise in the reserves was mainly on account of a drop in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, and gold reserves, as per weekly data released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday.

FCAs increased by USD 3.825 billion to USD 533.378 billion in the week. Expressed in dollar terms, the FCAs include the



effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves increased by USD 253 million to USD 40.823 billion. RBI said that the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) climbed USD 102 million to USD 18.306 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF increased by USD 51 million to USD 5.002 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

Bhatnagar Addresses 6th 'Digital Transformation Conclave' At SKICC

Says Digital Transformation Improves Mechanism Of Public Service Delivery, Creates Opportunity For Feedback & Corrections

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Digital Transformation is at the heart of Good Governance and in the light of the pandemic Covid-19 situation, we have come a long way in navigating the adversities of this pandemic with the help of technology and digital transformation, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar said on Friday.

The Advisor made these remarks while addressing the 6th Digital Transformation Conclave at SKICC, here.

The conclave was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Agriculture Production Department, J&K, Atal Dulloo; ACS, Finance Department, J&K, Vivek Bhardwaj; ACS, IT Department, Haryana Government, Anil Malik; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Gol, Dr. Rajendra Kumar; Secretary IT, J&K and CEO, JKeGA, Purna Puri; Commissioner SMC, Athar Amir Ul Shafi Khan; senior officers of J&K Government, delegates and representatives of several IT companies, among others.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conclave, Advisor Bhatnagar highlighted that



the digital transformation has bridged the gap of digital divide in recent years and it has empowered the citizens in many ways. He added that the Digital transformation has improved the mechanism of public service delivery besides it has created an opportunity for feedback as well as corrections.

The Advisor further said that the Digital transformation has evolved the concept of 'Minimum Government Maximum Governance' and has amplified the basis for establishment of citizen centric governance models. He added

that the Digital means have developed more connections between different departments as well as establishments, thereby improving the public service delivery.

While talking on different aspects of the Conclave, Advisor Bhatnagar said that this important conclave will significantly contribute in the ongoing development of Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed on the aspect that the potential of technology should be capitalised to its maximum extent so that something unique is contributed towards society.

The Advisor in his address also underlined the importance of Cyber Security in the current Digital Revolution and emphasized on the fact that we should give priority to Cyber Security like we do to physical assets.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare department, Atal Dulloo said that the information technology has changed our lives in last thirty years. He highlighted that the digital technologies have a tremendous impact on our economy, lives and other aspects besides it is significantly contributing to ease of living of citizens as well of ease of gathering knowledge.

Additional Secretary, MeitY, Gol, Dr. Rajendra Kumar, in his address, said that the focus of digital transformation is on how technology can develop industry, government business as well improve citizen centric services. He also highlighted about the recent achievements of Gol in Technological World besides the transformation our country has achieved through digital means.

During the inaugural ceremony of the Conclave, a short film on different digital initiatives and transformations launched by Government of Jammu and Kashmir was also screened.

Foxglove Bloom Festival Being Held In Bhaderwah On May 31

Observer News Service

Bhaderwah: Chief Executive Officer Bhaderwah Development Authority Nevdeep Wazir on Friday discussed the arrangements for the Foxglove Bloom festival scheduled to be held on May 31, at Noori Hanga Bhaderwah.

The meeting was attended by officers and public representatives to discuss and take suggestions of the stakeholders for organising the event being held under the banner of Tourism Development Authority Bhaderwah in collaboration with District Administration Doda.

The CEO Bhaderwah Development Authority briefed

the participants about the event and sought their valuable suggestions and support to make it successful and memorable. He requested the officers to provide all possible support in making the event a grand success.

The officers and public representatives gave their suggestions which were appreciated by the participants. Issues of security, Road clearance, availability of drinking water, installation of food points and other stalls were discussed at length. The event would witness local cultural activities like Diku Dance, folk songs in Bhaderwahi language to be performed by the local artists. Services of local band groups will be sought.

The meeting was presided over by the DDC member Thakur Yudhvir Singh and attended by BDC chairman Omi Chand, ADC Ch. Dil Mir, EO Municipal Committee Yusuf Umar, representative of 4RR, AEE PMGSY, representatives of Tour and Travel Agencies, Hotel and Guest House Association and the representatives of other Departments.

All the participants assured CEO BDA, and Administration of full support and cooperation to make the event successful and memorable. CEO assured that such events shall be held at other tourist spots like Jai, Padri etc also, that will help in promoting the tourist potential of Bhaderwah.

Slain TV Artists Family Given Rs 1L Ex-Gratia

Agenceis

Srinagar: The administration in Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday granted an ex-gratia amount of Rs 1 lakh to the family of a TV artist shot dead by militants on Wednesday.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Budgam, Dr. Nasir Ahmad accompanied by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chadoora, Prince Noorul Hamid today visited the residence of late TV artist Amreena Bhat at village

Qanungopora Hushroo and expressed solidarity and sympathy with the deceased family members on behalf of District Administration Budgam, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the officers extended condolences and sympathies with Amreen's father Khazir Mohammad Bhat.

"The ADC also handed over a cheque of Rs 1.0 lac as instant ex-gratia to her father on behalf of District Administration," he added.

Small, Medium Towns Of J&K To Play Important Role In Creating Economic Activities: Jitendra

New Delhi: Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said small and medium towns of Jammu and Kashmir will play an important role in creating economic activities, particularly in the processing of agro-produce, the weaving industry and development of IT services.



CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Four Local Militants

an encounter.

In the ensuing encounter, he said, two LeT militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter.

The police identified them as Shakir Ahmad Waza and Aftab Malik, both residents of Trenz Shopian.

As per police records, the spokesperson said, both the killed militants were categorized and were part of groups involved in several "terror crime cases" including attacks on Police and security forces.

"Incriminating materials, huge cache of arms & ammunition was recovered from both the sites of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

While interacting with media, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that both of the slain youth had joined militant ranks recently and were involved in killing of artist Amreen Bhat on the directions of their Commander Lateef.

Kumar, according to the spokesperson, congratulated the joint teams for their valour and determination to neutralize and avenge the killing of artiste Amreen Bhat within 24hrs.

"He also termed these operations as a big success and said that during past three days 10 terrorists including 3 from JeM and 7 from LeT proscribed terror outfits have been neutralized in the Kashmir valley," he added.

Social Activist

On May 16, a local court in Varanasi directed the district administration to seal a spot in the Gyanvapi Masjid complex after counsels representing the Hindu petitioners claimed that a Shivling was found during a court-mandated videography survey.

A mosque management committee spokesperson disputed the claim, telling a television channel that the object was part of a "fountain".

A day later, the top court directed the district magistrate of Varanasi to ensure the protection of an area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringer Gauri complex where a 'Shivling' was said to have been found and allowed Muslims to offer 'namaz' and perform "religious observances".

ED Summons Dr Farooq

Reacting to the development, Abdullah's party, the National Conference (NC), said the veteran leader would continue to cooperate with the authorities like he has done in the past.

"ED summons to JKNC President Dr Farooq Abdullah nothing new; this is common for all opposition parties in India. He has continued to maintain his innocence in the matter and has cooperated with the investigative agencies and will do so in this case as well," the NC posted on Twitter.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti said there was nothing to react to this as it was crystal clear that the voice of the opposition was being muzzled with the help of central probe agencies like the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The ED had questioned Abdullah in connection with the multi-crore Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) scam case earlier as well.

Between 2011 and 2012, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had given Rs 112 crore to the state cricket association for the promotion of the game in Jammu and Kashmir. It was alleged that Rs 46.30 crore from the grant was misappropriated.

In 2015, a public interest litigation (PIL) was filed by two cricketers -- Majid Yaqoob Dar and Nissar Ahmad Khan -- in the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in connection with the alleged scam that had surfaced in 2012.

The case was subsequently handed over to

the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the alleged embezzlement of funds in the cricket association headed by Abdullah.

The CBI had filed a chargesheet last year in the court of the chief judicial magistrate of Srinagar against Abdullah and other accused in the case.

The agency had in 2020 attached assets worth Rs 11.86 crore of Abdullah in this case.

The ED had alleged that Abdullah "misused" his position as the president of the JKCA in the past and made appointments in the sports body so that the BCCI sponsored funds could be laundered.

CBI Summons

after the then V P Singh government, supported by the BJP at the Centre, released five militants from the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in her exchange.

Rubaiya Sayeed, who stays in Chennai, is listed as a prosecution witness by the CBI which took over the investigation in early 1990.

Yasin Malik, chief of the banned JKLF who has recently been sentenced to life imprisonment in a funding case, is an accused in the case.

The case had gone into virtual cold storage and was revived after Malik was picked up by the National Investigation Agency in 2019 on charges of militancy funding.

In January last year, the CBI, with help from Special Public Prosecutors Monika Kohli and S K Bhat, framed charges against 10 people, including Malik, in the Rubaiya kidnapping case that turned out to be a turning point in the Valley's volatile history. The release of the five JKLF members was seen as a morale booster for militant groups, which had started raising their heads at the time.

The CBI moved an application summoning Rubaiya Sayeed as she was listed as a prosecution witness. This was agreed to by the special court that has now ordered her to appear before it on July 15, the officials said.

Rubaiya Sayeed was kidnapped by JKLF members from Srinagar to ensure the release of their associates lodged in different jails.

Other charged in the case are Ali Mohammed Mir, Mohammed Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmad Gandroo, Javed Ahmad Mir, Mohammed Rafiq Pahlou, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wajahat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.

During the investigation, accused Ali Mohammad Mir, Zaman Mir and Iqbal Gandroo voluntarily confessed before a magistrate about his role in the Rubaiya kidnapping.

Besides, four others made confessional statements before CBI's Superintendent of Police.

"Since the accused persons besides admitting of their own guilt have also narrated about the participation of other accused persons namely Malik, Javed Ahmed Mir and Mehraj-U-Din Sheikh, which can also be used against them as one of the pieces of evidence," the court had said in January last year.

The 10 are among the two dozen accused named by the CBI in its chargesheet filed before the court. Among the others, top JKLF commanders Mohammad Rafiq Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone are dead and 12 are absconding. These are Halima, Javed Iqbal Mir, Mohammad Yaqub Pandit, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Khursheed Ahmad Dar, Basharat Rehman Noori, Tariq Ashraf, Shafat Ahmad Shangloo, Manzoor Ahmad, Gulam Mohammad Taploo, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Nissar Ahmad Bhat.

In March 2020, the special court framed charges against the JKLF chief and six others in another case related to the gunning down of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar in January 1990.

Atmosphere Of

have been coming here ever since 1995,

some years less and some more," Abdullah told reporters at Chadoora in Budgam district.

He had gone there to console the killing of Television artist and TikTok starlet Amreen Bhat by militants at her residence on Wednesday.

He said the claims of normalcy by the government do not reflect the ground reality. "There is an atmosphere of fear. No one is sure who will be next in the target. We have a woman who is shot dead at her home and her nephew is injured. A similar incident took place with one of our off duty policemen. Where is the normalcy?" he asked.

We had made Srinagar militancy-free, areas of Ganderbal district and most areas of Budgam were incident-free. Today, I am neither in government nor making claims of normalcy. This question should be asked of the present government," Abdullah said.

Asked about police claims that killers of Amreen Bhat have been eliminated, the former chief minister said he would not be able to comment on it as he was not privy to the intelligence based on which the operation was carried out.

"We all are disturbed by the trend of innocent civilian killings and the present government has to find a way to stop it," Abdullah added.

Asked about ED summon to NC president and Farooq Abdullah, he said his father has maintained innocence and has been cooperating with the agency.

"Tell me which party, opposing the BJP, has not had their doors knocked? Farooq sahib has said he is innocent. He has said he will appear before the agency whenever asked to and answer their questions," he added.

7 Soldiers Killed

soldiers was moving in the vehicle from Partapur transit camp to a forward location in sub-sector Hanif, the officials said.

The vehicle skidded off the road and fell into the river, resulting in injuries to all of them, they said.

A rescue operation was carried out swiftly and all the soldiers were evacuated to field hospital in Partapur, the officials said.

"Seven individuals have been declared fatal so far. There are grievous injuries to others as well. Dedicated efforts are underway to ensure that the best medical care is provided to the injured, including requisition of air effort from the Air Force to shift the more serious casualties to Western Command," an official said.

PM Anguished Over

and fell into the Shyok river, Army officials said.

The accident took place at around 9 am at a place that is around 25 km from Thoise, they said.

"Anguished by the bus accident in Ladakh in which we have lost our brave army personnel," Modi said in a tweet.

"My thoughts are with the bereaved families. I hope those injured recover at the earliest. All possible assistance is being given to the affected," he said.

According to the officials, 26 soldiers were on their way from the transit camp in Partapur to a forward location in sub-sector Hanif when the accident took place.

Court Orders

on a Supreme Court judgement in Ashray Adhikar Abhiyan V/s. Union of India 2002, wherein the Apex Court held that it is the obligation of the State to give a decent burial to a deceased person as per their Religious beliefs.

The court also emphasised on the judgement passed by Madras High Court S. Sethu Raja V/s The Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu and others wherein the court dealt

with paramountcy of Article 21 of the constitution of India which confers the right to life and personal liberty and its application to the dead through judicial pronouncements.

The court therein had elaborated that the right to human dignity is not restricted to a living human being but available even after death.

The Court in its orders observed that right of the next of kin of the deceased to have their dear one cremated or buried as per the religious obligations and religious belief that the dead person professed during his life time, is part and parcel of right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

"The parents and close relations of the deceased are well within their right to demand the dead body of their dear one to be cremated or buried as per their traditions, religious obligations and religious belief," the Court said.

On the contention of the UT administration that the decision not to hand over the body of the deceased to the petitioner for performing his last rites was taken in the larger public interest and to prevent the situation of law and order going out of hand, the Court in its judgement observed that while the bodies of two of the four killed in the encounter, namely, Altaf Ahmad Bhat and Dr. Mudasar Gul were exhumed and handed over to their relatives for their last rites in the graveyards of their choice, there exist no cogent grounds to deny the similar right to the petitioner.

The judgment by Justice Sanjeev Kumar further elaborated that it transpires it was due to public pressure and demand by the relatives of Altaf Ahmad Bhat and Dr. Mudasar Gul, their bodies were allowed to be exhumed and handed over to their relatives

"And since the petitioner was a resident of Gool, a remote village in Jammu Province and did not much stay in the Valley and, therefore, his request was arbitrarily turned down. The action of the respondents is not traceable to any procedure established by law which is just, fair and equitable," the Court said.

Parting ways, the court allowed the petition of the father of the deceased Amir Latief Magrey and directed administration to make arrangements for exhumation of the mortal remains of the deceased Amir Latief Magrey in presence of the petitioner and also directed appropriate arrangement for transportation of the body to his village for according burial in his native graveyard in accordance with the traditions, religious obligations and religious faith which the deceased professed during his life time provided it is in deliverable state.

"However, if the body is highly putrefied and is not in deliverable state the petitioner and his close relatives shall be allowed to perform last rites as per their tradition and religious belief in the Wadder Payeen graveyard itself & in that situation, the State shall pay to the petitioner a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs for deprivation of his right to have the dead body of his son and give him decent burial as per family traditions, religious obligations and faith," the Court said.

KP Employees Meet

Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor; Vijay Kumar, IGP Kashmir; Ashok Pandita, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K and other senior officers were present during the interaction.

LG Flags Off

inspected the Mobile Medical Units and enquired about the health services and facilities available for the people.

"A dedicated medical team is accompanying the mobile medical units to provide primary, preventive and curative medical facilities to the rural population at their doorsteps, it was informed," the spokesperson said.

He further said that Rakesh Aima, Regional Manager, SBI; Adv Narsingh Lagad, Trustee, Borderless World Foundation (BWF); Waleed Khalid, Advisory Board Member BWF and other team members of BWF were present on the occasion at Raj Bhavan. Director Health Services Kashmir and Additional Commissioner Kashmir were also present.

Govt Orders

Acquisition, Northern Railways, Udhampur/ Reasi, holding additional charge of Collector, Land Acquisition, Defence, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Youth 7.502 Services and Sports Department.

In a separate order, the government assigned additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department to Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (IAS, AGMUT:1997), Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department in addition to his own duties till further order.

"Amit Sharma, JKAS, Secretary to the Government, ARI and Trainings Department has been asked to hold the charge of the Administrative Secretary, Mining Department in addition to his own duties till further order in the interest of administration," reads the order.

Hybrid Militant Held I

laid a naka at Bemina crossing here, a police spokesperson said. He said an individual approaching the naka was challenged by the joint team but he tried to flee.

"However, he was apprehended by the Naka party. The apprehended individual identified himself as Nasir Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Ahad Dar resident of Gund Brath Sopore," he said, adding that on frisking one Pistol, one magazine and five live rounds were recovered from his possession.

The spokesperson further said that on the basis of initial questioning, Nasir accepted that he was working as a hybrid militant of LeT outfit and was involved in delivering pistols in Srinagar city to carry out targeted killing.

"A case under the relevant provisions of law has been registered at Police Station Bemina and further investigation has been taken up," he added.

VC Kashmir

issues of academic and administrative importance.

The LG, he said, advised the VC to adopt innovative and reformative measures to promote excellence in teaching, research and extension activities on most recent advancements.

"He further suggested for putting special focus on capacity building of the students, and incorporating students' feedback culture while maintaining high standards of the University," the spokesperson said.

Train Crushes

was mentally unsound. Her body was shifted from the site of the accident to a nearby health facility for post-mortem, a local news agency GNS reported. Meanwhile a police official has also confirmed the incident.

Two Killed After

Both the injured men, reports said, were removed to the Sub District Hospital (SDH) Pampore by locals for treatment. However, at the hospital, the doctors declared them dead, reports added.

Covid: 7 New

officials said. The Covid-19 death toll stands at 4,752. No Covid-related fatality was reported in the last 24 hours, they said. There were 51 confirmed cases of mucormycosis (black fungus), officials added. (PTI)

Go Gurez: Canoeing Event Organised



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: In order to promote tourist activities and give a flip to tourist football in Gurez Valley, a first ever canoeing event was held on Friday at Gurez, Bandipora.

The event was organised by District Administration Bandipora in collaboration with the Tourism Department to promote Water sports in Gurez for tourists.

Gurez is a beautiful valley at a distance of 86 kms from Bandipora.

Blessed with nature's bounty, gushing clear water of Kishanganga and wonderful trekking routes along the ancient silk route, Gurez is a beautiful place

to visit for tourists in Kashmir.

To boost the tourist flow and to explore the valley, the District Administration has started the "Go Gurez Campaign". This year, the District Administration in collaboration with the Tourism Department has organised various events involving local youth to attract tourists.

The beauty and mesmerizing view of Razdan Top, Kishangan-ga, Habba Khatoon Peak, Izmar, Tarbal, Purana Tulail and Dawar etc adds the breathtaking beauty of Gurez.

Earlier this month the District Administration organised a bike rally from Mini Secretariat Bandipora to Dawar to promote tourist activities in Gurez.

Anantnag District Level U-19 Competitions Declared Open By MoS MHA



Observer News Service

PAHALGAM: Department of Youth Services and Sports District Anantnag on Friday kick started U-19 competitions for Kabaddi and Tug of War at famous health resort, the land of Shepherds, Pahalgam.

On this occasion MoS Ministry of Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra was the chief guest. District Development Council Chairman Muhammad Yousuf Gorsi, Deputy Inspector General SKR, SSP Anantnag, Additional District Development Commissioner Anantnag, along with other senior officers and officials of the District Administration participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion MoS Mishra highlighted the policies of government for the welfare of the youth, particularly towards the sports development. He congratulated the Department of Youth Services & Sports for con-

ducting such events for the betterment of youth. He also urged upon the youth to take part sports activities besides working hard to excel in studies.

The inaugural Kabaddi match was played between HSS Pahalgam and HSS Batakoot which was won by HSS Batakoot, while as Tug of War match was won by HSS Pahalgam by defeating HSS Batakoot. On the occasion a colourful cultural program was displayed by HSS Pahalgam and traditional Gojri language song was presented by students of HSS Batakoot.

Later a presentation Ceremony was held at which the MoS distributed prizes among the 1st and 2nd place holders.

Also 13 cricket kits were distributed by MoS Mishra among 13 schools drawn from 12 education zones of the District.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer, technical officials, members of Activities Section were also present on the occasion.

YSS Elevates 99 PEMs As ZPEOs

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Youth Services and Sports has promoted 99 senior Physical Education Masters (PEM) of the Department as Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEO). An order vide no 15-JK(YSS) of 2022 was issued on Friday by the Administrative Department of YSS&S. The promoted ZPEOs belong to different districts of J&K.

Pertinently the Department of YSS&S is carrying out sports activities for school children and non-students in 187 sports zones across J&K and until now only 43 Zonal Physical Education Officers were placed in different Zones for this purpose.

"Elevating 99 officials for looking after the activities of the Department at zonal level will certainly help us to monitor activities of the Department in every nook and corner of the UT". This was stated by Alok Kumar Principal Secretary to Government YSS&S Department.



He while congratulating the promotees hoped that they will help the Department in tapping and channelizing sports talent in young blood at grassroots level. He advised the field staff of the Department that they should put in every possible effort in making mega sports events like YSS&S cup, LG's Rolling Trophy, and other such sports extravaganzas successful by ensuring mass participation of J&K youth in the same.

Liverpool Vs Real Madrid: Key Stats Ahead Of Champions League Final



Reuters

PARIS: The following are key statistics ahead of Saturday's UEFA Champions League final between English side Liverpool and Spanish team Real Madrid.

KEY STATS

- ▶ The two teams have met eight times in the European Cup, with Real winning four times and Liverpool three.
- ▶ Their most recent meeting was in the quarter-finals of the 2020-21 Champions League season.
- ▶ This is the third time the teams will meet in the final -- Liverpool won 1-0 in the 1980-81 European Cup final, while Real won 3-1 in the 2017-18 Champions League final.
- ▶ Real have won the title on 13 occasions -- in 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2014, 2016, 2017 and 2018 -- and have triumphed in their last seven finals.

▶ England's Liverpool have won the title six times -- in 1977, 1978, 1981, 1984, 2005 and 2019.

▶ For the second time in a row, an English team will play in the Champions League final after Chelsea beat Manchester City 1-0 in last year's clash.

▶ Real have never lost a final since the competition became known as the Champions League. This is their eighth appearance in the fixture.

▶ Real's Carlo Ancelotti is the first coach to lead a team in five Champions League finals and is seeking a record-breaking fourth European Cup victory. He shares the landmark of three wins with former Real boss Zinedine Zidane and Liverpool's Bob Paisley.

▶ A victory would also make Ancelotti the first coach to win the Champions League twice with more than one club. He previously led AC Milan to two Champions League titles.

Player Fatigue Concerns Hang Over Liverpool-Madrid CL Final

Agencies

PARIS: For a player who doesn't consider himself to be a striker, Mohamed Salah is the envy of many forwards with his scoring record for Liverpool.

"I don't play No. 9, I play on the wing," Salah said. "It's completely different when you play as a winger."

And yet the Egyptian enters the Champions League final on Saturday with 31 goals in 50 games for this season and as the leading forward in English football.

An impressive goal return but one eclipsed by the true No. 9 that Real Madrid will be turning to for goals in the Stade de France. Karim Benzema's haul stands at 44 goals, achieved in only 45 club games.

Maybe less can be more.

The showpiece climax to the European club season could well be determined by who is less fatigued after a two-year period of coronavirus-impacted schedules with few significant breaks.

Such is the concern about the workload on players that, as the teams flew into Paris, members of the world players' union was meeting in the French capital



on Thursday to discuss burnout of the biggest stars.

"It's obviously the time of the year when the players are really focused on winning," FIFPRO general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann said. "I'm sure they are going to get all their energy to play a good match on Saturday but they are going to pay for it eventually. It's really concern-

ing for us in the moment, the risk of injury now, but also in the long term."

Benzema, who at 34 is five years older than Salah, has only taken to the field 52 times since August for Madrid and France.

Adding on their African Cup of Nations trips in January, Salah and Senegal forward Sadio Mane are both set to play their 70th games of the season.

Liverpool has played every game possible this season and every one has had something at stake.

Madrid had the luxury of winning the Spanish league with four games to spare a month ago.

It's a return to Paris for Liverpool where it beat Madrid in the 1981 final when it was just the European Cup still.

The teams meet again at the end of the 30th season of the Champions League -- a competition Madrid sought to destroy a year ago by splitting to form a Super League.

No Clear Favourites In UCL Final: Real Madrid's Modric

Reuters

PARIS: Real Madrid are confident going into the Champions League final against Liverpool and will count on their big-game experience but there is no firm favourite in Paris, according to midfielder Luka Modric.

Real are playing in their fifth Champions League final since 2014. Having won their last seven since 1998, the Spanish side are chasing a record-extending 14th crown in a rematch of the 2018 final in which they defeated Liverpool 3-1 in Kyiv.

"We have certain experience in this competition. Some of the players have played four times in the final of the Champions League. Now we are lucky to be in the fifth one. We need to try to be normal like all season," Modric told BT Sport.

"There is no favourite in the final. Liverpool is a great team, they are having a great season, they won two cups, they fought for the league until the end...



There is no favourite but we have a lot of confidence."

Modric said coach Carlo Ancelotti, who helped the Spanish side win their 10th Champions League title in 2014, had not changed a lot to get them back to the final.

"He is the same, what we like about him is his personality, his humility, how he speaks with the players, how he approaches us," Modric said.

"When you have a person like

him around you, you give more on the pitch. You give more for him. That's why Carlo is a special coach, one of the best in the world of football still.

"The human side of him is the best, it's what we like the most and is the best for this team."

Real lost one leg in each of their knockout ties against Paris St Germain, Chelsea and Manchester City but still did enough to reach the final, winning by a single goal on aggregate in each round.

Babar Can Become The First Batter To Rank No.1 In All Formats: Karthik

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Veteran India wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik reckons Babar Azam will soon become the top-ranked batter across formats, adding that Pakistan skipper is reaping the benefits of the subtle changes made in his batting technique.

The 27-year-old, who has been a consistent campaigner across all three formats, currently holds the top spot among batters in T20Is as well as ODIs and Karthik is confident Babar can become the first player in the history of the sport to be ranked No.1 across all three formats.

"One-hundred per cent (he is capable of achieving the No.1 ranking in all three formats). He (Babar) is a high-quality player who is at the peak of his batting prowess and he has got some Test matches coming up," Karthik said on The ICC Review.

"He has been phenomenal in all three formats of the game and he has done well in different batting positions too. I think he has the potential. He has got all the following of Pakistan helping him in abundance to go on and do special things for his country," he added.

The seasoned wicketkeeper-batter feels Babar has tweaked his batting technique recently which has helped the right-hander become a better player and his timing of the ball is now on par with all modern-day batters.

"The two things that struck me when I watched him bat is his balance and his striking point when he plays a ball.

"Whether it is on the front foot or the back foot, his ability to strike the ball more often than not under his eyes, has been phenomenal.

"He strikes the ball at the point where it is optimum power for



where the ball is pitched and that makes him a very special player."

In the longest format of the game, Babar is ranked fifth in the world, behind Australia's Marnus Labuschagne and the 'Big Four' of India's Virat Kohli, England's Joe Root, Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Kane Williamson.

"It is a very strong 'Fab Four' that we are talking about and they have obviously been there for much longer, but there is no doubt that Babar has all the credentials and he is going to make it a 'Fab Five'."

"There is no doubt he is there or thereabout ... he is a very special player."

Karthik believes Babar will continue to develop further as he learns how to adapt to different conditions that players face when playing away from home.

"When you play international cricket, you have got to keep changing a little bit here and there to keep improving your technique, he said.

"Sometimes just by one per cent (improvement), you can go on and achieve success in that particular tour you are on, so I think he has definitely tweaked his technique a bit here and there over a period of time."

Sri Lanka Crushes Bangladesh By 10 Wickets To Win Series



Agencies

DHAKA: Sri Lanka crushed Bangladesh by 10 wickets in the second cricket test to win the series 1-0 after the host team collapsed from 156-5 to 169 all out in its second innings on Friday.

Sri Lanka easily reached the target on the fifth and final day to finish 29-0 in three overs with Oshada Fernando hitting 21 off only nine balls. Captain Dimuth Karunaratne was 7 not out.

Fast bowler Asitha Fernando did most of the damage for Sri Lanka's bowlers, registering his first 10-wicket haul in a match with 4-93 in the first innings, followed by 6-51.

Shakib Al Hasan (58) and in-form Liton Das (52) earlier helped Bangladesh avoid an innings defeat though the damage had already been done.

Resuming the day on 34-4 and still needing 107 runs to make Sri Lanka bat again, Bangladesh lost Mushfiqur Rahim (23) in the eighth over of the day when Ka-

sun Rajitha (2-40) bowled him with a delivery that kept low.

Allrounder Shakib, who took 5-96 in the first innings, counterattacked to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Liton, after scoring 88 runs in the drawn first test and a career-best 141 in the first innings of this test, went slowly but smoothly to deny Sri Lanka bowlers' quest for another wicket.

The wicketkeeper-batter pushed left-arm spinner Praveen Jayawickrama through cover for a single to bring up 2,000 runs in his 33rd test.

Bangladesh's hopes of saving the test took a big hit when Shakib edged behind a delivery from Fernando after hitting seven fours in his 72-ball knock.

Fernando then cleaned up the tail to give Sri Lanka a small target to chase.

Bangladesh chose to bat first and scored 365 in the first innings. Sri Lanka took control of the test and series after replying with 506. (AP)

Sehwag Wants Pant To Play 100 Tests

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: If Rishabh Pant wants to get his name etched in record books forever, he should strive to play 100 Test matches for the country, one of India's greatest long format match-winners Virender Sehwag said on Friday.

Sehwag, the country's only cricketer to have struck two triple hundreds in Test cricket, is among the 11 Indians to have played 100 plus Tests and scored over 8500 runs.

Pant, who has an enviable record being the only Indian keeper to have scored Test hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa, has played 30 Tests and scored 1920 runs so far at an average of 40.85.

"If he (Pant) goes on to play



100+ Tests, his name would be etched in the history books forever. Only 11 Indian cricketers have achieved this feat, and everyone can recall those 11 names," Sehwag said on 'Sports18' while making it clear that white-ball exploits are not for posterity.

The instant gratification of matches won in T20Is and ODIs are fine but in the long run, people only remember what you have done in a white jersey, said the 'Nawab of Najafgarh'.

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