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Here's Exactly How You Should Clean Your Car's Interior

Marissa Laliberte
Reader's digest

This is what you should hit during your routine cleaning. You probably have a weekly cleaning routine for your home. Heck, you probably even make sure to hit the car wash the minute the outside of your car starts glistening with bird droppings and pollen. Unlike at home, your dirty shoes are almost always on in the car, and there's a good chance you've been caught snacking during the rush to get to your next destination. All that use makes for a pretty grimy car interior, but most people don't bother cleaning the inside—including all your favorite car accessories—as often as they should. So, when was the last time you actually cleaned your car interior? Pick up some car stain removers, grab your favorite clean car essentials, and arm yourself with these car cleaning tips and tricks. Time to get cleaning!

A few car interior cleaning tips

According to Consumer Reports, "many of the same household cleaners that kill viruses (including COVID-19) on hard surfaces at home can also clean a car without damaging its interior." This includes isopropyl alcohol, disinfecting wipes, and soap, and using microfiber cloths because the fabric won't harm the surfaces of your car. But what does cleaning your car look like? Jennifer Stockburger, director of operations at Consumer Reports' Auto Test Center, recommends on Consumer Reports to clean surfaces that are touched frequently "including the steering wheel, door handles, shift lever, any buttons or touch screens, wiper and turn signal stalks, passenger and driver door armrests, grab handles, and seat adjusters."

How often you should clean your car?

To keep the inside of your car sparkling, you



should be cleaning it at least once a month, Christian Newman, owner of C & J Automotive Detailing tells TODAY. And if the dog hair and granola bar crumbs start building up even sooner, you might want to clean the inside of your vehicle every other week. But there are certain habits to get into regularly to make cleaning your car's interior less of a hassle every couple of weeks such as taking out any accumulating trash and wiping away dust. Doing a deep clean every two weeks sounds like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be as time-consuming as you think. Check out these myths that you need to stop believing about your car.

Start with the dashboard

Time to break out the vacuum, but not where you think. Don't start by vacuuming the carpet when you decide to clean your car interior; you'll just end up pushing dirt back on when you clean the seats and other areas, according to Family Handyman. Instead, start by attacking the dashboard, door panels, and console with your vacuum. This will pick up any debris sitting on top.

Next, dip a soft microfiber cloth into some water to wipe the surfaces down. If your dashboard is looking particularly filthy, mix some warm water with soap to wipe it down. In order to get into

vents and tiny crevices, Detail Central recommends using a toothbrush or soft paintbrush to gently remove dirt in those hard-to-reach places. Find out the meaning of all those dashboard symbols on your car.

How to clean door jambs

Now take a look at the doorjamb, the area where your car door connects to the body of the car. "Door jambs are one of the first parts of a car you see when you get in, so keep them clean," Newman tells TODAY. By using a cotton cloth to rub mild polish into the area, you'll not only make the area look nicer, but also add oils to keep it from getting too dry, according to Popular Mechanics. You can also spray an all-purpose cleaner and use a small brush to clear away any of the dirt. Then, take a spray bottle with water to spritz away the dirt you just dislodged. Wipe away with a clean microfiber towel and voilà! You have clean door jambs. Pretty neat, right? Make sure you also check out this car cleaning putty that will get those hard-to-reach areas.

Time for the vinyl

To get dust and dirt off your dashboard and door insides, start by wiping the vinyl with a rag, suggests auto repair company Your Mechanic. Then spritz a microfiber cloth with vinyl cleaner and wipe down the surface, getting rid of the excess with a dry cloth. Just avoid the steering wheel, because vinyl cleaner can make it slippery and hard to hold onto. Don't forget to hit the pockets in your door by de-cluttering and vacuuming. See if you're doing any of these things that you shouldn't do in your car.

How to wash your windows

When you roll down your windows, you might notice a buildup of dirt toward the top—don't forget to hit those edges when you wipe down your windows and mirrors, suggests Family Handyman. You can also try this cool trick for using club soda to clean a windshield and use these other tips to avoid window cleaning problems.

In order to prevent streaks, make sure you have the right cleaning supplies. Create your own wash with a bit of white vinegar, isopropyl alcohol, and distilled water. The mixture should have even amounts of distilled water and alcohol, topped off with a cap full of vinegar. Combine in a spray bottle and spritz away! Use a microfiber cloth for the best results.

How to clean car seats

Before washing seats, get the dirt off with a vacuum. This prevents you from pushing dirt deeper into the seats when you clean and getting rid of any unwanted pet hair or crumbs. Next, for cloth seats, work at a spray-on cleaner with a scrub brush, says Family Handyman. If your seats are leather or vinyl, use a lotion-based leather cleaner, which can work on either material, Newman tells TODAY. Regardless of what material your seats are composed of, make sure you wipe away any excess moisture using a microfiber cloth.

How to clean the floors

Finally, it's time for the floors. Clean car floors make a huge difference in how clean your car looks. Start by removing the mats and sliding your seats forward—junk tends to build up behind them. Go over the mats and carpet with a brush-free attachment, according to Family Handyman. Now bring that vacuum inside for those other genius uses for a vacuum cleaner.

What not to use to clean your car

Both Kelley Blue Book and Consumer Reports advise against using hydrogen peroxide and bleach. "Both chemicals can put a welcome end to the coronavirus, but they will also cause damage to the vinyl and plastics used in most modern vehicles today," writes Kelley Blue Book on their site. "Under no circumstances should you use any ammonia-based cleaning products." If you find yourself without any cleaning products, using soap and water will work fine. Now that you have the cleanest car interior, check out these weird car features you may not have known you had.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been received from one. Shri : Abdul Majied Bhat S/O:- Abdul Salam Bhat R/o: Gundipora Beerwah Budgam Registration No: JK04D-5602 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Fin Service B/U Budgam.



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM1026
Dated 10-06-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where as a joint application has been received from owner, Shri : Abdul Rashid Dar S/o: Sonaullah Dar R/o: Dooniwari Chadoora Budgam as Transferor) & Shri.Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat S/o



Mohamamd Maqbool Bhat R/o Watakaloo Chadoora Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab (Tata Sumo)Carriage route permit No.744/MC/ Budgam vehicle No. JK04B 5404 as well as HPA Concillation with J&K State Co-Operative Bank Ltd.B/U Nagam

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM 1018
Dated 01-06-2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE



Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Sajad Hussain Yatoo S/o: Mohammad Jaffar Yatoo R/o: Beerwah Magam Budgam (Transferor) of LMV (Wagnor). Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C -8033. Chasis number 54187 Engine no. 88733 Model 2015. in favour of Shri.Khursid Ahmad Qadri S/o. Peer Sonaullah Qadri R/o H.No 60.Hanza Colony B, B K PORA Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA Concillation with J&K Bank Ltd B/U Gulmarg



Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM1019
Dated 01/06/2022

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education

BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 10th under Below mentioned particulars

Name : Ziya-un-Nisa
D/o GhulamMohammad Sofi
R/o Mazahama Magam



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 10th)
Roll No 121014272 Session /Year Annual-Reg. 2020-21

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/- Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Nagam

bmj

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Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

PUBLIC NOTICE

We the following persons propose to register a Non-profitable/ Non-governmental/Non-political Organisation under the name and style of SKUAST- K, Scientists and Teacher's Association (SSTA) having its office at SKUAST-Kashmir Shalimar, with the Registrar of Societies J & K Srinagar.

1. Dr. Javeed Ahmad Mugloo S/o Gh Mohd R/o Loher Senzi, Vailloo, Anantnag

Associate Professor Faculty of forestry, SKUAST-Kashmir as President

2. Dr. M. Anwar Bhat S/o Mohammad Akbar Bhat R/o D. K. Pora Shopian Kashmir

Professor Agronomy, Directorate of Extension Ed., SKUAST-Kashmir as Vice President

3. Dr. Aftab Hamid S/o Mr. Hamidullah Wani R/o Iqbal Colony, Awantipora

Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir as General Secretary

4. Dr. Fayaz Ahmed Bahar S/o Late Fetah Mohd Bahar R/o Bahar Abad Hajin Bandipora

Associate Professor Agronomy, DARS-Rangreth, SKUAST-Kashmir as Joint Secretary

5. Dr. Raiz Ahmed Lone S/o Mr. Ghulam Qadir Lone R/o Umar Abad, Sector B, Peer Bagh, Srinagar

Assistant Professor, Floriculture, KVK-Srinagar, SKUAST-Kashmir as Publicity Secretary

6. Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri S/o Ab. Salam R/o Hardumir Tral Pulwama

Assistant Professor Plant Pathology, Malangpora, SKUAST-Kashmir as Treasurer

7. Dr. Mohammad Maqbool Mir S/o Assadullah Mir R/o Dhar Bagh Harwan

Associate Professor Fruit Sci. FoH, SKUAST-Kashmir as Councillor

Any objection in this regard may be sent in writing/in person/through authorized representative to Registrar Societies within a period of 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Publicity Secretary
SSTA-SKUAST-K

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the registration of Tour & Travel agency under agency under name & style " Baby Tour & Travel " If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Tourism Department Pahalgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Aarif Hassan Rather
S/O: Ghulam Hassan Rather
R/O: Rakhchandipora

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME:-Rayees Ahmad Thoker
S/O :- Nisar Ahmad Thoker
R/O: Ruhu Anantnag

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DEE Class Contractor Card from R&B Office. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Super Intending Engineer R&B Circle Anantnag /Kulgam Khanabal within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME:- Bashir Ahmad Sheikh
S/O :- Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh
R/O: Imoh Achabal Anantnag

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Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) CONSTRUCTION DIVISION 2ND, SRINAGAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No.43/R&B/CDII/3469-79 of 2022-23

Dated:31-05-2022.

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Est. Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rupees)	E/M (In Time of completion)	M.H of Account	Class of Contract
1.	Macadamization / upgradation of road from Batamalooc Crossing to Bernina Crossing by way of P/L 50mm thick (compacted) bituminous macadam and 25mm thick (compacted) semi dense with 6mm thick seal coat. (Machine mix to be laid with paver)	56.00 Incl. C/O Bitumen	3600/-	11200/- 15 Days	C&T	Civil with HMPO/ AAY Class
2.	Macadamization / Upgradation of Jahangir Chowk to Batamalooc Road by way of P/L 40mm thick dense bituminous concrete (Machine mix to be laid with paver)	23.64 Incl. C/O Bitumen	1100/-	4720/- 10 Days	C&T	Civil with HMPO/ AAY/BEE/CEE Class
3.	Repairing of Potholes of JCRB Fly over Srinagar by way of P/L 40mm thick Dense bituminous concrete.	38.49 Incl. C/O Bitumen	36980/-	07 Days	Pot-holes	Civil with HMPO/ AAY/BEE/CEE Class

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of funds: Available

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

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31.05.2022
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents	01.06.2022 from 10.00 AM
3. Bid submission Start Date	01.06.2022 from 10.00 AM
4. Bid Submission End Date	06.06.2022 upto 4.00 PM
5. Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division No.2nd, Srinagar

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid submission start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0099 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2nd, Srinagar (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2nd, Srinagar. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 3% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 3% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DUV/Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2nd, Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

6.2 In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.

6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.

6.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.

8. The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Construction Division 2nd, Srinagar, will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

9. Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

11. Price escalation and Taxes:-The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.

12 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-tendering portal user account to store any required documents.

13. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information. (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

1. All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address

• A valid Contractor/Firm Registration Certificate issued by a competent authority in accordance with the Contractor Registration Act;

• Treasury Challan & Earnest money

• Valid PAN Card

• All the contractors has to furnish an undertaking duly executed in the Hon'ble Court of 1st Class Magistrate stating therein the Name of the work with reference to e-NIT and the source of procurement of material failure of which the bid shall be rejected.

• Scanned copy of GSTIN registration and most recent clearance certificate FORM GSTR-3B from the previous quarter i.e. (January-March 2022) or month i.e. April-2022.

14. Bidder shall upload a Self-Certified Performance declaration (Annexed format) in support of performance in respect of Bitumen Macadam Works executed by the agency during the year 2021-22.

15. Bidders are expected to submit technical bids along with scanned copies of all required documents. No document (s) that have not been uploaded will be accepted in hard copy for evaluation consideration. However, if need arises, Hard copies of any specific supporting documents, on the other hand, may be required on demand in support of documents posted online for clarification during technical evaluation.

16. The bidder should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submitting a bid, and no claim based on constrained site conditions will be entertained after the bid is accepted.

No. 3469-79

Dated 31-05-2022

DIPK-3099/22

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Construction Division 2nd.

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P4 CITY

STUDENTS INJURED IN A BRAWL AT KU

At least two students from Department of Law, University of Kashmir were injured in a scuffle on Wednesday morning. Sources from within the Department of Law allege incidents like these are becoming "order of the day". Though the general

THINK

ART OF BEING ALONE

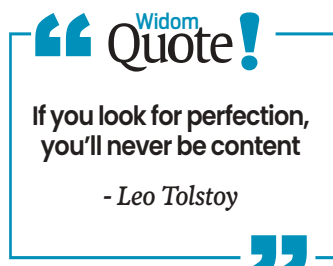
In 1840, Edgar Allan Poe described the 'mad energy' of an ageing man who roved the streets of London from dusk till dawn. His excruciating despair could be temporarily relieved only by immersing himself in a tumultuous throng of city-dwellers. 'He



P7 STATE

EMOTIONS RUN HIGH AT CREMATION OF SCHOOL TEACHER

Rajni Bala, a government school teacher who was killed by militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, was cremated here on Wednesday, amid an



NEWS DIGEST

SPO Found Dead In Bhaderwah

Srinagar: A Special Police Officer (SPO) was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his native village in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, reports said Wednesday. SPO Subash Chander was found dead by his family members, barely 100 meters from his home in Drafra village of Bhaderwah on Tuesday night, reports said. Chander, according to his father, had asked the family over phone to keep his meal ready. "Fifteen minutes later his body was recovered" [More on P10](#)

No Covid Case In Kashmir For Third Day

Srinagar: At least six more people tested positive for Coronavirus in Jammu division, while no new cases of virus were reported from the Kashmir Valley for the third consecutive day Wednesday. According to officials, all the six fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were reported from Jammu district, thus taking the total number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in the Union Territory to 454255. "Moreover, 04 more COVID-19 patients have" [More on P10](#)

Conductor Charred To Death In Truck Fire

Srinagar: A conductor was burnt to death while the driver sustained injuries after a cement laden truck skidded off the road and caught fire on Srinagar-Bandipora highway near Shilvat village, reports said Wednesday. Reports said that a cement laden truck bearing registration number (JK19 0375) skidded off the road during last midnight near Shilvat village and suddenly caught fire, resulting in serious burn injuries to conductor and driver. Both were removed to SKIMS hospital" [More on P10](#)

Electricity Shock Kills Minor Boy

Srinagar: A 12-year-old boy died after receiving an electric shock at his home in Mamat area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday morning. An official said that the boy identified as Riyaan Ajaz son of Ajaz Ahmad Mir, a resident of Mamat Budgam received an electric shock at his home, reported news agency KNO. The boy was soon rushed to Budgam hospital by family members where the doctors declared him as brought dead on arrival. An official said that they have taken cognizance of the incident.

Man Shot At, Injured In Shopian

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Wednesday shot at and injured a man in South Kashmir's Shopian district.

Around 8:30pm Wednesday, unknown militants opened fire upon Farooq Ahmad Sheikh in Keegam area of the district, police said. Sheikh, who sustained gunshot injuries in his leg, was removed to a hospital for treatment. His condition is said to be stable.

Soon after the attack, police and army launched a search operation in the area to nab the attackers. Senior police officials also reached the spot to take stock of the situation.

"#Terrorist fired upon one #civilian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh in Chidren, Keegam area of #Shopian. He got an injury in leg & has been shifted to hospital. His condition is stated to be stable," Kashmir Police posted on its official Twitter handle.

Pertinently, the attack on Sheikh comes a day after unknown militants shot dead a female teacher from Samba near her school in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

The killing of 36-year-old Rajni Bala evoked sharp condemnation by political parties, besides setting off protests by the Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime [More on P10](#)

HM Summons High-Level Meet On Kashmir In Delhi

J&K LG, Senior Govt Officers To Attend Second Meeting In Less Than A Fortnight

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Alarmed by the unabated target killings by the militants, the central government has convened a high level meeting in New Delhi on Friday to discuss the situation. The meeting, second such exercise in less than a fortnight, will be chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah. The spate of targeted killings have sparked fear among Kashmiri Pandits living and working in Kashmir Valley with many of them threatening to migrate enmasse from Kashmir.

Officials said Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, and senior functionaries of the central government and union territory have been summoned to Delhi for the meeting which is also expected to take stock of the arrangements for the upcoming annual Amarnath pilgrimage, being held after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the second high-level meeting in less than a fortnight on the Kashmir issue.

In the last meeting on June 17, the home [More on P10](#)



KP Employees To Be Shifted To Safer Locations By June 6

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: In view of increased threat perception, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday decided to immediately post Kashmiri migrants employed under prime minister's special package and other

employees belonging to the Jammu division in "secured locations" in the Valley by June 6, officials sources said.

The decision comes after a series of targeted killings of Hindu government employees by militants in Kashmir and fears of their exodus from Kashmir. [More on P10](#)

Army Commander Briefs LG On Kashmir Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Amid a sudden spurt in militant attacks in the Kashmir Valley, a senior army officer on Wednesday briefed Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha about the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 15 Corps, Lt General Amardeep Singh Aujla called on the LG at the Raj Bhavan here on Wednesday and briefed him about the prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

He said that discussions were also held on various important issues related to internal security management in J&K.

"The Lt Governor emphasized on the need for constant alertness, and synergy among Security Agencies and Civil Administration to meet the security challenges in J&K, ensuring safe and secure environment for the people," the spokesperson added.

The meeting between Sinha and the senior army officer comes in the backdrop of a spurt in militant attacks, especially the killing of a school teacher from Jammu division in Tuesday's militant attack in Kulgam district.

The killing [More on P10](#)

Peace Can't Be Restored By Army, Police In Kashmir: Dr Farooq

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that peace cannot be restored by the use of army and police in Kashmir, National Conference President Farooq Abdullah batted strongly for bringing all political parties on board to find out a way to tackle this grave situation and said people want protection of their families.

Abdullah asked the government to be very alert during forthcoming Amarnath yatra and said if there is one single untoward incident during the yatra, there will be countrywide repercussions.

"They (government) will have to think about the security aspect. They will have to do something (to ensure security of these Hindu employees). Please



call leaders of different political parties to find out a way as to how we control this (security) crisis," Abdullah told reporters here on Tuesday, referring to the targeted killings in the valley. Former chief minister [More on P10](#)

Plea In SC Seeks Direction To Establish Bar Council In J&K, Ladakh

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre and the Bar Council of India (BCI) to establish the Bar Council in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The plea has alleged that failure to provide Bar Council to lawyers from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is nothing less than step-motherly treatment and discrimination.

Petitioner Supriya Pandita, who is a practicing advocate from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, has said in the plea that the entire legal fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has no

government established body where they can get themselves enrolled and take benefits of the Bar Council as compared to other states in the country.

The Advocates Act, 1961, mandates every state should have State Bar Council and therefore, Bar Council for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh cannot be denied by the respondents, said the plea, filed through advocate Om Prakash Parihar.

It claimed that due to the non-availability of the State Bar Council, the advocates are even deprived of applying for the proximity cards for appearing before the apex court as no option for Jammu and Kashmir [More on P10](#)

How Commotion Over Crores Uncovered Kashmir's Newfangled 'Conman'

Zaid Bin Shabir

On a balmy summer day in Srinagar, black and white bearded men with battered body language arrived in the press enclave to narrate Kashmir's new "Ponzi scheme"—leaving most of them broke and bankrupt overnight.

One of them lamented that he lost crores to a "conman" operating some "extreme" outlet in the city outskirts. Another narrated his riches to rags story. While most regretted being swindled by a



'sleight of hand'—allegedly known for some 'powerful connections'.

The utter shock of being taken for a ride by a conman had brought these swarms

of men from six districts together in the heart of the capital city on May 31, 2022, leaving everyone flummoxed around them.

"The conman named

Mohammad Shafi from Budgam had taken an amount of Rs. 1 crore and 17 lakhs from me in lieu of a fake electric vehicle showroom's dealership," Manzoor Bhat, a perplexed protester, told Kashmir Observer. "I was given a dealership for three districts including Budgam, Pulwama and Srinagar. The conman then took us along with him to Jammu for a fake inauguration ceremony. After three days of futile wait, he took us to Delhi's Victory Brand factory, where his [More on P10](#)



THE JAMMU & KASHMIR BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

UNIT-KASHMIR
A CONSTITUENT UNIT OF AIJKB OF
(AFFILIATED TO AIBOA)
SAMAD COMPLEX, M.A.LINK ROAD, SRINAGAR.
KBOA K/PRESS/2022-8
MAY31,2022

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Officers Association, Kashmir expresses its deep sorrow and grief over the sad demise of one of our colleague **Mr. Altaf Hussain Reshi**, Employee ID.10025, Senior Manager, resident of Indra Nagar, near G.B.Pant Hospital, Srinagar lastly posted at Business Unit, Khanyar, who passed away on 29th of May, 2022, Sunday. Mr. Altaf Hussain Reshi was a decent, God fearing, intelligent and a very hardworking human being and was involved in a number of social activities. Immediately after the sad news, Office Bearers' meeting was called at Srinagar which was presided over by President, Mr. Mehrajudin Shah and rich tributes were paid to the deceased Officer. Later on, a team of office bearers visited the residence of the deceased to express condolences with the bereaved family. It was prayed to almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul and give patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Let us all pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

**SD/ALTAF AHMAD RINGSHAWAL
SR. VICEPRESIDENT**

DPS Student Earns Scholarship At Georgetown University

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Tashafee Masoodi, a 12th class student from Delhi Public School has earned an admission and full scholarship worth 70,000 dollars (About 51 lakh rupees) at the prestigious Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

The 18-year-old Tashafee, a student of Humanities has been offered a place at the university to pursue her Bachelor's in Foreign Services with a major in Culture and Politics. She credits her success to her family and her teachers at DPS Srinagar.

She said, "I am indebted to the Career Guidance Department of the school, which helped me with all the documents needed to be submitted including transcripts, recommendation letters and regular time to time guidance and counseling. Our Career Coach ensured that everything was submitted on time."

Congratulating the student, the Principal, Shafaq Afshan said, "Every year, DPS Srinagar students get admissions and scholarships in the top universities across India and in foreign Colleges and Universities. Our Career Counselling and Guidance Department offers a wide spectrum of guidance and mentoring that prepare students for the next stage of their educational journey. Tashafee's success is a testament to the efforts the department is putting in to transform the educational landscape of the valley."

Echoing her, the chairman Vijay Dhar said, "When we set out to start DPS Srinagar, we wanted to transform the way education was thought of and imparted in the valley. Over the years, we have reached a stage where it is no longer a bridge too far for our students to dream of top universities over the globe. Tashafee proves that. Congratulations to her and her teachers."

Residents Of Abu Bakr Colony Bemina Urge Admin To Repair Roads

Agencies

Srinagar: Residents of Abu Baker colony of Bemina in Central Kashmir's Srinagar district are up in arms over the dilapidated condition of the road.

Residents said that the inner links of the said colony give nightmarish experience to residents and transporters especially during the rainy season as the road has been totally tattered.

"Only a little rain caused water logging in the said area, which as per them was the result of a faulty drainage system in their respective locality", they said.

They said that they have repeatedly brought these issues in notice of higher ups several times but on ground nothing has been done.

Residents however, appealed to concerned authorities again to look into the matter and fulfill their demand at the earliest. (KNS)

Misuse Of Delmonte Label On Tin Juices: FCS&CA Conducts Inspection Across Srinagar Markets

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement squad of FCS&CA on Thursday conducted market checking drive of various areas of Srinagar City including Karfali Mohalla, Fateh Kadal, Soura, Buchpora, Pandach, Hazratbal, Pandrethan, Rajbagh, Jawahar Nagar etc.

During market checking 123 business establishments were inspected and a penal sum

of Rs.19000 has been collected as fine. 23 erring shopkeepers for violation of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Besides, a provisional Store at Rajbagh near Convent School Srinagar stands also sealed for double labeling on juice tin by Delmonte.

During the month of May-2022 an amount of Rs. 1127800 has been collected as fine from 2227 erring traders for violating E. C. Act in the valley.

Tutor Required

Wanted a female tutor for teaching class 2nd student of Burn Hall School

Dr Manzoor Ahmad
9419000311

INF

Driver Required

One Driver Having Valid Driving Licence preferably is required from Dargah , Hawal ,Kanitar , Sadrabal, Lal Bazar , Soura , Bohri Kadal areas of srinagar

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INF

Students Injured In A Brawl At KU

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: At least two students from Department of Law, University of Kashmir were injured in a scuffle on Wednesday morning.

Sources from within the Department of Law allege incidents like these are becoming "order of the day". Though the general opinion about KU suggests a peaceful atmosphere.

A student speaking on anonymity said "Danish Haji was attacked with a knife by fellow students and had to be taken to JLNLM Hospital"

However, another student questioned these claims alleging Danish Haji was the one who initiated the fight by attacking Yawar Shah with a rod.

"When I saw Yawar, he was bleeding from his forehead and had fallen unconscious. He was beaten in a park behind the law department. They further



“The department is not installing CCTVs for a reason. They want to shield influential students who are behind such incidents

threatened us with threats in the future.”

“We have approached the police as well.”

A group of female students from the Department of Law voiced their concern over the incident saying it is difficult to study in a "toxic atmosphere".

"The department is not installing CCTVs for a reason. They want to shield influential students who are behind such incidents" they alleged.

Furthermore they said they were traumatized and one of their classmates witnessed a panic attack and some other students were also injured in the incident.

However, KU officials said, "This was a minor issue and we have resolved it".

Students urge the Vice Chancellor to take cognizance of the incident and initiate action against miscreants who create nuisance.

CRPF Man Dies At Srinagar Hospital

Agencies

Srinagar: A CRPF man posted in Pulwama died in Srinagar hospital after developing some complications.

Official sources told news agency Kashmir News Trust that a trooper identified as Shiv Shankar who was posted at District Police Lines Pulwama had been admitted to Pulwama hospital after developing some health issues.

Doctors at District Hospital Pulwama referred him to SMHS Hospital Srinagar where he passed away.

He was affiliated with 182 Battalion CRPF. (KNT)

KMRA Organizes Blood Donation Camp At JLNLM Hospital



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Medical Representatives Association (KMRA) organized a blood donation camp at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) hospital on Wednesday.

The camp witnessed the participation of a good number of donors who were facilitated by the staff of the Blood Bank Depart-

ment of JLNLM hospital.

The participation of the members was overwhelming and the need of the hospital was sufficient in just 2 hour of blood donation.

Medical Superintendent, JLNM hospital, Dr. Abdul Rouf appreciated KMRA for the social cause and said more such camps should be organized whenever and wherever needed.

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
02- Zil- Qaddah
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	3: 38
ZUHR	12:29
ASR	5:27
Magrib	7:40
ISHA	9: 20

This Day In History

- 1763 - Pontiac's Rebellion: At what is now Mackinaw City, Michigan, Chippewas capture Fort Michilimackinac by diverting the garrison's attention with a game of lacrosse, then chasing a ball into the fort.
- 1774 - Intolerable Acts: Amendment to original Quartering Act enacted, allowed governor in colonial America to house British soldiers in uninhabited houses, outhouses, barns, or other buildings if suitable quarters not provided.
- 1858- Donati Comet 1st seen named after its discoverer
- 1875- Alexander Graham Bell makes first sound transmission
- 1896-Guglielmo Marconi applies to patent the radio, accepted 2 July 1897
- 1910- Pygmies discovered in Dutch New Guinea
- 1949- Transjordan renamed Jordan
- 1955- The USSR and Yugoslavia sign the Belgrade declaration and thus normalize relations between both countries, discontinued since 1948.
- 1964- Lal Bahadur Shastri elected premier of India.
- 1966- US Surveyor 1 lands in Oceanus Procellarum; 1st lunar soft landing
- 1969- Australian aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne slices US destroyer USS Frank E Evans in half, killing 74 (South Vietnam)
- 1976- East Timor People's Assembly accepts annexation by Indonesia
- 1979- John Paul II becomes 1st pope to visit a Communist country(Poland)
- 1979- NASA launches space vehicle S-198
- 1986 Regular TV coverage of US Senate sessions begins
- 1989- 10,000 Chinese soldiers are blocked by 100,000 citizens protecting students demonstrating for democracy in Tiananmen Square, Beijing
- 1996 9th Children's Miracle Network Telethon.
- 1998- The CIH computer virus is discovered in Taiwan.

From KO Archives

Army Bus Blown Up In Rajbagh

Nineteen Army Jawans Wounded, Hizb Owns Attack

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Six militants and two security men were killed and 24 injured as militants blew up an army bus with an IED and attacked a convoy a convoy in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Friday.

Nineteen army jawans were injured in the IED explosion in Rajbagh area of city. The 20 kg device, planted by the roadside along the banks of the Jhelum near a missionary school, targeted the convoy, on its way from Haft Chinar to Badami Bagh cantonment.

The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the blast, the first major strike by militants in the Valley this year. The blast smashed windowpanes of several buildings including the school, prompting authorities to close it for two days.

In the second incident, two militants, an army jawan and a policeman were killed and five, including four cops, injured near the Police Training School in Baramulla. Heavily-armed militants opened fire on an Army convoy passing through Sheeri, 65 km from here, triggering a shootout with the security men on Friday afternoon.

In the initial firing, one policeman was killed and four others were injured, a defence spokesman said. In the ensuing gunfight, both militants were killed.

An Army jawan was killed in the exchange of fire while another jawan sustained injuries. The Pakistan-based Lashker-e-Taiba has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In the third incident, two suspected Al-Badr militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Khrew area of Pulwama district on Thursday night.

(Kashmir Observer, 02 June, 2007)

Roshni Land Worth Rs 25 Crores Retrieved In Anantnag



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: The district administration here on Wednesday launched an anti-encroachment drive and retrieved land worth Rs 25 crore which had been transferred under the Roshni scheme.

In compliance to the directions issued by High Court of UT of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, a team comprising of ACR Anantnag and Tehsildar Anantnag today held an anti-encroachment drive in Qasba Bagahat Bangidar near Wazir Bagh Anantnag, an official spokesperson said.

"The quantum of land measuring a total of 13 kanals with a market value in excess of Rs 25 crores had been transferred as part of Roshni scheme," he added.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla said that encroachment removal is one of the major focus points of the administration and he is regularly monitoring the progress in this regard.

He said that strict directions have been passed to revenue officials to remove encroachment and act against any illegal constructions. He said that the land retrieved will be used for productive public purposes for the benefit of the common people.

Speaking on the occasion, Tehsildar Anantnag Umar Gulzar said that as per directions, anti-encroachment drives are being organised in various parts of the Tehsil. He said that the piece of land retrieved is located in close proximity to the town and has been made free of all encumbrances.

The locals appreciated the move, particularly the youth, and requested the authorities to utilise the retrieved land for development of stadium, Public Park, amusement parks etc.

While interacting with the people the ACR and Tehsildar Anantnag said that such drives will continue and appealed to the general public to remove encroachments voluntarily and surrender Roshni land to the authorities.

'Foxglove Festival' Attracts Large Turnout In Bhaderwah



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: To promote tourism and attract flower lovers, the Jammu and Kashmir tourism department on Wednesday organised a 'Foxglove festival' at Hanga in Doda district.

The festival was organised in collaboration with the Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA) and the Army. It attracted a large turnout which included tourism stakeholders and research scholars, officials said.

"Today, history has been made and we are fortunate enough to be part of this event as we have taken the lead in organising the first-ever 'Foxglove Festival' in Asia," District Development

Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal said.

DDC vice-chairperson Sangeeta Bhagat and Commanding Officer, 4 Rashtriya Rifles, Colonel Rajat Parmar were present during the inauguration.

"I hope this event will act as a catalyst to win back tourists to this valley. It will become an annual event of the tourism calendar of Jammu and Kashmir," Kotwal said.

Col Parmar said the Army decided to be a part of this endeavour as it had successfully organised a snow festival earlier this year. "We will continue our efforts and in this direction, we are organising a summer carnival soon to attract tourists to the valley," he said.

Apni Party Leader From Jammu Vikram Malhotra Quits Outfit

Press Trust Of India

Jammu- In a major setback to the Apni Party, one of its co-founders and general secretary from Jammu, Vikram Malhotra on Wednesday resigned from the party, citing "lack of any coherent policy or programme for the future".

Malhotra also claimed that the Apni Party has become a "reflection of the National Conference and PDP, particularly in its regional approach to Jammu."

Apni Party headed by former minister Altaf Bukhari was formed in March 2020 in the aftermath of abrogation of Article 370 providing special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

I had joined the Apni Party in national interest at a critical juncture of time in the wake of 2019 constitutional changes but in two years the party has lost its way, Malhotra, who had earlier resigned from the Congress to join the Apni Party, said in a

statement.

He said he had written a detailed letter to party president Bukhari enlisting reasons for his resignation from the party.

It was a great experience working together with Bukhari as a person but the Apni Party lacks any coherent policy or programme for the future, he said.

Malhotra asserted that in the new political environment, Jammu deserves attention but the Apni Party appears unwilling to walk that extra mile.

I have remained a dedicated political worker my whole adult life and I will continue to serve the public in the best possible way, he said.

Malhotra is the third prominent leader to quit the Apni Party in Jammu region in the past nine months.

Earlier on April 20, Apni Party's women wing state president Namrata Sharma and several of her women colleagues resigned en masse from the party, following the footsteps of former legislator Kamal Arora.

Emotions Run High At Cremation Of School Teacher

Press Trust Of India

SAMBA: Rajni Bala, a government school teacher who was killed by militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, was cremated here on Wednesday, amid an outpouring of grief and anger.

Slogans of "Rajni Bala Amar Rahe, Amar Rahe" rent the air as her husband, Raj Kumar, lit the pyre and a sea of mourners bid a tearful farewell to her.

At her home in Nanke Chak village, Bala's parents and in-laws were inconsolable.

Bala, who was posted at a government school in Kulgam's Gopalpora, was shot dead by militants on Tuesday.

Kumar, also a government school teacher, said in view of the targeted killings of Hindus in the Valley, he and his wife had repeatedly requested the administration to transfer her to a safer area.

His and his wife's transfer orders came on Monday night. Tuesday was supposed to be Bala's last day at the school in Gopalpora, he said.

"I had given an application to

the chief education officer of Kulgam. We told him that the school is not safe for my wife but he did not do anything," Kumar alleged.

As nothing happened despite having submitted multiple applications to the CEO, he said, he and his wife met the director of school education in Srinagar on Monday.

"We requested him to post us in the same school and gave him its name. Both of us were transferred to that school on Monday night," Kumar said.

"Had the administration transferred her to a safer place earlier, she might have been alive today. Just a day after her transfer order came, she was killed by terrorists," he told reporters.

He said his wife was shot dead minutes after he dropped her off at her school.

"I dropped her off at her school and went back to my school. Later, I was informed that my wife was shot at and she died on the spot," he said.

Kumar said Hindus are soft targets in Kashmir and the administration should relocate all of them to safer places.

Those who joined Bala's final journey also demanded protection for Hindu employees serving in the Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley.

Villagers demanded that a school in Nanke Chak be named after Bala.

"We demand that the school in the village be named after Rajni Bala and the transfer policy be reviewed to transfer Hindus out of Kashmir. Kashmir is not a safe place for Hindu employees," said a villager Narinder Kumar.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, who also attended Bala's last rites, said her death would be avenged by ensuring the burial of her killers.

Besides her husband, Bala

is survived by her 13-year-old daughter.

Bala's was the second killing of a Kashmiri Pandit in the Valley in May. On May 12, Rahul Bhat was shot dead inside the tehsildar's office in Chadoora tehsil of Budgam district.

It was also the seventh targeted killing in Kashmir in May. While three of the victims were off-duty policemen, four were civilians.

Congress Concerned Over Deteriorating Situation In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Congress on Wednesday called for urgent measures to stop terror attacks on soft targets, including minorities and Kashmiri Pandit employees, in the valley, a party spokesperson said.

The two-day 'Nav Sankalp' workshop of the Congress commenced at Patni Top in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

The participants, including senior Congress leader Rajani Patil, accused the government of failing to ensure the safety and security of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Patil, who is the AICC in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir, expressed serious concern over the deteriorating security sce-

nario in the valley leading to series of targeted killings of innocents, including members of minority communities.

An atmosphere of fear and pain has gripped the people in Kashmir, she said.

Kashmir has witnessed a series of targeted killings of Hindu government employees by terrorists in the recent past.

KDA Objects To 'Politically Motivated Walk' Of Tibetan Origin Monk

Auqib Javid

SRINAGAR: The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), an amalgam of different political and religious parties based in Ladakh's Kargil region has raised strong objection to the "politically motivated walk" of a Tibetan origin Monk.

According to a statement, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the apex body expressed its strong objections and reservations regarding the walk and maintained that it was an attempt to disrupt the communal harmony of Ladakh.

"The walk is a politically motivated walk from Leh to Kargil under the guise of a Peace

March. We do not appreciate any such activity in Kargil headquarter that is detrimental to the peace & stability of the region," the statement reads.

It further said that the timing of this "so-called" Peace March assumes even greater significance given the fact the people of Leh and Kargil are fighting for constitutional safeguards and Statehood under the unified leadership of the Kargil Democratic Alliance and the Leh Apex Body.

The apex body cautioned the administration of "dangerous consequences" of such a move.

"This kind of unnecessary provocation must stop as soon as possible. The responsibility for any such unwanted incident

that results from the non-action of the Administration should squarely lie upon the Administration." It noted.

The body also appealed to the people of Kargil to maintain peace and harmony and not to get provoked.

"We want to clear this to the people of Ladakh that the said issue is under serious consideration of both DA and LBA," it noted adding that the "Dialogue is the way forward for maintaining the amicable elation that we have sustained for centuries in this valley,"

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kargil Anayat Ali Choudhary didn't receive repeated phone calls from this newspaper.

AMARNATH YATRA

Pole Reviews Preparedness Along Baltal Route

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday took an extensive tour of Ganderbal and inspected preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra via Baltal route.

During visit, the Div Com inspected arrangements being put in place at Sonamarg, Baltal Base Camp and development of Yatra track from Domail onwards for smooth conduct of SANJY-2022.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shyambir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Director Disaster Management, Aamir Ali, ADC Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, CEO Sonamarg Development Authority, Dy Director Tourism, CMO Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of various wings besides other district officers and officials of NHIDCL accompanied the Div Com during the visit.

The Div Com inspected the facilities at Sonamarg Youth Hostel which is being identified as additional accommodation for pilgrims including bedding, renovation works, electricity, water and toilet facilities.

On the occasion, the Div Com reiterated that this year we are expecting more rush of yatries and gave necessary instructions to the CEO, SDA for increasing the bedding capacity of Youth Hostel besides carrying necessary repairing works.



Taking a strong note of dilapidated road condition from Kul-lan to Sonamarg, the Div Com directed the officials of NHIDCL and BEACON to start repairing work and macadamization on the said road stretch immediately so that it is completed on time. Furthermore, the officials of NHIDCL were directed to lift construction material and debris lying along the Yatra route immediately which is the main cause of traffic jams.

The Div Com asked the NHIDCL to start leveling a few patches of land between the R&B road and newly carved NHIDCL road identified for parking space on immediate basis so that the same area could be used for parking of vehicles during the Yatra period.

The Div Com also inspected the facilities available at Baltal base camp hospital and gave necessary instructions to the Director Health Services Kashmir for further upgrading the facilities at the hospital.

Later, the Div Com also inspected the track from Domail to Brarimarg along with DC, ADC and other concerned district officers.

While inspecting the repairing work and other development works on the track, the Div Com complimented the District Administration for completing most of the works on the track despite of tough terrain and uneven climatic conditions. He stressed for further expediting the work on the track including installation of lights, wire meshing and other works to meet timelines.

While interacting with the officers, the Div Com said that UT administration is committed to ensure best facilities for the pilgrims and exhorted upon all line departments to ensure all works pertaining to SANJY-2022 shall be completed within already fixed timeline and directed for regular monitoring of works along the Yatra route.

Bhalla Reviews Implementation Of PMDP Projects In J&K



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a high level meeting, the Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Wednesday reviewed the implementation of projects under Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) in J&K with the Chief Secretary and other Senior Secretaries of UT of J&K.

The meeting was also attended by Senior Officers of MoRTH, Ministry of Tourism, NHAI, NHIDCL and BRO, amongst others.

It was informed in the meeting that a total of 53 projects at a cost of ₹58,477 crore are being executed under the PMDP. Twenty nine projects have already been completed/ substantially completed while twelve more projects will be completed during the current financial year. Another six projects are likely to be completed by end of 2023.

Giving details of the construction of 6000 tenements for Kashmiri Pandit migrants in the valley, Mehta informed that the work on most of the tenements is going on at a brisk pace. He said that 1324 tenements will be completed by December, 2022 and additional 672 tenements would be constructed by October next year. Mehta expressed confidence that all the remaining tenements will be completed by 2023.

Regarding the rehabilitation of Dal and Nageen Lakes, it was informed that an integrated DPR for conservation of the twin lakes for an amount of ₹273 crore has been prepared.

The Chief Secretary said that the focus of the project is to improve the water quality by management of catchment area, construction of 30 MLD STP at Gupt Ganga, establishment of sewerage network for 28 hamlets within the lake and dredging of lake area.

Mehta said that the condition of Dal Lake is much better today as compared to past as reflected in the lower BoD/DO content/values in the lake.

He further said that around 250 fountains would be installed in the lake this year, which would make it even more

attractive tourist site in the country.

It was informed that 23 SHP projects with a capacity of around 10 MW each will be installed in J&K. Out of these 23 projects, the feasibility/viability study of 6 projects is being done through IIT Roorkee and the remaining 7 projects will be sent for feasibility study in next 3 months.

Mehta said that under SWADESH 1.0, 74 projects have been completed and under SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0. More projects are being submitted for approval as per revised guidelines within 3 months. Secretary Tourism, J&K informed that 75 new tourist destinations have been identified for development and the proposals for development of these destinations will be submitted to Tourism Ministry under SWEDESH DARSHAN 2.0 shortly.

As regards the project "Plan for Comprehensive flood management of River Jhelum and its tributaries -Phase-II", the Chief Secretary, informed that the drainage capacity of river Jhelum has been enhanced by 10,000 cusecs at Sangam. Dr Mehta further said that under the next phase of this plan, the drainage capacity shall be increased to 60,000 cusecs.

The Chief Secretary urged the executing agencies to expedite the work on these projects as these are pivotal for economy of the UT. He expressed optimism that the work on Baramulla-Gulmarg road and Jammu-Akhnour road will be completed on time as the execution work is going on smoothly on these projects.

Citing the importance of the PMDP Projects in J&K, Union Home Secretary exhorted all the stake-holders to speed up the implementation of these projects to complete them within the set timelines so as to pass their intended benefits to the people of J&K.

Mehta assured the Home Secretary that the UT administration would extend all possible support to the central agencies in the implementation of PMDP projects.

Mehta Sets Deadline For Completion Of Mega Infra Projects

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Wednesday reviewed the status of mega developmental projects under execution here in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, GAD/Health; Secretary, PD&MD; Secretary Law; CEO, ERA; Representatives from AIIMS Jammu/Kashmir; New Medical Colleges and Director NIFT besides Chief Engineers of the executing agencies and other officers of the concerned Departments.

Out station officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary reviewed each of the project and sought the details of its status from both the indenting departments and executing agencies. He enquired from them the possible dates of completion of each project and directed them to fix date for handing them over to the concerned departments after finishing them in all respects.

Mehta impressed upon them to utilize the ensuing working season efficiently to culminate the finishing works on these prestigious projects. He underscored that these projects are significant in terms of service delivery to common masses.

He observed that the health projects like two AIIMS, five new Medical Colleges and other health infrastructure projects should be accelerated so that the timelines fixed for them are met without any fail. He enjoined upon them to initiate the process of procuring the medical equipments simultaneously so that all of these projects are dedicated to

public once civil works gets completed.

The Chief Secretary fixed September 2023 as deadline for AIIMS, Jammu. He asked the CPWD to also connect the two parts of the Institution on both sides of the highway by an underpass. For AIIMS, Kashmir he stressed on starting the first batch of students by December this year. He asked the district administration to handover the balance portion of land to CPWD within a month.

Regarding the five new Medical Colleges June, 2022 was fixed as deadline for Colleges at Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua and Rajouri for handing them over to the indenting department. The Medical College at Doda was said to be completed by August this year.

The infrastructure projects like State Cancer Institute Jammu, 200 bedded Bone & Joint (B&J) Hospital Jammu, were agreed to be completed and handed over by August this year. Similarly Additional Block of B&J Hospital, Srinagar was said to be complete within a period of two months from here.

The CS directed the executing agency to handover the remaining portion of 500 bedded Pediatric Hospital at Bemina to the department forthwith. He also reviewed the status of the additional block constructed at Lal Ded Hospital for which the designs of super structure were meant to be vetted by IIT, Delhi.

Other projects that were reviewed in the meeting includes National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and J&K Legislative Assembly Complex at Jammu. The CS was informed that the work on these projects is going on swiftly and are set to be completed by the given deadline.

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K O V I E W

More Killings

Yet another civilian, a Hindu teacher from Jammu’s Samba district, posted in Kashmir Valley’s Kulgam, was shot dead just outside the school by militants. This has taken the toll of the targeted civilian killings in May to seven. Bala had been recruited under the Schedule Caste quota five years ago and was posted in Kashmir. Last year, a teacher from Jammu, also recruited under the same category, was shot dead inside a school in Srinagar’s Eidgah locality. There have been killings of Muslim civilians, policemen, and grassroots workers also underlining a fast deteriorating security situation in the Valley. This has created fear among the employees from the minority communities posted in the Valley, forcing the government to take appropriate security measures. But, as things stand, the government has so far struggled to provide a sense of security. And understandably so. It is not possible for the security forces to individually secure each and every employee.

Though successive killings of militants by the security forces give a sense that militancy may be on its way out in Kashmir, the recent spurt in attacks and the violence tell a different story. It shows there has been simultaneous replenishment of the depleted militant ranks through fresh recruitment and the influx of militants from across the border - a trend that has stayed constant over the past three decades. This is why while public unrest and stone-pelting have drastically diminished since the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, militancy has continued unabated. And there is little sign that the situation on this score will change for the better anytime soon.

The attacks on minorities have emerged as a disturbing new pattern. This has been a source of deep worry for the security forces, who can’t protect each and every migrant or Kashmiri Pandit. The greater success in the killings of militants has been no deterrent. According to an estimate, close to 500 militants, most of them local youth, have been killed since the withdrawal of J&K’s semi-autonomy in 2019. Though the new estimates have put the number of militants under 200 - the first time the figure has fallen below this important psychological threshold - there has been little reduction in the levels of violence.

What is more, security agencies have already warned that the violence could once again scale up this year, with the local militancy expected to be reinforced by the influx of foreign militants - albeit, there have so far been no indications that this is happening - albeit, foreign militants have again started returning to Kashmir considering the demographic of recent killings. Militancy is largely led by the local youth who come from a demographic of 15 to 25 year olds. An iron-fist approach to quell the militancy has so far borne little fruit. Hence the need for reaching out to youth and engaging them politically. But it seems unlikely that the union government would be willing to change tack as of now. Here’s hoping that sooner or later it does.

OTHER OPINON

Summer Soft Drinks: To have or Not to Have

Tragedy strikes

Sir — It is unfortunate that seven soldiers of the Indian army were killed and 19 others injured after a vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into the Shyok river in Ladakh. The mishap happened about 25 kilometres away from the Thoise airbase. The soldiers were on their way from a transit camp in Partapur to a forward location in the sub-sector, Hanif. Some are grievously injured. One hopes that they recover soon.

C.K. Ramanathan, Ghaziabad

Take care

Sir — Three actresses from the Bengali film and television industries have died by suicide this month. The highly competitive job market and work pressure seem to be the reasons behind their deaths. This should be an eye-opener for the industry. Proper counselling for young professionals should be arranged by production houses.

Arun Kumar Baksi, Calcutta

Stay active

Sir — Heart diseases, pneumonia and asthma have combinedly claimed over 42 per cent — the largest share — of the 18,11,688 medically-certified deaths registered in India in 2020. An ageing population and a widespread shift to a more sedentary lifestyle are responsible for this figure. One can reduce the likelihood of such chronic conditions by quitting smoking and processed and junk food, exercising regularly, and minimizing exposure to pollution.

Swati Pandey, Ujjain

Sir — India’s burden of non-communicable diseases like heart ailments and asthma is worrying. Poor lifestyle choices are responsible for many of these health problems. Working from home has only aggravated this by cutting down on the exercise that people got while commuting to their workplace. People should ensure that they get some exercise on a daily basis.

Sohini Sen, Calcutta

Telegraph India

Is Kashmir University’s New VC
a ‘Messiah’ for Students?

Gazi Muzamil

“Indeed, after darkness cometh light”, a friend told me as we finished the Human Rights class and walked out of the classroom. He made this remark in reference to the dark phase that he witnessed as a student at the University of Kashmir.

Soon after we poured into the lawns of the University, where one-and-all had gathered to discuss the appointment of its first woman Vice-Chancellor Professor Neelofar Khan. The pulse on the campus was dicey. Some had a critical pessimism and others braved a logical hope. All-in-all, Raj Bhawan’s appointment circular had injected a new news for dissection in the student’s community.

Those disappointed by the decision were of the opinion that Professor Neelofar was already part of the system that buckled them for years and they can’t put any hope on a person who is very known and dear to the already faulty system. Those opposed to this narrative felt that as an insider, she knew the rotten system within the administration block and would urgently mitigate student’s issues to put the University back on track.

Being a university insider, I cannot help but vacillate between hope and despair about the appointment.

Professor Khan is a distinguished academic and administrator with an educational expertise of about 30 years. She had served the University in important academic and administrative capacities including Dean College Development Council, Chief Registrar, Dean Faculty of Applied Science & Technology, Dean Students Welfare, Founder Director of Centre for Women’s Studies and Research and Director Institute of Home Sciences. In addition, she has been a member of various important decision-making bodies of the University.

While it is premature to pass a verdict on her still incipient role as a VC, shadows of doubts are already setting in within campus circles. However, many from the student community are still rooting for her to undo the damage that was done by the previous VC.

Professor Neelofar had started with setting the record straight in favour of the students. Reiterating her awareness of student’s issues, in her first statements as VC, she had said that students are very close to her heart and that their welfare would be among her top priorities. Infact, in her first interaction with the Class Representatives from all campuses of the university including its main campus at Gandhi Bhawan, she vowed that “my doors will be always open for students”.

This was the university’s first student engagement since 2017. Expectedly so, the student community was buoyant and spirited about it. However, the interaction was anticlimactic and discomfitingly familiar to the older order. CRs from different university campuses and departments were not allowed to present their suggestions, grievances or issues they face. Prof Neelofar directed that she would take only ten brief questions among a full packed hall of students.

This was the first impression students got about their VC.

The institutional power resides in its students. They are the institute’s high-profile ambassadors. Stakeholder reputation, prestige and perceptions of the University have declined significantly over the past decade. It can be determined by the fact that a student in enrolment or even an employee, if asked, will never vouch for the University.

Of the many problems that the University student’s have faced, one stands out. This is the much-talked-about arbitrary closure of 24x7 Reading Room Facilities that the University was providing to its students. This happened following the August of abrogation in 2019. This has diminished reading culture and affected the academic environment of the University. Even after the Reading Room was opened for students following backlash, the open hours are inconducive. It is open for a limited amount of time and is closed on holidays - when students need it the most. Even local and national papers have been out of sight at the Allama Iqbal Library since August 2019.

The faulty examination system that results in delayed degrees needs to be addressed. Results are not uploaded on time. Examinations are not held as per schedule. Never in the history of academics of KU was the academic calendar followed in letter and spirit. The Examination wing needs necessary technological interventions to cope with the delivery of student services within time.



While it is premature to pass a verdict on her still incipient role as a VC, shadows of doubts are already setting in within campus circles. However, many from the student community are still rooting for her to undo the damage that was done by the previous VC

After receiving A+ grade from the NAAC accreditation in 2019, students were hopeful that education would become cheaper, if not free, as the varsity would receive more grants from the central government. Instead of reducing the amount of examination and semester fee, KU has hiked it in many cases even amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. As a public university, this too puts the reputation of the university at stake.

This isn’t where the plight of students ends. The University is quite expensive for students. The main campus which is home to tens of thousands of students coming from different social and economic backgrounds across Jammu & Kashmir, don’t find anything good to eat except Paratha inside the campus during the university hours. Everyone can’t afford a good meal but everyone deserves a balanced meal. The lavish Canteens in the campus offer few meals at costlier rates which is unaffordable for the larger section of students. The University must understand that canteens, cafes and Dhabas must be directed to adopt a healthy menu chart at subsidised rates.

Additionally, as the soul of the campus, students need to have a system to democratically organise and feel empowered. The concept of Student Activism or Student Politics has been injured, discredited and disrespected to a greater extent for many years now. Its revival inside the campus is incumbent. It is ignorant on the part of the academic-administrator to deem any

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union of students perverse for the university. Why make an enemy out of the students?

Student unions represent the voice of the student community. This instils in them the spirit to lead. A lack of it might account for the institute’s failure to produce visionary leaders.

There’s a red tape culture in the University which has created bureaucrats out of academics. The VC often mistakes himself a bureaucrat as soon as he receives the guard of honour from men in uniform. VCs should know that they are experts in academics and should think, act, behave and deal like academicians, not like bureaucrats.

Additionally, there should be checks and balances on the amount of money a department is utilising. That utilisation shall be put on public domain. Let every student know where their money goes.

Prof Neelofar should work impartially, independently and with integrity to achieve goals in a student-friendly environment. Her team at the New Administrative Block will be working with her. She has the power to dictate to its staff, not the other way around.

The student community is pinning its hopes on the VC. We expect her to have cordial student relations that are the precursors for achieving the goals she had set in place before her. She should be the resilient hope of students which she considers are the most important stakeholders in the University system. There should be hassle free access to her office. The so-called colonial protocols and procedures for a mere appointment must be stopped. She should listen to the students and seek their valuable suggestions on how both can together march in their journey towards academic excellence in its true sense.

It is she who will decide whether her name will be fondly embossed on the precious walls of the university and on the deeper memory of students or be among those who did nothing but ‘events’ in the past four years. The ball lies in her court. She has to decide whether she will carry the legacy of corruption, nepotism, mismanagement, negligence and administrative highhandedness in the university or take the university to its new heights.

Her tenure as VC will determine the fate of KU’s academic and administrative excellence which, on the whole, was lost during the previous VC’s tenure.

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

Trees are the most essential part of our nature, yet we human beings are mercilessly cutting them down on a frequent basis. It is because of high deforestation that nowadays the pollution levels have increased unprecedently and we are facing the wrath of nature in the form of extreme climate change.

The air quality has become extremely poor and unbearable. People

who have respiratory diseases are more prone to falling ill often now more than ever. Children are falling sick due to dust and pollution in the air and especially in the city. Also, the number of vehicles has increased a lot and there are not enough trees to balance the gases emitted from the vehicles and factories. There are significantly fewer trees to sit in the shade of in our city now. It is our responsibility to plant more trees and

cut them less. We need more green fields and less concrete at this point to have clean and fresh pure air around us. The authorities should control the unnecessary cutting down of trees. If one tree is cut down for human necessities, it should be made sure that 3 more trees are being planted in place of it, so that we may be able to meet our needs and save trees from deforestation consequently.

Now is the time to be extremely

concerned about the condition of planet earth and we must start taking action to preserve the planet and prevent it from perishing. People must lay great emphasis on the matter and try to incorporate little habits in their daily lives that help in saving our nature. It is not hard if we decide to combat deforestation and climate change together and consistently.

Bushra Haris

Art of Being Alone

Jennifer Stitt

In 1840, Edgar Allan Poe described the 'mad energy' of an ageing man who roved the streets of London from dusk till dawn. His excruciating despair could be temporarily relieved only by immersing himself in a tumultuous throng of city-dwellers. 'He refuses to be alone,' Poe wrote. He 'is the type and the genius of deep crime ... He is the man of the crowd.'

Like many poets and philosophers through the ages, Poe stressed the significance of solitude. It was 'such a great misfortune', he thought, to lose the capacity to be alone with oneself, to get caught up in the crowd, to surrender one's singularity to mind-numbing conformity. Two decades later, the idea of solitude captured Ralph Waldo Emerson's imagination in a slightly different way: quoting Pythagoras, he wrote: 'In the morning, - solitude; ... that nature may speak to the imagination, as she does never in company.' Emerson encouraged the wisest teachers to press upon their pupils the importance of 'periods and habits of solitude', habits that made 'serious and abstracted thought' possible.

In the 20th century, the idea of solitude formed the centre of Hannah Arendt's thought. A German-Jewish émigré who fled Nazism and found refuge in the United States, Arendt spent much of her life studying the relationship between the individual and the polis. For her, freedom was tethered to both the private sphere - the *vita contemplativa* - and the public, political sphere - the *vita activa*. She understood that freedom entailed more than the human capacity to act spontaneously and creatively in public. It also entailed the capacity to think and to judge in private, where solitude empowers the individual to contemplate her actions and develop her conscience, to escape the cacophony of the crowd - to finally hear herself think.

In 1961, The New Yorker commissioned Arendt to cover the trial of Adolf Eichmann, a Nazi SS officer who helped to orchestrate the Holocaust. How could anyone, she wanted to know, perpetrate such evil? Surely only a wicked sociopath could participate in the Shoah. But Arendt was surprised by Eichmann's lack of imagination, his consummate conventionality. She argued that while Eichmann's actions were evil, Eichmann himself - the person - 'was quite ordinary, common-



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place, and neither demonic nor monstrous. There was no sign in him of firm ideological convictions.' She attributed his immorality - his capacity, even his eagerness, to commit crimes - to his 'thoughtlessness'. It was his inability to stop and think that permitted Eichmann to participate in mass murder.

Just as Poe suspected that something sinister lurked deep within the man of the crowd, Arendt recognised that: 'A person who does not know that silent intercourse (in which we examine what we say and what we do) will not mind contradicting himself, and this means he will never be either able or willing to account for what he says or does; nor will he mind committing any crime, since he can count on its being forgotten the next

moment.' Eichmann had shunned Socratic self-reflection. He had failed to return home to himself, to a state of solitude. He had discarded the *vita contemplativa*, and thus he had failed to embark upon the essential question-and-answering process that would have allowed him to examine the meaning of things, to distinguish between fact and fiction, truth and falsehood, good and evil.

It is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong,' Arendt wrote, 'because you can remain the friend of the sufferer; who would want to be the friend of and have to live together with a murderer? Not even another murderer.' It is not that unthinking men are monsters, that the sad sleepwalkers of the world would sooner commit murder than

face themselves in solitude. What Eichmann showed Arendt was that society could function freely and democratically only if it were made up of individuals engaged in the thinking activity - an activity that required solitude. Arendt believed that 'living together with others begins with living together with oneself'.

But what if, we might ask, we become lonely in our solitude? Isn't there some danger that we will become isolated individuals, cut off from the pleasures of friendship? Philosophers have long made a careful, and important, distinction between solitude and loneliness. In The Republic (c380 BCE), Plato proffered a parable in which Socrates celebrates the solitary philosopher. In the allego-

ry of the cave, the philosopher escapes from the darkness of an underground den - and from the company of other humans - into the sunlight of contemplative thought. Alone but not lonely, the philosopher becomes attuned to her inner self and the world. In solitude, the soundless dialogue 'which the soul holds with herself' finally becomes audible.

Echoing Plato, Arendt observed: 'Thinking, existentially speaking, is a solitary but not a lonely business; solitude is that human situation in which I keep myself company. Loneliness comes about ... when I am one and without company' but desire it and cannot find it. In solitude, Arendt never longed for companionship or craved camaraderie because she was never truly alone. Her inner self was a friend with whom she could carry on a conversation, that silent voice who posed the vital Socratic question: 'What do you mean when you say ...?' The self, Arendt declared, 'is the only one from whom you can never get away - except by ceasing to think.'

Arendt's warning is well worth remembering in our own time. In our hyper-connected world, a world in which we can communicate constantly and instantly over the internet, we rarely remember to carve out spaces for solitary contemplation. We check our email hundreds of times per day; we shoot off thousands of text messages per month; we obsessively thumb through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, aching to connect at all hours with close and casual acquaintances alike. We search for friends of friends, ex-lovers, people we barely know, people we have no business knowing. We crave constant companionship.

But, Arendt reminds us, if we lose our capacity for solitude, our ability to be alone with ourselves, then we lose our very ability to think. We risk getting caught up in the crowd. We risk being 'swept away', as she put it, 'by what everybody else does and believes in' - no longer able, in the cage of thoughtless conformity, to distinguish 'right from wrong, beautiful from ugly'. Solitude is not only a state of mind essential to the development of an individual's consciousness - and conscience - but also a practice that prepares one for participation in social and political life. Before we can keep company with others, we must learn to keep company with ourselves.

This article was originally published by Aeon

5 self-inflicted career mistakes you may be making

“The key to stop sabotaging your career is to stop swinging for homeruns, says Buckingham. “Start hitting singles, which really means exercise the freedom you have to create the job of your dreams,” he says. “Everyday wake up and think about the red threads—the things you love to do—you can weave into your day.”



STEPHANIE VOZZA

When things don't go your way, it's easy to look around for someone or something to blame. You may be right; bad bosses and economic uncertainty are out of our control and the fallout can derail your career. But sometimes the culprit for stalled professional progression could be staring back at you in the mirror.

“People tend to shoot themselves in the foot, and they don't know that they're doing it,” says Dr. Eli Joseph, author of The Perfect Rejection Resume: A Reader's Guide to Building a Career Through Failure. “It's more common than you may think. If you feel your career isn't progressing as you'd like, stop and take a look at what you're doing to make sure you aren't at fault.”

Before you decide to quit your job due to lack of upward mobility, consider if you're committing one (or more) of these five career mistakes:

1. NOT KNOWING YOURSELF

Many of us have bought into the idea that having a growth mindset is what you need to move up, but that's an empty vessel, says Marcus Buckingham, author of Love and Work: How to Find What You Love, Love What You Do, and Do It for the Rest of Your Life.

“They think if they showed enough grit or determination, they could acquire any sorts of skills they wanted,” he says. “They think that the problem with their current job is that there's something wrong with the manager or something wrong with the company. So, they jump from job to job, never really take the time to understand who they are.”

To advance in your career, you need to understand what you love to do, which Buckingham calls your “red threads,” and what you don't love to do. “Some of those are changeable in small ways, but a lot of them are an enduring part of who you are,” says Buckingham. “You've got to understand which parts of you move with you when you move anywhere.”

2. BURNING BRIDGES

Having a solid network is crucial in your career progression. As you move up and gather more experience, it's important to realize that people in your past are your allies, says Joseph. Be careful about closing the past chapters of your career.

“Your advisors, your mentors, and sponsors—don't burn bridges with the network that you've accumulated,” says Joseph. “It's always important to bring your allies with you when you're exploring new opportunities. If you burn bridges and fall out with your network, you're diminishing your allies, and you don't have soldiers to fight with you in your career.”

Common ways to burn bridges might be to stop doing good work after you put in a two-week notice. “You might have a nonchalant behavior, thinking ‘I'm going to leave anyway,’” says Joseph. “Or you might think, ‘I don't need these people anymore,’ so you cut ties. That's sabotaging yourself because you

never know what will happen in the future.”

3. HAVING A LACK OF “EGO MANAGEMENT”

Whether you're a leader or an employee, you're part of a team. If you're unable to take critical feedback in a positive way and become defensive when offered guidance, you're not only putting the brakes on your own development, you'll also likely be seen as someone that others don't want to work with, says leadership strategist and coach Shadé Zahrai.

“Defensiveness and the willful ignorance driven by ego-centricity suppresses the ability to demonstrate humility and to listen to others,” she says. “Instead, these employees are driven by self-interest. While some with this approach rise quickly within organizations because of their self-confidence and conviction, they often soon find themselves plateauing and this behavior harms their future prospects.”

4. AN INABILITY TO NAVIGATE AMBIGUITY

Rigidity around change, which often happens during times of uncertainty, is another career-killer, says Zahrai. Employees who've mastered their roles often don't respond well to having to adapt to new ways of doing things.

“This resistance to learning, to adapting and to embracing new skills that would help them perform better and faster becomes the quicksand that keeps them stagnant and gains them the reputation of being a change-resistant dinosaur,” says Zahrai. “Navigating ambiguity is increasingly becoming a core business competency - if employees aren't willing or able to demonstrate they can embrace change and ambiguity, they risk their own extinction.”

5. BEING TOO PUNITIVE

Another way to sabotage your career is focusing on the wrong things, like money, benefits, team members, and company policies, says Buckingham.

“If you have a manager who doesn't understand you and doesn't care about you, that is worth looking at, but everything else is not part of what drives successful careers at all,” he says. “Many of the people who joined the Great Resignation are waking up today and finding the grass isn't greener. The grass is exactly the same. If you moved from one company to another company, and imagined it's going to be different, it probably won't.”

The key to stop sabotaging your career is to stop swinging for homeruns, says Buckingham. “Start hitting singles, which really means exercise the freedom you have to create the job of your dreams,” he says. “Everyday wake up and think about the red threads—the things you love to do—you can weave into your day.”

Put your focus there, and over time you'll discover you're developing the career you love.

The article was originally published by Fast Company

Long Social Distancing: How Young Adults' Habits Have Changed Since Covid-19

The Conversation

After two long, difficult years of the pandemic, life has started to return to normal or at least something resembling normal for many people.

With all major Covid restrictions now removed in the UK, recorded cases at their lowest rate in about a year, and vaccines and booster coverage relatively high, many people are keenly settling back into old habits.

Mobility data suggests that with the exception of travel on public transport and travel to workplaces, which are still below average we are starting to get out and about as much as we did before the pandemic.

But for a significant number of people, the habits that were picked up during the pandemic are still very much a part of life.

For example, recent data suggests that just under one-third of people in the UK are continuing to avoid crowded places, while about one-third say they're maintaining social distancing when meeting up with people from outside their household.

More than half of people (54%) report still wearing face masks at least sometimes.

This phenomenon which has been called long social distancing is not unique to the UK.

For example, in many countries, including France, Spain, Italy and Germany, more than four in ten people have reported they're still avoiding crowds.

Meanwhile, US research has found that 13% of Americans say they plan to continue to socially distance after the pandemic is over, with another 46% saying they plan on only a partial return to normal activities.

But who is practising long social distancing, and why? And where do young people fit in?

Let's take a look

One obvious group is those who are clinically vulnerable. For example, people with disabilities many of whom, depending on the nature of their disability, might be at higher risk of serious outcomes from Covid are more likely to believe that their lives will never return to normal.

Similarly, adults aged over 70, also at higher risk



of serious illness from Covid, are more likely to still be wearing face masks.

There are certainly differences in behaviour by age. Data from the UK finds that younger adults are less likely than older adults to either be still socially distancing or wearing face masks.

Research from the US meanwhile finds that younger people are less likely to continue socially distancing after the pandemic is over.

Younger people may have been quicker to return to social activities, compared to older adults.

Recent UK data suggests that over the first few months of 2022, during and just after the initial omicron wave, more than 80% of 18 to 29-year-olds said they had met up with friends during the previous week, compared to around 60% to 70% of people in older age groups.

Even so, data shows that 16% of those aged 16-29 are still socially distancing, and 40% are still wearing masks outside of their homes at least sometimes.

The pandemic has been hard on young adults

Young adults have tended to get a bad rap during the pandemic, often unfairly.

Although some surveys have suggested that rule-breaking was higher among younger adults, others have found that compliance in this group was as high, or at certain points even higher, than it was among older adults.

Notably, young adults have been one of the groups who have found the pandemic, and the policies designed to contain Covid, most difficult.

General life satisfaction has been significantly lower among younger compared to older adults throughout

the past two years.

It's possible that the social losses experienced during the pandemic have been more challenging for younger adults, for whom we know socialising is crucial for development and wellbeing.

Young adults have been among the most likely to experience mental health problems, and not to look after their physical health for example having a poor diet, drinking a lot of alcohol, or not doing enough exercise.

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, problems such as anxiety and depression tend to remain higher among younger adults.

Why a return to normal' won't be uniform

Behaviour is complex and often if not always the result of many factors. Research has invariably shown how everything from political affiliation to personality traits affects how people have been behaving during the pandemic.

Conscientiousness and neuroticism, for example, have both been associated with greater adherence to infection-reducing behaviour.

Similarly, these sorts of factors are likely to affect the extent to which different people return to their pre-pandemic social habits.

Certainly there's a significant minority of the population who remain at least somewhat worried about the effect of Covid on their lives four in ten according to recent UK data.

Interestingly, US data suggests people on lower incomes, and with less formal education, are the least likely to feel as though they will return to normal pre-pandemic activities.

Further research is needed to explore why this is the case. One possible explanation is that people from more deprived communities have been at greater risk of more serious outcomes from Covid.

They have also been most affected by the economic and social impacts of pandemic policies. So for them it's perhaps unsurprising that getting back to normal seems like a distant, if not impossible, goal.

In our Public Views During the Covid Pandemic project, we have been following people using a combination of focus groups and surveys since March 2020.

One of our aims is to continue to explore some of the reasons behind why, and for how long, social distancing might be a part of some people's lives.

Study Finds Lidocaine Infusions Could Assist Migraine Sufferers

ANI

According to a recent study, infusions of the local anaesthetic lidocaine may provide pain relief to people with chronic migraine who haven't responded to other treatments.

The findings of the research were published in the journal 'Regional Anesthesia & Pain Medicine'.

Intravenous infusions of a local anaesthetic such as lidocaine have been suggested as a possible treatment option for people who have a poor quality of life because of chronic migraine which is difficult to treat.

The aim is to 'break the cycle' of pain, but



few studies have looked at the effectiveness of this treatment beyond immediate pain relief.

In this retrospective study, the authors analyzed the hospital records of 609 patients who were admitted with refractory chronic migraine and treated with infusions of lidocaine to assess the short- and medium-term benefits of this approach.

Patients included in the analysis had experienced at least 8 debilitating headache days per month for at least 6 months and failed to respond to or had contradictions to the seven classes of medicine for migraine.

Patients received lidocaine infusions over several days along with other aggressive drug treatments for migraine, such as ketorolac, magnesium, dihydroergotamine, methylprednisolone, and neuroleptics. Most patients (87.3 per cent) experienced rapid pain relief. At the time of admission, the median rating given by patients was 7.0 and this decreased to 1.0 by the

time of hospital discharge.

Patients attending follow up appointments around one month after discharge also reported that the number of headache days that they experienced had fallen. The 266 patients who attended these appointments, which took place between 25 and 65 days after discharge, said that the number of headache days in the last month had fallen from a mean of 26.8 to 22.5.

Some patients experienced nausea and vomiting during the treatment but all adverse events experienced were mild. This is an observational study, and as such, can't establish cause and the authors also highlight some limitations. Most importantly, not all patients completed follow-up visits, but they add that

in their experience these were likely to be patients who responded well.

In addition, some patients were included in the analysis more than once because they were admitted on multiple occasions, and while unlikely, it is possible, that hospitalisation itself could have contributed to pain relief.

The authors conclude, "Continuous lidocaine infusions were associated with improvement in acute pain in most patients and a decrease in both average pain and the number of headache days per month that extended out to 1 month. Most patients were acute responders, 43 per cent of whom maintained improvement at 1 month and were sustained responders."

They add, "Lidocaine may be a viable treatment option for patients with refractory chronic migraine who have failed other treatments. A prospective, randomized, double-blind trial is needed to confirm these results."

New MRI Technique Set To Transform Heart Transplant Care


IANIS

The days of heart transplant survivors undergoing invasive biopsies could soon be over after a new MRI technique has proven to be safe and effective, reducing complications and hospital admissions.

Scientists at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, hope the new virtual biopsy designed to detect any signs of the heart being rejected will be adopted by clinicians worldwide.

Approximately 3,500 people worldwide receive heart transplants each year. Most patients experience some form of organ rejection and whilst survival rates are high, a small percentage will die in the first year after surgery.

The new MRI technique, described in the journal *Circulation*, has been proven to be accurate in detecting rejection and works by analysing heart oedema levels which the team demonstrated are closely



associated with inflammation of the heart.

"It's essential that we can monitor these patients closely and with a high degree of accuracy; now we have a new tool that can do that without the need for a highly invasive procedure," said Andrew Jabour, Associate Professor at the Institute.

"This new virtual biopsy takes less time, is non-invasive, more cost-effective, uses no radiation or contrast agents, and most importantly patients much prefer it," he added.

Most clinicians around the world currently test for rejection by performing a biopsy which helps determine the level and suitability of im-

munosuppressive treatments needed to treat and prevent further rejection.

This invasive procedure involves a tube being placed in the jugular vein to allow surgeons to insert a biopsy tool into the heart to remove multiple samples of heart tissue.

Besides being uncomfortable, it can also lead to rare but serious complications if the heart is perforated, or a valve is damaged. Patients usually undergo a biopsy around 12 times in the first year after transplantation.

In the paper, the team randomised 40 heart transplant patients into receiving either a traditional biopsy or the new MRI technique.

The study revealed that despite similarities in immunosuppression requirements, kidney function and mortality rates, there was a reduction in hospitalisation and infection rates for those who underwent the MRI procedure vs a biopsy.

Also, just 6 per cent of patients having the new MRI technique needed a biopsy for clarification reasons.



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer, Construction Division

FRESH NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the University of Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Govt. of J&K/ other union territories and CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc in shape of E-Challan (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Time and Date for Submission of E-Tender.	Date & Time of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor
1.	Providing of Supplementary Water Supply to overhead Storage Tank No. II at Main Campus.	2.14Lacs	Rs.200/-	01 Month	31-05-2022 to 08-06-2022 (6.00 PM)	09-06-2022 (11.30 AM)	"DEE"

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the web site www.kashmiruniversity.net / www.jktenders.gov.in.

NIT No:- F(Fresh)(UCD)(E.tend)/KU/14/22
DATED: 31/05/22.

DIPK-NB-1356/22

Sd/- Executive Engineer

Jammu & Kashmir

Haj Committee

Baitul Hujaj, Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar

Under Department of Haj & Auqaf, Govt. Of Jammu & Kashmir

(Ph.No.0194-2495365, 0194-2495367, www.jkshc.org, mail at: jkstatehaj@gmail.com)

Corrigendum to notification regarding flight schedule

Please read date as 31-05-2022 instead of 31-05-2012 appearing at the end of the notification.

DIPK-3159/22

No:Haj/2019/120-274/Pr3

Dated:01-06-2022

Sd/-
(Dr. Abdul Salam Mir) KAS
Executive Officer.

Govt Allows Procurement By Cooperatives Through GeM Portal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The government on Wednesday announced to expand the mandate of Government e-Marketplace by allowing procurement by cooperatives.

Presently, the registration of cooperatives as buyers was not covered within the existing mandate of Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

The move will help over 8.54 lakh registered cooperatives, like Amul and IFFCO, and their 27 crore members, as they would get products at competitive rates from the GeM portal. These cooperatives will be benefited from this decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur told reporters.

As per the existing mandate, goods and services registered on the GeM portal are not available for use by private sector buyers. Suppliers (sellers) can be from across all segments - government or private.

The decision was taken by the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The GeM was launched on August 9, 2016, by the commerce ministry to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.

An official statement said the validated list of cooperatives to be onboarded on GeM - for the pilot as well as subsequent scale-up basis will be decided by the Ministry of Cooperation in consultation with GeM special purpose vehicle (SPV).

This will help in ensuring that the technical capacity and logistics requirements of the GeM system are taken into account while deciding the pace of onboarding of cooperatives as buyers on GeM, it added.

Explaining it further, the



statement said the GeM will provide a dedicated onboarding process for cooperatives, technical infrastructure to support additional users on existing portals, as well as assistance to cooperatives for onboarding and transaction journey via available contact centres, in-field training and other support services.

The GeM will initiate suitable actions, including the creation of necessary features and functionalities on the GeM portal, up-gradation of infrastructure, strengthening of the helpdesk and training ecosystem and onboarding of cooperatives.

The cooperation ministry will issue necessary advisories to encourage the cooperative societies to make use of the platform for the procurement of goods and services, the statement said.

To protect the interests of the broader seller community on GeM and ensure timely payments, the modalities of payment systems would also be decided by GeM in consultation with the ministry.

The overall pace and mechanism of roll-out would be decided by the cooperation ministry, it said, adding the milestones and target dates will be aligned mutually between the ministry and GeM.

"Since the societies have more than 27 crore members, procurement through GeM would not only economically benefit the common man, but would also enhance the credibility of the cooperatives," it noted.

GST Revenues Up 44% At Nearly Rs 1.41 Lakh Cr In May

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: GST revenues bucked the two-month rising trend in May and stood at nearly Rs 1.41 lakh crore, registering a year-on-year increase of 44 per cent.

Although the May Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues came in lower than the record high collection in April at Rs 1.68 lakh crore and Rs 1.42 lakh crore in March, it is still the fourth highest collection since the rollout of the new indirect tax regime on July 1, 2017.

In February, revenues from taxing sale of goods and services was at Rs 1.33 lakh crore, while in January it was Rs 1.40,986 crore.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of May 2022 is Rs 1,40,885 crore of which CGST is Rs 25,036 crore, SGST is Rs 32,001 crore, IGST is Rs 73,345 crore (including Rs 37,469 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,502 crore (including Rs 931 crore collected on import of goods)," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The revenues for the month of May 2022 are 44 per cent higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year at Rs 97,821 crore.

This is the fourth time that the monthly GST collection has crossed the Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the third straight month since March 2022.

"The collection in May, which



pertains to the returns for April -- the first month of the financial year -- has always been less than that in April, which pertains to the returns for March, the closing of the financial year.

"However, it is encouraging to see that even in the month of May 2022, the gross GST revenues have crossed the Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark," the Ministry said.

The total number of e-way bills generated in the month of April 2022 was 7.4 crore, which is 4 per cent less than 7.7 crore e-way bills generated in the month of March 2022.

Deloitte India Partner M S Mani said the stability demonstrated by GST collections exceeding Rs 1.4 lakh crore over the past three months is a good indicator of the growth of the economy and ties in with the other macroeconomic indicators including the GDP numbers.

"Significant efforts in audits and analytics have also led to a drive against tax evaders, inculcating a tax compliance culture," Mani said.

ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar said the high year-on-year growth reflects the low base of the second wave.

"Nonetheless, the May 2022 GST collections are robust compared to the Q4 FY2022 trends, benefitting from improved compliance, market share gains by the organised sector as well as the transmission of higher commodity prices into output prices," Nayar said.

Given the trends for April-May 2022, and the anticipation of a sustained healthy momentum of activity in absence of another wave of COVID and major disruptions, we expect the CGST inflows in FY 2023 to exceed the Budget Estimates level by Rs 1.15 trillion, helping to absorb a part of the higher subsidy bill.

Tax Connect Advisory Partner Vivek Jalan said these are early days, but it seems that the stage is set for the government for achieving its ambitious Rs 1.5 trillion a month GST collection target.

India's Manufacturing Sector Growth Steadied In May Despite High Inflation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India's manufacturing sector growth steadied in May, with new orders and production increasing at similar rates to those registered in the previous month, while demand showed signs of resilience and improved further in spite of another uptick in selling prices, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

The seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 54.6 in May, little changed from 54.7 in April, pointing to a sustained recovery across the sector.

The May PMI data pointed to an improvement in overall operating conditions for the eleventh straight month.

In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"India's manufacturing sector sustained strong growth momentum in May. Thanks in part to the sharpest rise in international sales for eleven years, total new orders expanded further. In response to demand resilience, companies continued with their efforts to rebuild

stocks and hired extra workers accordingly," said Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Amid reports of new business gains, sustained improvements in demand and looser COVID-19 restrictions, manufacturers continued to scale up production in May.

"The rate of growth was marked, above trend and broadly in line with that recorded in April," the survey said.

The May PMI data also highlighted a notable uptick in growth of new export orders.

The rate of expansion was sharp and the fastest since April 2011.

On the employment front, manufacturing sector jobs rose further in May, owing to ongoing improvements in sales.

Although only slight, the rate of employment growth picked up to the strongest since January 2020.

On the price front, input costs rose for the 22nd successive month in May, with companies reporting higher prices for electronic components, energy, freight, foodstuff, metals and textiles.

Although softer than in April,

the rate of inflation remained historically elevated.

"There was little movement in the rate of input price inflation during May, which remains historically high, but output charge inflation surged to its highest in over eight-and-a-half years as companies continued to transfer additional cost burdens to their clients," Lima said.

The survey further said that business sentiment was dampened by inflation concerns in May, with the overall level of confidence the second-lowest in just over two years.

"While around 9 per cent of panellists forecast output growth over the coming 12 months, 88 per cent foresee no change from present levels," the survey said.

High inflation had led to the Reserve Bank raising the benchmark interest rate by 40 basis points in an unscheduled review in May.

It is expected to take similar measures when the Monetary Policy Committee meets for the bimonthly review on June 8.

According to official data, India's economy grew by 4.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22, pushing up the annual growth rate to 8.7 per cent.

Delhi's Property Prices To Rise As Transfer Duty Hiked By 1%



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Buying property in Delhi is set to get expensive as the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi has decided to hike transfer duty by 1 percent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city, official sources said on Wednesday.

Officials said after the hike, the transfer duty will be 4 percent for men and 3 percent for women buyers. The move is aimed at improving the financial health of the municipality which has been hit severely in past years especially due to COVID-19 pandemic.

It is the first major decision after the three civic bodies - north, east and south - were unified last month. The decision was taken in a meeting on Tuesday where a proposal to increase the transfer duty by 1 percent was moved.

The proposal was passed by the special officer of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), who has been entrusted with the power to run the civic body till the new House is elected.

"A proposal was moved before the special officer in capacity of the standing committee to hike transfer duty on properties priced above ₹25 lakh by 1 per cent. The proposal was approved by the SO (special officer).

After the hike, transfer duty will be 4 percent for men and 3 percent for women," official sources told PTI.

Currently, the transfer duty on sale and purchase of property in the national capital is 3 percent for men and 2 percent for women buyers.

The move comes in the backdrop of the poor financial condition of the civic body as it has been struggling even to pay salaries of its employees.

"The move will increase revenue and strengthen MCD's coffers which will be used for overcoming the financial challenges and providing best services to the people," officials said.

Authorities said the hike in transfer duty will affect only those buyers who are to purchase property having the registered value above ₹25 lakh.

Properties are divided into eight categories, A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H, depending on their area location and the Delhi government collects stamp duty on sale and purchase of properties.

Posh and upscale colonies fall in the category of A and B such as Golf Links, Vasant Vihar, Sunder Nagar and Jor Bagh. Middle income group neighbourhoods fall in the C and D category areas which include localities like Lajpat Nagar, Alaknanda, Bhogal, Amar Colony, among others.

Hike To Put Additional Burden On Property Buyers: Realty Consultant

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The decision taken by the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi to hike transfer duty by 1 per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city will put additional burden on buyers and adversely impact transactions in secondary property market, according to real estate consultants.

Buying property in Delhi is set to get expensive as the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi has decided to hike transfer duty by 1 per cent on properties priced above Rs 25 lakh across the city, official sources said on Wednesday.

After the hike, the transfer duty will be 4 per cent for men and 3 per cent for women buyers.

Commenting on the development, Amit Goyal, CEO, India Sotheby's International Realty, said, "We are surprised by the decision of the unified MCD to increase transfer duty by 1 per cent on purchase of properties priced above Rs 25 lakh at this juncture. This move puts additional burden

on the property buyers."

"At a time when home loan interest rates have already started inching up and the Reserve Bank has indicated further increase in policy rates to tame the stubbornly high inflation, the decision to enhance transfer duty will jeopardise the much-needed recovery of the sector," he added.

Ashutosh Kashyap, Director, Advisory Services, Colliers India, said the proposed increase in the transfer charges, will increase the incidence of transaction cost on transfer cases.

"This move would imply an additional landed cost for secondary purchase. This move will marginally add to the lucrativeness of property purchases in the primary market from the developer, which might slightly sweeten the purchase in the primary market," he said.

However, Kashyap said the money collected on account will imply better funds with urban local bodies to undertake betterment of infrastructure and civic services within the city.

Use Of AI, Tech Can Address Challenges In Indian Agriculture Sector: Report

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: Even as agriculture remains a priority sector accounting for the livelihoods of around 58 per cent of the country's population, adoption of technology in the sector is at a transitory juncture and faces several challenges across the value chain, according to a report.

Though agriculture in India is at a transitory juncture, with a focus on integration of technologies for better operations, the sector faces several challenges across the value chain, said a report by PwC and FICCI.

The report titled 'Redefining agriculture through artificial intelligence: Predicting the unpredictable' said that these challenges require disruptive interferences which can be provided by technological solutions.

The entire system needs to adapt to a holistic approach which can be built upon indigenous and traditional farming knowledge integrated with transformative smart farming practices, including adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and techniques, it noted.



Adoption of AI technologies will pave the way for higher production with the optimum utilisation of available resources and facilitate predictive analysis, crop health management, enhance quality and traceability among others, it said.

The report further said that the adoption of innovative and transformative smart farming practices in the country is gradually becoming a major trend.

Smart and technology-driven resource management, modernisation of agri supply chains, climate risk mitigation strategy, digitising farm collectives as farm-

er producer organisations, emergence of a startup ecosystem and the government initiatives in digital farming are some of steps being taken to encourage smart farming practices, it added.

Globally technology advancements in recent years are re-engineering both the upstream and downstream segments of the agri value chain.

Cutting-edge technologies in AI such as IoT (Internet of Things), ML (Machine Learning), cloud computing, statistical computing, deep learning, Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) are en-

abling the sector to overcome the challenges of productivity, quality, traceability and carbon emission with enhanced profitability, the report added.

Drones or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) are being predominantly used in the agriculture sector.

The report said as the agriculture sector of the country develops further, the usage of drones in farming methods is predicted to grow with many startups investing in low-cost drones, which can support farmers, enhance their knowledge and generate employment for the rural youth.

It further said that the government is also enabling an institutional ecosystem for agritech startups through incubators.

It has adopted the theme of 'AI for all' and laid down broad recommendations for nurturing the AI ecosystem in India through the NITI Aayog.

Despite the progress in creating and nurturing an AI-enabled ecosystem, the agriculture sector faces a number of issues and challenges that need to be addressed for facilitating a smooth transition, it said.

ATF Price Cut By 1.3 Pc, Commercial LPG Rate Reduced By Rs 135

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jet fuel prices on Wednesday were cut by 1.3 per cent -- the first reduction after 10 rounds of price hikes -- on softening international crude oil rates.

Simultaneously, prices of commercial LPG - used by business establishments such as hotels and restaurants - were reduced by Rs 135 per 19-kg cylinder.

The price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) -- the fuel that helps aeroplanes fly -- has been reduced by Rs 1,563.97 per kilolitre, or 1.27 per cent, to Rs 1,21,475.74 per kl (Rs 121 per litre) in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the first reduction after 10 rounds of price increases this year. Rates were hiked by Rs 6,188.25 per kl, or 5.29 per cent, on May 16, to a record high level of Rs 1,23,039.71 per kl.

Commercial LPG rates were reduced to Rs 2,219 per 19-kg cylinder, from Rs 2,354, the notification showed.

Prior to the cut, rates of commercial LPG had risen by Rs 355.5 per cylinder this year.

However, prices of cooking gas LPG used in households remained

unchanged at Rs 1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Rates had been hiked by Rs 3,50 a cylinder on May 19. Prior to that prices were hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder on March 22 and again by the same quantum on May 7.

Since April 2021, domestic LPG prices have risen by Rs 193.5 per cylinder.

Meanwhile, petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged at Rs 96.72 per litre and Rs 89.62 a litre respectively. An excise duty cut by the government had helped reduce petrol by Rs 8.69 a litre and diesel by Rs 7.05 per litre on May 22 but for that, the base price has remained unchanged since April 6. Prior to that, prices had risen by a record Rs 10 per litre each.

Retail price of petrol, diesel and domestic cooking gas was below the cost and so the softening in benchmark prices is being used to set off those losses.

Jet fuel prices are revised on the 1st and 16th of every month, while petrol and diesel rates are revised



daily, based on equivalent rates in the international market.

ATF in Mumbai now costs Rs 120,306.99 per kl, while it is priced at Rs 126,369.98 in Kolkata and Rs 125,725.36 in Chennai.

Rates differ from state to state, depending on the incidence of local taxation.

Fuel rates have been on the rise in India because energy prices globally have risen on the back of supply concerns following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and demand returning after being hit by the pandemic. India is 85 per cent dependent on imports to meet its oil needs.

While oil prices have eased from a near 14-year high of USD 140 per barrel, it continues to trade above USD 100. On Wednesday, Brent - the world's most used benchmark - was trading at USD 117.07 per barrel.

To compound things, the rupee has depreciated against the US dollar, making imports costlier.

Maintain Highest Level Of Alertness To Ensure Peaceful Amarnath Yatra: ADGP To Officers

Jammu: A senior official of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday called for the highest level of alertness and sharing of intelligence on the upcoming Amarnath Yatra to foil "nefarious designs" of anti-national elements and their masters from across the border.

Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh also directed officials to conduct joint patrolling on all possible infiltration routes, drone dropping sites and ensure adequate deployment of personnel on national highways.

The 43-day-long Amarnath yatra is scheduled to start on June 30 from the twin routes -- traditional 48-km Nunwan in

south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal -- after a hiatus of two years owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ADGP was speaking at a joint meeting of various security agencies which was convened to discuss and review the deployment and other security related issues for the pilgrimage.

Inspector General of CRPF, Jammu sector, P S Ranpise, deputy director Intelligence Bureau (Jammu), Parthipal Singh and other senior police and intelligence officers attended the meeting, a police spokesperson said.

During the meeting, a powerpoint presentation was given by concerned district Senior

Superintendents of Police with regard to security arrangements planned for the peaceful conclusion of the yatra, the spokesperson said.

He said threadbare discussion was held on the various security related issues and for ensuring enhanced security measures on the highways and infiltration routes on International Border and Line of Control.

Addressing the meeting, the ADGP directed all the officers to maintain the highest level of alertness and synergy among themselves and also share the intelligence having direct bearing on the yatra in real time basis to foil the nefarious designs of Anti-National Elements and

their mentors across the border.

Referring to the attempts being made by Pakistan to push terrorists into India, the ADGP stressed upon officers to organise night patrolling on the highways and infiltration routes regularly.

Singh also stressed upon all the officers that proper briefing be given to the forces being deployed for Road Opening Party duty to maintain utmost alertness so that smooth passage is given to all the vehicles going for the yatra.

The officers were directed to ensure adequate deployment in their respective districts particularly at base camps at Bhagwati Nagar (Jammu), Chanderkote (Ramban) and reception centres

during the yatra.

On the border management front, the ADGP stressed upon the district SSPs of Jammu, Samba and Kathua to lay Joint checkpoints and ensure patrolling on all the probable infiltration routes and adequate deployment on all the drone dropping points as well as on militants pick points identified as these three districts are more vulnerable to cross-border infiltration.

He also directed that all Border Police Stations and Posts strengthen the checkpoints and ensure proper briefing be given to men by supervisory officers regularly regarding the nature of duties to be performed by them.

Thousands Give Final Send-Off To Bhim Singh In J&K's Udhampur

Jammu: Founder of Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party Bhim Singh was cremated at his ancestral village in Udhampur district of the Union Territory on Wednesday.

Singh (81) passed away here on Tuesday after being unwell for about a month.

Thousands of people, including several top political leaders, turned up at the venue of the cremation. The veteran leader was cremated at his native Bhugterian village amid "Bhim Singh Amar Rahe" slogans.

Locals as well as people from other villages gathered to catch a last glimpse of the brave son of Ramnagar, who was known as the "panther of Jammu".

"He was a great leader who advocated the cause of the Jammu region for decades," former Jammu and Kashmir minister and chairman of the Dogra Swabhiman Sangathan Choudhary Lal Singh said.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina, former deputy chief minister Nirmal Singh, former minister Harsh Dev Singh, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former legislator Balwant Mankotia and DDC Chairperson Lal Chand were present at Singh's cremation.

Singh breathed his last at the GMC hospital in Jammu. Singh, who hailed from Udhampur district's Bhugterian village, left behind his wife Jai Mala and son Ankit Love, who lives in London.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union minister Jitendra Singh, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, CPI(M) leader M Y Tarigami and the heads of various political parties expressed condolences on the demise of Singh, who emerged as a major political force to reckon with in

the Jammu region.

Singh held several key positions in the Congress earlier, from the president of the party's Jammu and Kashmir youth unit to its national general secretary, before launching the Panthers Party in October 1982.

He studied law in the University of London. He was the first Indian to be elected as the secretary of the University of London Union in 1971.

Singh, who contested the Lok Sabha election from Udhampur in 1988, was defeated by the Congress candidate. Alleging foul play, he went on a hunger strike against the Election Commission (EC).

On Singh's review petition against the EC's order, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court delivered the judgment in his favour four years later, but by then, the session of Parliament was already dissolved. The Supreme Court had awarded a compensation of Rs 50,000 to Singh for his illegal imprisonment by the then state government that followed his suspension as a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 1985.

In the 2002 Assembly polls, his Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party won four seats and became a coalition partner in the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed government.

Singh had also provided legal aid to over 200 people from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), who were languishing in different jails across the country for decades. His help saw the release of most of these prisoners.

The veteran leader, who travelled to over 130 countries around the world on a motorcycle, was friends with people like Yasser Arafat, Fidel Castro, Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi.

Clearances Denied To 'Media One' Based On Sensitive Intelligence Inputs: Centre To SC

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that the denial of security clearance to Malayalam news channel 'Media One' is based on intelligence inputs, which are "sensitive" and "secret in nature".

It said that as a matter of policy and in the interest of security of the State and its establishments, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) does not disclose the reasons for denial.

The affidavit was filed by the Ministry of Information of Broadcasting (MOIB) in response to the appeal by the news channel against the Kerala High Court order dismissing its plea challenging the denial of security clearance and telecast ban ordered by the Centre.

"It is submitted that MHA has informed that the denial of security clearance is based on intelligence inputs, which are sensitive

and secret in nature. Therefore, as a matter of policy and in the interest of security of the state and its establishments, the MHA does not disclose the reasons for denial," the affidavit said.

It, however, said that all the relevant files were produced by the MHA before the high court and also before the top court on March 15 and in the event this court directs to produce the said files again, the MHA will produce the same before this court in a sealed cover.

"It is further submitted that the MHA under section 124 of the Indian Evidence Act seeks privilege over its secret files and prays to this court that the contents of the files may not be disclosed to the petitioners, as such a disclosure may have far reaching and unimaginable consequences in so far as national security is concerned," it said.

UP: Lakhimpur Kheri Violence Case Witness Shot At'

Lakhimpur: BKU leader Dilbag Singh, a witness in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, was allegedly shot at by two unidentified assailants here, police said on Wednesday.

Superintendent of Police Sanjiv Suman said experts from forensic science laboratory (FSL) examined the crime spot and will submit a report regarding the incident.

Dilbagh Singh, however, did not sustain any injuries in the attack that took place on Tuesday night.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (Tikait) district president claimed he was returning home via the Aliganj-Muda road in the Gola Kotwali area in his SUV when the bike-borne assailants opened fire at him.

Singh is one of the witnesses in Lakhimpur violence case, in which eight people, including four

farmers and a journalist, died.

Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra was arrested in connection with the incident. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav targeted the state government over the attack on Dilbag Singh and asked if this was the state government's zero tolerance towards crime and criminals.

Talking to PTI over the phone, Singh said the assailants punctured a tyre of his SUV, forcing him to stop his vehicle.

"The assailants attempted to open the doors and windows of the SUV. After they failed, they fired two shots at the windowne pane on the driver's side," he alleged, adding that he was travelling alone.

Sensing intentions of the assailants, Singh said he folded his seat and ducked. He said the assailants could not figure out

whether he was shot or not as the windows of his SUV were covered with dark film.

Singh said he had sent his official gunman (provided to him by the district administration) on leave owing to his son's sudden sickness. He said he lodged a complaint at the Gola Kotwali police station soon after the attack and also informed BKU-Tikait spokesperson Rakesh Tikait about it.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Arun Kumar Singh told PTI that on Singh's complaint, an FIR has been registered. Forensic teams had been sent to the spot to examine the vehicle and the crime scene and collect evidence, he said, adding that efforts are on to identify the attackers.

The ASP said the BKU leader sent his gunman on leave without intimating the senior police authorities.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Man Shot At,

Minister's package.

Bala is the second non-Muslim government employee to be killed in the month of May.

HM Summons

minister had advocated pro-active and co-ordinated anti-militancy operations and had asked security forces to ensure zero cross-border infiltration and "wipe out terrorism" from the union territory.

The meeting comes in the wake of militants carrying out three targeted killings, including of a Hindu woman teacher hailing from Samba district of Jammu region at Kulgam on Tuesday.

On May 18, militants had entered a wine shop at Baramulla in North Kashmir and threw a grenade, killing one person hailing from Jammu region and injuring three others.

On May 24, a policeman, Saifullah Qadri, was shot dead outside his residence in Srinagar while a television artiste Amreen Bhat was gunned down in Budgam two days later.

Scores of Kashmiri Pandits, who were employed under a prime minister's package in 2012, have been staging continuous protests threatening mass exodus since the killing of Rahul Bhat, who was shot dead by militants on May 12 in Chadoora area of Budgam district in central Kashmir.

After the previous meeting, an official statement had said that the home minister directed security forces and the police to conduct coordinated counter-terrorism operations pro-actively.

The home minister had said that in order to fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a prosperous and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir, security forces should ensure zero cross-border infiltration.

Taking stock of the Amarnath Yatra preparedness, Shah had said a "hassle-free" journey for the pilgrims is a priority of the Modi government and directed all arrangements, including additional electricity, water, and telecom facilities be made.

He had also stressed for enhancement of mobile connectivity along the yatra route as he directed that earth moving equipment should be placed at vantage points to clear the route in case of landslides.

The home minister had asked for an adequate number of oxygen cylinders, medical beds at an altitude of more than 6,000 feet and deployment of ambulances and helicopters to deal with any emergency medical situation.

During the previous meeting, it was also decided to enable WiFi hotspots to ensure connectivity throughout the 39 km of the yatra route from Pahalgam in south Kashmir.

The other route is through Baltal in central Kashmir where a pilgrim treks for nearly 15 km. The yatra could not take place in 2020 and 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and was cut short in 2019 just before the abrogation of Article 370. About three lakh pilgrims are likely to take part in the pilgrimage that is expected to end on August 11.

About 12,000 paramilitary personnel (120 companies) in addition to Jammu and Kashmir Police are expected to be deployed along the two pilgrimage routes, one from Pahalgam and the other via Baltal, officials said. Drone cameras will help the security forces to ensure the

protection of the pilgrims.

KP Employees

"PM Package employees and others from minority communities posted in Kashmir division will be immediately posted at secured locations and the process to be completed by Monday, 6th June," a source said.

"It has to be ensured that no employee should work or reside in isolated areas or in a scattered manner," the source said.

This was decided in a high-level meeting of administrative heads and senior police officers chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha early on Wednesday, sources told PTI.

In addition to a special cell within Lieutenant Governor's secretariat, General Administrative Department (GAD) will also have a dedicated email ID for complaints and grievance redressal, they said.

There is a need to sensitise the lower rung officials in every department to take up such matters and complaints seriously and on priority, they said.

Any lapse in dealing with complaints or harassment of the PM Package and minority community employees will be dealt with strictly", he said.

The sources said that confidence-building measures must be taken to ensure that the employees feel safe and secure. Senior officers to visit the employees for first-hand appraisal of concerning issues, they said.

The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police (SPs) will actively monitor the complaints of such employees, it was decided.

Other issues of PM Package employees such as promotions and preparation of seniority lists must be completed within three weeks, they said.

The DCs and SSPs must carry out an assessment of accommodation of the PM Package and minority community employees, they said.

"It has to be ensured that no employee should work or reside in isolated areas or in a scattered manner," the source said.

The migrant employees have been holding protests demanding they be shifted out of the Valley following the killings.

KP Employees

Wednesday to negotiate a rate for transporting their goods.

Hours after a female teacher was shot dead by militants in Kulgam district, an organisation of KP employees had threatened to leave the Valley if the government did not relocate them to safer places in 24 hours.

"We have come to fix the rate with truck-owners. Let's see if any decision comes from the government by this evening. If not, then we will migrate from here tomorrow," one of their representatives said here Wednesday.

"We have decided that if the government did not take any concrete step for us (safety) within 24 hours, there will be mass migration again," one of the employees said here.

He said the target killing of Kashmiri Pandits is continuing and the community is now tired of making appeals with the government.

"We should be relocated so that we can be saved. Our delegation had met the LG earlier and we had asked him to save us. We are

asking for temporary relocation for two to three years till the situation in the valley returns to normal. It is the same time frame put by IGP Kashmir for making Kashmir terrorism-free," he added.

Rajni Bala, hailing from Samba district in Jammu division, was shot dead by militants Tuesday inside the government school in Kulgam where she was posted.

Before her, Rahul Bhat, a clerk in the office of Tehsildar Chadoora in Budgam district, was shot dead inside his office on May 12.

Umesh Talashi, a National Conference leader from south Kashmir, hit out at the BJP for the present situation.

"Back to 1990, #KashmiriPandits out fixing the rates with truck drivers for shifting their base to Jammu after back to back target killings in #Kashmir. Another exodus on cards. #BJP missed to mention this while showcasing their 8 years of achievements yesterday!!" Talashi tweeted.

Govt Sets Up

contact the designated officer on the dedicated e-mail ID: jk.minoritycell@gmail.com or can register his/her grievances on the following telephone numbers between 10:00 a.m. to 05:30 pm:

0194-2506111

0194-2506112

"The cell shall be headed by Additional Secretary (Administration), General Administration Department," he said, adding "This is in addition to the existing Special cell at LG Secretariat."

Army Commander

of Rajni Bala fuelled protests by the Kashmiri Pandit employees recruited under the Prime Minister's special package.

Peace Can't Be

said that nothing (resorting of peace) will happen without it. "It (restoration of peace) cannot be restored through army and police," he said.

In reply to a question about the security challenge to Amarnath yatra, he said, "God forbid, if there is even one untoward incident, repercussions of which will not only be faced by Jammu and Kashmir but entire India. They (government) have to be very alert and cautious."

Asked about the suspension of Mata Kheer Bhawan yatra in Kashmir, he said that security and safety is prime thing for anyone and his family. "If a person is not safe, how can he run daily affairs. Everyone seeks safety first and safety of the family. There is no safety and security today."

Asserting that there cannot be peace in Jammu and Kashmir till you win hearts of the people, Abdullah said killing of a teacher gives a vivid picture of the security situation and shows the level of peace prevailing in the Union territory. Rajni Bala (36), who belonged to Samba district and was posted at a government school in Gopalpora, Kulgam, was shot dead by militants on Tuesday.

"A female teacher, who was living there (in Kashmir) was martyred. This shows how much is peace prevailing in J&K. This shows how safe we are," Abdullah said.

He stated that they (government) say peace

is prevailing in Kashmir, despite the fact that Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims are being killed.

"Are those people, who have gone from here to teach there in villages, protected? Do they have security? Talks and claims would do nothing, he said, adding "the government has to find out a way to bring us out of this trouble".

Plea In SC Seeks

and Ladakh is provided in the online application.

The advocate members from the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are unable to apply for the proximity card of this court as the application form for the proximity card of this court requires compulsory filing up the details of the State Bar Council, the plea said.

It has also sought a direction for issuing proximity cards to the advocate members from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh who wish to avail the benefit of this card issued by the apex court.

The plea said that while hearing another petition in February 2017, the apex court had noted in its order that the BCI, having duly considered the Jammu and Kashmir State Bar Council Rules, has approved the same and it was submitted on behalf of the BCI that the aforesaid rules have since been forwarded for publication in the official gazette.

Despite making this statement, the Bar Council of India...has not made any efforts to establish the Jammu and Kashmir State Bar Council, the plea claimed.

It also referred to the Centre's decision in August 2019 to abrogate provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

How Commotion

gang garlanded us. However, a week after the inauguration, we realised that the 52 gifted keys, flats in Jammu and the dealership were all fraud."

The rip-off is an embezzlement of its own kind that has rung a serious alarm bell in the region against such spooky characters.

"The conman was arrested by Budgam police yesterday and booked under IPC's section 420,"SSPTahirSaleem, Budgam Police Chief, told Kashmir Observer. "He was to be produced today but due to some reasons we couldn't. He'll be produced before the court tomorrow. Further investigation is going on to verify all the crimes he has committed."

Meanwhile, asking everyone to stay vigilant of such sketchy characters who rely largely on dubious accounts, Mohammed Ismail Ganai, a resident of Kakapora, Pulwama described the damaging testimony of the conman that cost him his present and future.

"The conman duped me of Rs 36 lakhs," said Ganai while expressing deep anguish. "When I got to know of his shady character, I visited his house to get a heads up about the things. However, on meeting him, he threatened me and said that no court can uphold his crime."

The testimonies from the duped dissenters certainly tell about the origins of the conman who has gradually widened his offers to scam new people and has reportedly earned more than Rs 20 crores through frauds.

One of those hapless persons haunted by the conman is a greyed and slender man in his

mid-sixties, Nazir Ahmed.

"The conman had approached my son and lured him into dreams of an SPO job in J&K Police saying that he maintained close relations with top officials," Nazir said. "We then paid a total of Rs. 41 lakhs. A week later, the conman took my son to Jammu on pretext of verifying his documents in wake of some issued order. It wasn't until my son visited district police lines to ascertain the reasons behind the delay in his joining order that he came to know about the scam he was pulled into."

Someone at police lines had told Nazir's son that no such order was ever issued. "It was a trick," Nazir rued. "The conman took away our lives from us."Following his blown cover, the conman had promised to return Nazir's money. The promise, however, remains elusive till day.

In Kashmir, such financial fraud cases have split people into believers and nonbelievers. And this is exactly what Mohammed Sajjad Khoka of Anantnag has to say.

"In 2018, the conman forced me to sell my ancestral land in exchange for better land," Sajjad said. "He took Rs 1 crore 23 lakhs from me. After I confronted him for duping me, he threatened me and said that his close ties with BJP are enough to kill me. Soon after this incident, I approached Budgam police and sought their help. They took strict action and arrested him for nine days. He was then released after offering to pay my money but it's been six months since then and I haven't received a single penny from him. I don't think I can ever trust any other human being now."

Even though the police are probing the conman's methods at the moment, many have already called him "Kashmir's Charles Ponzi".

Ponzi was an Italian con artist who operated in North America before the Great Depression of 1930sand tricked people with his money-making scheme.

"Back in 1990s and early 2000s, similar con cases surfaced in Kashmir," said Arshid Khaki, a banker based in Srinagar. "They were swindlers who offered bogus schemes to people and looted their money. This latest case is just another instance of that."

SPO Found Dead

at around 9:30 p.m. last night," his father said and alleged that his son has been "murdered" by someone.

SHO, Baderwah, Jatinder Singh Rakwal told a local news agency GNS that police have started proceedings under section 174 CrPc.

No Covid Case In

recovered and been discharged from various hospitals from Jammu division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll in the pandemic remained unchanged at 4752 in J&K, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

Conductor Charred

Bemina where the conductor succumbed to his injuries while the driver is battling for life. Truck was also completely gutted in the incident. A police official while confirming the incident identified the deceased as Rakesh Singh, 26, son of Darshan Singh of Chenani, Jammu and injured as Ajay Singh, 28, son of Warden Singh, a resident of Batote Ramban. (GNS)

India Beat Japan 1-0 To Clinch Asia Cup Bronze

Korea win record fifth title



Press Trust of India

JAKARTA: The young Indian men's hockey team produced a spirited performance to beat Japan 1-0 and clinch the bronze medal in the Asia Cup here on Wednesday.

After missing out on a place in the title clash on goal difference following an exciting 4-4 draw with South Korea on Tuesday, defending champions India came out with purpose and scored a field goal through Raj Kumar Pal as early as in the seventh minute of the game and then defended in numbers to seal the deal.

South Korea clinched a record fifth Asia Cup title by beating Malaysia 2-1 in the summit clash.

Manjae Jung (17th) and Taeil Hwang (52nd) scored two field goals for Korea. Malaysia's lone goal came from the stick of Syed Chohan in the 25 minute.

Earlier in the day, India started brightly and pushed hard in the

first five minutes of the match but their attacks fizzled once out inside the opposition D.

The Indians, however, broke the deadlock in the seventh minute from a brisk counter-attack with Uttam Singh doing all the hardwork on the right flank to set it up for Rajkumar Pal, who neatly pushed it past the Japanese goalkeeper Takashi Yoshikawa.

Both Japan and India had a few more chances in the second quarter but both the teams faltered.

Japan came out attacking after the change of ends and secured two more penalty corners in quick succession but they failed to break the resolute Indian defence. In between India had a golden chance to extend their lead but Rajkumar shot over from close quarters off an SV Sunil pass.

While Japan pressed hard in the remaining minutes, the Indians put numbers at the back to successfully defend their one goal lead and secure a podium finish.

'J&K Sports Policy 2022 Aims To Unify All Stakeholders'

Rs. 19.96 Crs allocated for procuring sports equipments for school children

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Sports Policy of J&K aims at consolidating the progress, espousing new initiatives, and making adjustments that enable the Government to promote sports with new resolve and fresh vigour thereby providing excellent opportunities to emerging and promising sports persons.

The J&K Sports Policy 2022 intends to provide a roadmap for government departments, agencies, sports federations, educational institutions and other private sector partners and stakeholders, through which they can work efficiently, purposefully and in a coordinated manner from planning to implementation. This policy also has a provision to guide the vision that aligns and unifies efforts to develop and promote sports within the Union Territory.

The basic canons of the sports policy are to 'Scout' - identify talent and catch them young; 'Engage' - ensure grassroots inclusive engagement in sports and games; 'Facilitate' - provide sports infrastructure, facilities, know-how and training; and 'Recognize' - acknowledge the achievements and contributions through awards and further employment.

The government is creating a sports ecosystem through strategic interventions which would encompass the five levels of progression in a pyramidal structure, rising from broad base of Foundation Level to the highest point of Human Performance Index Development (HPID), with ethos of 'catch them young, train them well and keep them active till the end, for youth' and 'include all' for the general populace. Identification, engagement, facilitation & recognition will form the operative principles for this pyramidal structure.

The policy has also incorporated various annual awards like award for excellence in sports for ten sports persons, J&K Khel Protsahana Award for Sports Association, and two veterans/ experienced sportspersons/ organizers or referees, Parshuram Award for 5 best coaches in different disciplines.



To motivate the UT's sporting talent, the new policy includes announcing special cash awards to the winners in Olympics, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Championship, World Cup Championships, Youth Olympic Games, South Asian Games, and World University Games/ Championships; in the range of Rs. One lakh to Rs. One crore.

The winners in all recognized national competitions and national school games in various sports disciplines will be granted specified scholarships from the Directorate of Youth Service & Sports. The new policy also focuses on encouraging the specially-abled sportspersons through sufficient infrastructure and training facilities to ensure their full participation in various events.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to host international Junior Asian Pencak Silat championship in Srinagar and International Chess festival at Jammu.

This will be for the first time, J&K is scheduled to host two international sports events of which the junior Asian Pencak Silat championship will be held in Srinagar from 1 Sep to 04 Sep 2022 and international chess festival will be held at Jammu from 20 Aug

to 28 August. Notably, J&K Govt has allocated Rs 19.96 cr for procuring sports equipment for the school children as physical and sports infrastructure grants.

Moreover J&K Sports Policy also aims to realize the goals associated with strengthening the governance, legal and administrative system for the management of sport, games & fitness related initiatives in the J&K.

"The institutional mechanism of the sporting structure within the UT-J&K has to align itself with the vision and mission laid out within the policy. The sports governance system of the UT of J&K works on the four cornerstones- Transparency, Ethics, Professionalism and Accountability," official said.

An online single window system of governance linked to the Aadhar card has been established for registration and membership of associations, specialised sports clubs, corporate houses, selection criteria, participation in events and usage of all related facilities provided by the Sports Department. To ensure that all the activities conducted are placed on record in an authentic manner, a geo-tagging/geo-location monitoring mechanism is followed.

Australia Head Coach Andrew McDonald Tests Positive For COVID-19

To miss start of Sri Lanka tour



Press Trust of India

SYDNEY: Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss the opening week of his side's tour of Sri Lanka, starting Tuesday.

The 40-year-old, who returned a positive test for the virus a day before Australia's T20 squad's departure to Sri Lanka on Wednesday, will isolate for a week in Melbourne and is likely to link up with the team in Colombo ahead of the second T20 on June 8.

"Australian men's team head coach Andrew McDonald has tested positive for COVID-19 and will be delayed in travelling to Sri Lanka for the start of the T20I series," Cricket Australia said on

Wednesday.

In his absence, assistant coach Michael Di Venuto will guide the T20 side. "Michael Di Venuto will coach the Australian men's T20 side before Andrew McDonald rejoins the squad at the conclusion of seven days isolation," CA added.

Australia and Sri Lanka play three T20s, followed by five ODIs in Colombo and Pallekele. Post the limited-overs series, the Pat Cummins-led Australian red-ball team will play two Tests against the island nation in Galle.

This will be McDonald's first tour since being appointed full-time into the head coach role after he took over from Justin Langer in an interim capacity earlier in the year. The players in the ODI and Australia 'A' squads are set to fly in later this week.

PM Modi Meets World Champion Nikhat Zareen

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met India's newest boxing world champion Nikhat Zareen and her teammates Manisha Moun and Parveen Hooda, who recently won bronze medals in the Istanbul event.

While Nikhat clinched the coveted gold in flyweight (52kg) division, Manisha and debutant Parveen earned podium finishes in the 57kg and 63kg categories respectively.

"Glad to have met boxers Nikhat Zareen, Manisha Moun and Parveen Hooda who made India proud at the Women's World Boxing Championship. We had excellent conversations on their life journeys including passion towards sports and life beyond it. Best wishes for their future endeavours," Modi

tweeted. "An honour to meet our Hon'ble PM @narendramodi sir.



Thank you sir," Nikhat tweeted after the meeting along with a picture with Modi.

Apart from Nikhat, Manisha Moun and Parveen Hooda, met the Prime Minister.

Manisha tweeted, "An absolute honour meeting our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri@narendramodi ji. Thank you for your wishes and support."

French Open: Sania Mirza-Hradecka Knocked Out



Press Trust of India

PARIS: Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Lucie Hradecka displayed fearless brand of tennis but much younger and superior American singles players Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula prevailed in the women's doubles third round of the French Open, in Paris on Tuesday.

Despite a combined age of 72 years, Mirza and Hradecka produced some high quality tennis but lost 4-6, 3-6 to Pegula, ranked 11th in the singles and world number 23 Gauff.

Mirza was impressive with her lower and angled forehands while Hradecka's power-packed backhand hitting from the baseline was a treat to watch but the Americans got those crucial points that dictated the outcome of the match.

Mirza and Hradecka were down 3-5 in the opening set but Gauff, while serving for the

set, committed a double fault to hand a break chance. Mirza easily dispatched a volley to grab the breakpoint for the team.

Hradecka served next and at 30-all, Sania fluffed an overhead smash to hand the Americans set point, which got converted when the Czech made a return error.

Mirza and Hradecka had got a measure of their rivals by now and the fearless and confident hitting had begun.

The Indo-Czech pair nosed ahead in the second set by breaking the serve of Pegula in the very first game and Mirza made it 2-0 with an easy hold.

Gauff's serve was put under pressure. At 30-all, Mirza went for a deep return but that sailed over the baseline. Hradecka too went for big shots but her unforced error put the Americans on board. Pegula found a stunning angled winner that sped off from the corner of the court when Hradecka served at 15-40, making it 2-2.

Ganguly Has Not Resigned, Clarifies BCCI Secretary Jay Shah

BCCI President's cryptic tweet raised speculations

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India skipper Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday issued a cryptic tweet about his "new journey" that raised speculations about his continuation as BCCI President, prompting the cricket board secretary Jay Shah to clarify that he has not resigned from his post.

Ganguly in his tweet said he is embarking on a new journey, although without revealing any further details.

"2022 marks the 30th year since the start of my journey with cricket in 1992. Since then, cricket has given me a lot. Most importantly, it has given me the support of all of you. I want to thank every single person, who has been part of the journey, supported me, and helped me reach where I am today," he wrote in a brief statement.

"Today, I am planning to start



something that I feel will probably help a lot of people. I hope you continue your support as I enter this chapter of life."

Ganguly was elected BCCI President in October 2019 and still has four months left in his three-year tenure.

Ganguly's tweet took the social media by storm as many, including media outlets, started speculations about his future.

"The rumours doing rounds about Mr Sourav Ganguly step-

ping down from the post of BCCI President are factually incorrect," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement issued to PTI.

"We have some exciting times in the form of media rights coming up and my colleagues and I are completely focused on the upcoming opportunity and safeguarding the interest of Indian cricket," Shah further stated.

It has been learnt that Ganguly's tweet was related to his upcoming project.

Kurt Zouma Banned From Keeping Cats For 5 Years Over Abuse

Agencies

LONDON: West Ham defender Kurt Zouma was banned Wednesday from keeping cats for five years and ordered to carry out 180 hours of community service as a punishment for kicking and slapping his pet cat in abuse caught on video.

The France international received his sentence at Thames

Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty last week to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal.

In footage of the abuse that took place on Feb. 6 and surfaced on social media, the soccer player could be seen kicking his Bengal cat across his kitchen, before throwing a

pair of shoes at it and slapping its head.

Zouma's younger brother, Yoan, filmed the incident in-



volving the cat and posted it on Snapchat. Yoan Zouma was ordered Wednesday to carry out 140 hours of community service in a hearing that lasted 15 minutes. He is also a soccer player, and was suspended in February by fifth-tier team Dagenham.

West Ham fined Zouma two weeks of salary — the maxi-

mum amount possible — when the incident came to light, but manager David Moyes continued to pick the defender to play

when fit. Zouma also lost a sponsorship deal with Adidas.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals took Kurt Zouma's two pet cats into care after the incident.

The RSPCA brought the prosecution against the brothers even though it does not have the power to charge people.

British law allows organizations such as the RSPCA to use specialist lawyers to bring private prosecutions against individuals, with such cases heard in court and sometimes taken over by public prosecutors.

ENG Vs NZ: Stuart Broad Demands Exciting Cricket From England To Attract Fans



Agencies

LONDON: England must produce a brand of cricket to excite supporters, fast bowler Stuart Broad said Tuesday, with the team's first test match under new leadership failing to sell out any of its opening four days at Lord's.

With Thursday being the start of the first test of a three-match series against New Zealand, seats were still widely available at the home of cricket. More than 16,000 seats are unoccupied across the first four days of what is regarded as the marquee match of England's international summer.

There are various factors at play, from cost-of-living pressures to tickets costing as much as 160 pounds (\$200) per day to events taking place elsewhere to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's

Platinum Jubilee.

England's test team is also in poor form, having won just one of its last 17 matches, although the team has new leadership in captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

Broad, back in England's squad after missing the recent tour of the Caribbean, said the "style of cricket" was important to grabbing fans' attention.

"To attract the fans, we have to build on that style of cricket and have a style that people want to watch," Broad said.

"Trent Bridge (for the second test in Nottingham) has sold out for the first three days, so there is still that support for the team. From a player's point of view, we have to make that commitment that we want to be exciting and draw people through the gates."

Paul Pogba Leaves Manchester United For Free



Agencies

MANCHESTER: Paul Pogba joined Manchester United for a world-record fee. He'll leave the English club for nothing, Manchester United said Wednesday the France midfielder would be departing Old Trafford at the end of the month when his contract expires. (More Football News)

"We wish him all the best for the next steps on a remarkable journey," the club said in a long statement that detailed all the successes in his career. Pogba's second stint at United has been underwhelming, however.

He made his return in 2016, when Jose Mourinho was manager, for a fee of around 105 million euros (USD 116 million) and to much fanfare amid a series of glitzy videos. He came from

Juventus, where he had moved from Manchester United in 2012 having joined the English team's academy at the age of 16.

Pogba made 226 appearances, scoring 39 goals, in six injury-affected years in his second spell at United. During that time, he won the World Cup with France in 2018 but his performances for United never quite matched those for his national team, with United managers unable to find his best role.

He won two trophies — the League Cup and the Europa League — both in his first season back at United. In his first spell, Pogba played only seven games — all as a substitute — for Manchester United before it ended sourly when he allowed his contract to run down and join Juventus.

Manchester United got only 800,000 pounds (around USD 1 million) in compensation for a player who was then just a precocious teenager. His final game for United proved to be the 4-1 loss at Liverpool in April, when he hobbled off injured early in the first half.

"For a boy that joined the academy at 16 to make over 200 United appearances and lift the Youth Cup, along with two major pieces of silverware — not to mention the World Cup at international level — is something that should be applauded and celebrated," United said.



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BARBECUE**

QUICK BITES

**DRUMSTICKS
CHICKEN STRIPS
CHICKEN WINGS
CHICKEN POP CORN
CHICKEN CHEESY POPCORN
CHICKEN PERI PERI POPCORN**

**IRANI CHAI
PINEAPPLE TEA
BUN MASKA
BUN MASKA WITH JAM**

SANDWITCHES

**TURKISH BURGER
(BUN MASKA SPECIAL)
CHICKEN CRISPY BURGER
CHICKEN PERI PERI
MEXICAN BURGER
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